



**2012  
ADVANCE REPORTS**

**New York Yearly Meeting  
of the  
Religious Society of Friends**

**Prepared for Summer Sessions  
July 22–28, 2012, Silver Bay, NY**

Please use the documents of this book throughout the week in preparation for business sessions, committee meetings, and interest groups sponsored by committees or affiliated organizations.

**THIS COPY BELONGS TO .....**

## NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING ADVANCE REPORTS

*The documents of this publication were printed in advance of the 2012–2013 Yearbook for consideration at sessions of NYYM.*

*Please note that the budgets and expenditures of many committees may be obtained through reference to the Treasurer’s Report. Committees having their own treasurers submitted financial reports. All financial reports are for the 2011 calendar year.*

### **Yearly Meeting Sessions**

Fall 2011 .....	1
Spring 2012 .....	14

### **Reports of Yearly Meeting Committees, Resource People, and Representatives to Affiliated Groups**

#### **Ministry Section**

Meetings for Discernment .....	30
Ministry Coordinating Committee .....	31
State of Society Report .....	32
Spiritual Nurture Working Group .....	37
Task Group on Racism in NYYM .....	37
Advancement Committee .....	39
Committee on Conflict Transformation .....	41
Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee .....	42
Committee to Revise <i>Faith and Practice</i> .....	43
State of the Society Committee .....	43
Committee on Sufferings .....	44
Traveling Friends Advisory Group .....	44
Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions .....	45

#### **General Services Section**

General Services Coordinating Committee .....	46
Audit Committee .....	47
Communications Committee .....	48
Development Committee .....	49
Financial Services Committee .....	50
Committee on the Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund .....	51
General Secretary’s Report .....	51
Nominating Committee .....	55
Personnel Committee .....	56
Yearly Meeting Staff .....	57
Records Committee .....	62
Sessions Committee .....	62

Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary ..... 63  
 Treasurer’s Accounts ..... 64  
 Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund ..... 70  
 Trustees, Yearly Meeting ..... 72

**Nurture Section**

Nurture Coordinating Committee ..... 75  
 Committee on Aging Concerns ..... 76  
 Epistle Committee ..... 78  
 Friends General Conference representatives ..... 78  
 Friends United Meeting representatives ..... 78  
 FWCC Committee & FWCC representatives ..... 80  
 Junior Yearly Meeting Committee ..... 81  
 Oakwood Friends School ..... 82  
 Elsie K. Powell House Inc. .... 83  
 Young Adult Concerns Committee ..... 88  
 Young Friends in Residence Committee ..... 89  
 Youth Committee ..... 93

**Witness Section**

Witness Coordinating Committee ..... 95  
 Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc. .... 99  
 American Friends Service Committee ..... 103  
 Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development ..... 105  
 Friends Committee for Black Concerns ..... 106  
 Bolivian Quaker Education Fund ..... 107  
 Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War ..... 109  
 Earthcare Working Group ..... 109  
 European American Quakers Working to End Racism ..... 111  
 Friends Committee on National Legislation representatives .... 113  
 Friends Peace Teams representatives ..... 114  
 Indian Affairs Committee ..... 118  
 National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund &  
 Peace Tax Foundation ..... 121  
 National Religious Campaign against Torture ..... 123  
 New Jersey Council of Churches ..... 125  
 New York State Council of Churches Chaplaincy ..... 125  
 New York State Council of Churches Collegium ..... 126  
 Prisons Committee ..... 127  
 Right Sharing of World Resources resource person ..... 128  
 Rural and Migrant Ministry ..... 129  
 William Penn House ..... 130  
 Committee on World Ministries ..... 131  
 Liaison Committee ..... 132



## **New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions**

November 12–13, 2011

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Doane Stuart School, Rensselaer, NY

*Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit), Clerk  
Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Assistant Clerk  
Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield),  
Recording Clerk  
Sylke Jackson (Rockland), Reading Clerk*

2011-11-01. Speaking out of the expectant listening, Clerk Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit) welcomed Friends with a message about our seeking to know and understand Divine Power. We are made to be conduits and radiators of Love and Truth, and to need each other. We are deeply connected; when one thread is plucked, the whole fabric is raised up. When the Divine in me meets the Divine in you, the power of Love and Truth expands. With our pipes cleaned with love, may we dance down the street with joy.

2011-11-02. The Clerk introduced those at the clerks' table, and reviewed the agenda.

2011-11-03. The reading clerk read the roll call of meetings by region, including the newly recognized Genesee Valley Preparative Meeting in Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

2011-11-04. Friends were welcomed by Anita Paul (Schenectady) on behalf of Northeast Regional Meeting.

2011-11-05. A travel minute from Wilton Monthly Meeting for its member Judy Meikle was read together with endorsements from New Haven Friends Meeting, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, and Purchase Quarterly Meeting. Her "ministry of kindness" continues as she invites "Friends and others to search their hearts for understandings and openings regarding the criminal justice system in the United States." Margaret Lechner (Purchase) spoke for Judy Meikle, who could not be with us. Friends directed the Clerk to endorse the travel minute on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

2011-11-06. Friends approved minutes 01–05.

2011-11-07. Friends heard read,

Worshippers are like the spokes of a wheel. The nearer they come to the centre of all Life the nearer they are to each other. Having reached the centre they become united in a single life through the creative love of God.

—Howard H. Brinton

*Creative Worship* (Swarthmore Lecture), 1931, 73.

2011-11-08. General Secretary Christopher Sammond (Poplar Ridge) reported that continuing to trim our budget beyond what we have done so far is eroding our capacity to nurture, inspire, and represent New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) in the wider world. Continuing on this path is untenable and is not good stewardship of our Society. He gave examples illustrating that we have the financial resources; we just aren't inspired to use them to support the Religious Society of Friends.

If we have a coherent vision that is grounded in the discernment of our communities and clearly communicated, and if the extent of the need to support that vision, both locally and in the larger Yearly Meeting, is made known, he firmly believes that we will have all of the support we need to do that work. And we will be healthier spiritually for doing so.

In the work of the Priorities Working Group and the Development Working Group, established by the General Services Coordinating Committee at our Summer Sessions, Christopher sees us moving toward a solution that will take several years to bear fruit. The Priorities Working Group has been designing a process whereby we can do this work of listening, communicating, and envisioning together. Expect a request from one of them to visit your meeting.

“I anticipate us drawing together behind a common vision, having a broader understanding of the work we do, and moving into a different attitude and practice around funding our work. If we do this well, we will embark on a different trajectory, one that nurtures our growing edges, one of less stress, strain, and struggle, deeper faithfulness, and more coherent community.”

Putting our funding into perspective, Christopher noted that if members of NYYM made only minimum wage, but gave 10 percent of that to their monthly meetings, we would raise more than \$5.25 million. If we gave at this level we could triple the size of our monthly meeting budgets as well as our Yearly Meeting budget. He recalled a single mother in a Meeting he

used to belong to, who gave \$25 each month to the Meeting even though she had a job that didn't pay very much and a young son to raise. Her commitment deepened her relationship to the meeting. If we all behaved that way we would be richer for it. And so would our meetings. That will not happen unless and until we are inspired to do so by the vision and the work set before us. We have some work to do to get there. Let us be faithful to it.

There was ministry in response to the report.

Friends received the report, which is appended.

2011-11-09. Assistant Treasurer Carol Summar (Fifteenth Street) presented the Treasurer's Report. The closing balance is \$200,155 with the net change of (\$4,403). Last year the net change was (\$31,219). This means that cash flow is more even this year. Payments are about the same, +\$1,000, but income is higher, +\$25,000.

Friends received the report.

2011-11-10. Friends approved minutes 07-09.

2011-11-11. Financial Services Committee clerk Sandra Beer (Old Chatham) presented a proposed operating budget for 2012 with a deficit of \$14,000. She reminded Friends that the work of Financial Services depends on the discernment of coordinating committees. Concern at Summer Sessions around available funds led to a request from Financial Services Committee to coordinating committees that they reduce their budgets by 5 percent. She echoed the general secretary's concern that expenses have been reduced below the level of good stewardship and that the problem is not expenses; it is on the revenue side. The revenue includes \$4,000 in direct support from individuals to Yearly Meeting (outside of meetings' covenant donations), which is not a usual source of funds for the operating budget. The Meeting is asked to apply any surplus from 2011 directly to 2012 instead of adding it to the reserve.

Friends received the report.

2011-11-12. Following approval of Minute 2011-11-11 and announcements, the Meeting settled into worship, from which we departed for lunch, expecting to resume our session this afternoon.



Saturday, November 12, 2011, 3:45 p.m.  
Doane Stuart School, Rensselaer, NY

*Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit), Clerk*  
*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Assistant Clerk*  
*Andrew Mead von Salis (Brooklyn), Recording Clerk*  
*Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2011-11-13. Friends heard read,

Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit from thy own thoughts, and then thou wilt feel the principle of God to turn thy mind to the Lord God, whereby thou wilt receive his strength and power from whence life comes, to allay all tempests, against blusterings and storms.

—George Fox. *Journal*. J. L. Nickalls, ed. 1952, 346.

2011-11-14. The Clerk introduced those at the clerks' table and reviewed the agenda for the afternoon.

2011-11-15. The reading clerk read a memorial minute for Elizabeth Ann Pearson of Albany Meeting. Liz died at age 86 on September 30, 2010. She was born, and lived most of her life, in New York State. Her concerns for dispute mediation, civil rights, and peoples' justice led to witness in which she was arrested many times, vigiled and walked often, and worked to build enlightened institutions. Her life was a very public example to all, as well as to Friends everywhere. From the silence, Friends recounted examples of her faithfulness, trust, service, tirelessness, and infectious radiance.

2011-11-16. David Herendeen (Easton), convener of the Oversight Committee for the Recording of Gifts in Ministry, established by the Ministry Coordinating Committee, presented a recommendation that we record the gifts in ministry of Alice Houghtaling of Schenectady Meeting. Our Clerk reminded us that, pursuant to new procedures, such action falls to the New York Yearly Meeting rather than the Yearly Meeting on Ministry & Counsel, since that body has been suspended since 2007. Alice Houghtaling's pastoral studies program had led her to serve in a ministry of pediatric palliative care. Alice has clear gifts as a compassionate listener and caregiver, with an ability to bring the gift of presence into relationships and to treasure the "holy" in the other, and an ability to express deep inward insights with clarity and freshness. The Oversight Committee has met with Alice Houghtaling and has come to appreciate her gifts. Friends approved the recommendation.

2011-11-17. Friends considered the practice of recording gifts in the ministry, which was intentionally included in our practice at the time of the merger of our Hicksite and Orthodox yearly meetings. Different standards of practice over the intervening years were cited, and some times were recalled when the recording of gifts has served a need and some times when it has not. Friends were not in unity with regard to asking that the Ministry Coordinating Committee consider our practice and bring its discernment back to us. Further dialogue among us all was encouraged.

2011-11-18. Friends approved minutes 13–17.

2011-11-19. The proposed Yearly Meeting operating budget for 2012 as presented in our morning session was addressed. The love of Friends for our programs and the need to support them in many areas where we know they make us vital were voiced in living language. Some expressed conviction that we could surely raise more money than the sums budgeted for 2012 to be received as covenant donations and other gifts. Meanwhile, it was noted that some additional income could merely erase the budgeted deficit without restoring any budget cuts, and some challenged us to assert faith and trust in divine purpose for us such as will lead to the impetus for income to fund our work. The matter was held over to the next day's session of our meeting.

2011-11-20. Friends approved minute 19.

2011-11-21. Friends concluded in brief worship at 5:40 p.m.

Sunday, November 13, 2011, 10:15 a.m.

Powell House, Anna Curtis Center, Old Chatham, NY

*Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit), Clerk*  
*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Assistant Clerk*  
*Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield),*  
*Recording Clerk*  
*Alanna Badgley (Poughkeepsie), Reading Clerk*

2011-11-22. The Clerk introduced those at the clerks' table and reviewed the morning's agenda.

2011-11-23. Friends expressed appreciation for the host region's hospitality, naming the thorough planning and hard

work that Friends put in to make sure that there were helpful signs and floor plans to follow; friendly faces to greet us and answer our questions; and abundant good food to restore us between sessions. Friends appreciated the school site, with excellent spaces for committees to meet, working microphones, and the ability to stretch lovingly. Deep gratitude was expressed for the loving concern for the infant in our midst, as well as for Friends' stepping in when others were unable to continue the planning for the gathering. Having Powell House available was an added pleasure for the session.

2011-11-24. The consent agenda was presented for approval without discussion as is our practice. Friends approved Minutes 25 through 28 in accordance with the consent agenda.

2011-11-25. Friends approved the following nominations for service to the Yearly Meeting:

Committee for Conflict Transformation 2014: Jack Cuffari (Montclair)

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee 2013: Lucinda Antirim (Scarsdale)

Epistle Committee 2013: Kathryn (Kate) Moss (Fifteenth Street)

Committee for Black Concerns 2013: Ella Holmes (Brooklyn)

Committee for Conscientious Objection to Paying for War 2014: Andrew von Salis '08 (Brooklyn)

2011-11-26. Friends accepted the following requests for release from service:

Eleanor Novek (Manasquan): Communications Committee 2012

Arlene Reduto (Easton): Elsie K. Powell House, Inc. 2014

Natalie Braun (Old Chatham): Young Adult Concerns Committee 2012

James Hall (Collins): Indian Affairs Committee 2013

2011-11-27. Friends approved the Handbook page for Ministry Coordinating Committee.

2011-11-28. Friends approved the revised Handbook page for Nominating Committee.

2011-11-29. A memorial minute for George Seiler was read. George was a beloved member of Saratoga Friends Meeting, and before that Montclair Monthly Meeting, after having been an active attender at Scarsdale and then Morningside Monthly Meetings. His down-to-earth blend of emotional openness, mental acuity, and sense of humor provided strong yet tender guidance to individual Friends and Meeting projects. Friends spoke of his ministry through music and the delight that he brought to us.

2011-11-30. Priorities Working Group clerk Lee Haring (Bulls Head-Oswego) reported on the group's activities since their first face-to-face meeting at Summer Sessions, having been created at Spring Session (minute 2011-04-34). They plan to meet with as many monthly meetings as possible. Friends received the report. Friends spoke to the strength and integrity of the core structure of the Society and challenged us to follow our core practice. Is the structure we have being used wisely and faithfully?

2011-11-31. Friends heard read,

Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God. —St. Ignatius

2011-11-32. Friends approved applying any surplus from fiscal year (FY) 2011 to FY 2012 rather than directly into reserve.

2011-11-33. Friends approved the proposed \$504,667 operating budget for FY 2012 with a \$14,206 deficit.

2011-11-34. Friends asked the Financial Services Committee to report to Spring Sessions with recommendations for the FY 2012 operating budget to close the deficit and allow additional funding for expenditure tiers similar to our practice in recent years.

2011-11-35. In approving this budget Friends acknowledge that we take active responsibility for the financial health of our Yearly Meeting and will respond to Financial Services with additional covenant commitments before Spring Sessions.

2011-11-36. Friends approved Sylke Jackson (Rockland) to serve as an alternate delegate to the Friends World Committee for Consultation gathering in Kenya in April 2012.

2011-11-37. A travel minute from Purchase Monthly Meeting for its member Margaret Lechner was presented along with endorsements. Her continuing “Ministry of Facilitation and Leadership” with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Friends Peace Teams leads her to “communities where violence is tearing away at the fabric of the spirit.” Margaret led us through an opening AVP exercise and then spoke about helping to produce the first AVP International Gathering in Latin America, of facilitating workshops with someone formerly incarcerated at a maximum-security prison, and of the lives that have been and are being changed by AVP. The Meeting directed the Clerk to endorse the travel minute on its behalf.

2011-11-38. Sessions Committee clerk John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes) reported that more than 115 Friends were in attendance at our sessions. Complete numbers are not yet available.

2011-11-39. Friends approved these minutes.

2011-11-40. The Clerk spoke about the fabric we continue to weave of the story of who we are. Some of these threads are golden and bright; others are made of our struggle to be a loving community. It is all present. Let us carry it out in the world, shining.

2011-11-41. The Meeting ended its business at 12:35 p.m., to reconvene at Purchase Monthly Meeting for our Spring Sessions, April 13–15, 2012. Expectant worship continued.

## Attachment

### **General Secretary's Report Fall Sessions 2011**

Our financial condition is an aspect of our spiritual condition. How we are in our connection to God, in the coherence of our community, in our faithfulness, in our inspiration to fulfill the work we are led to do, and in our joyful response to God's presence, guidance, and empowerment, are reflected in our budget and our commitments of our time and talents.

We once again are facing a challenging budget situation. This may seem like pretty familiar territory. I have not experienced an easy budget process in all the years I have been here, and judging by what I have read from the past two or three decades, having a challenging budget process, with concerns about what will be cut and where the money will come from to support the Yearly Meeting programs, has been more of the rule than the exception. So this may seem like the same old place we have been in, and therefore not much to worry about. But I would say that this year is somewhat different in the degree to which we are not just trimming the little bits of fat remaining, but really cutting into the bone with our proposed budget, impeding our capacity to give vital nurture to the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We cannot continue in the course we are on, of trying to whittle away the budget a little more each year without addressing the larger issues which impede our work as a community. Fortunately, I believe that we are now addressing those larger issues, but that it will take some years for that work to bear fruit.

Two years ago many of us had assumptions that the economy would improve and that that improvement would work its way down to the level of nonprofits, always the last segment of the economy to recover, in two more years, at most. Well, we are there now, and while Wall Street has recovered moderately well, the rest of the economy has not. We can't expect an improved economy to pick up our budget for at least another two years, if then. Meanwhile, in some of our monthly meetings, the patterns of giving are changing. Many meetings have been largely sustained by several donors who have been exceedingly generous over the years. And in many of those meetings, those Friends are moving away as they enter retirement. As yet, other Friends have not increased their donations to offset

this loss. In some meetings smaller numbers have also meant a smaller base of Friends contributing to their meeting.

The way we have been doing things will not work much longer. We are straining at the seams, and by this “we,” I mean most all of us in the Yearly Meeting—monthly meetings in their budgets and the yearly meeting with its budget. Our monthly meetings have been incredibly supportive of the Yearly Meeting budget, stretching mightily to maintain a flat level of giving. We are hearing from them that with the changes in demographics and giving patterns, that many are concerned about maintaining that level.

I believe that the change that is being forced upon us could ultimately be to our benefit. We are being asked to grow and change the way we do things. If we do, I think we could do very well. If we continue in our old ways of doing things, we will continue on the trajectory we are on, and it is untenable. It is not just untenable in terms of our budgets, monthly meeting and Yearly Meeting, but in terms of the health of our Society.

For some years now, the Yearly Meeting budget has been pared down and pared down, keeping it relatively flat over the past six or more years, despite increases in fixed costs, all the while expanding programs. We have done this partly by cutting out what we could, by economizing mightily, partly by reducing our support of the umbrella Quaker organizations, and partly by tapping funding sources outside our operating budget. Grants from the trustee-managed accounts and from outside sources have been vital in nurturing our growing edges, such as the Young Friends in Residence (YFIR) program, the ARCH program, and the young adult field secretary position.

In our Yearly Meeting operating budget most of our energy and resources are being devoted to trying to maintain what we have. And, with our current patterns of doing things, we are struggling mightily to do even that. We are not finding room to fund our growing edges. “Maintenance budgets” stifle our capacity for the Yearly Meeting to nurture those growing edges, where new life in the Spirit most needs our support.

I think it is easy to assume that the reason that we have pared down to maintenance budgets is that we haven’t the resources in these difficult economic times. While it might be easy to maintain the attitude that we always stretch to meet our budget, that this situation is no different than other years, that our vision will always outstrip our resources, and that we will therefore always be in this uncomfortable spot, I would

like to present an alternative vision. I don't see us as lacking in resources. I see us as having an inadequate vision to inspire Friends to share their resources.

Ruth Kinsey, beloved pastor of Farmington Friends Meeting, has shared in a message to her meeting the concept she calls "minimum-wage tithing." The premise is simple: if everyone who is active in the meeting assumed only an income based on full time work at a minimum wage, and tithed on that amount only, she showed them that they could double or triple their budget.

Let's do the math for the whole Yearly Meeting, understanding that we will be dealing with some gross approximations, but good enough for illustration purposes. If our roughly 3,500 active Friends each assumed an annual income of 2080 hours at \$7.25 per hour, or \$15,080 per year, and tithed on that amount to their monthly meetings, that "minimum-wage tithe" would net over \$5¼ million.

Our monthly meetings give anywhere from 10–60% of their budget to NYYM, as led, but most are on the higher end, so let's err on the high side and estimate an average of 50% of the budgets of our monthly meetings are currently going to support of the Yearly Meeting. As the Yearly Meeting's budget is about \$520,000, the net non-YM portion of our monthly meeting budgets would be roughly the same, or perhaps a little more. So cumulatively, monthly meeting budgets and Yearly Meeting budget, we are currently operating on about \$1.4 to \$1.7 million, or roughly a third of a minimum-wage tithe.

In our current practice, very few Friends give at this level. In the two meetings I have been a part of in NYYM, Bulls Head-Oswego and Poplar Ridge, only 5–15% of Friends give at this level. Most give a quarter or less than that. What concerns me most, and it also concerns monthly meeting treasurers that I talk to, is that a significant number of regularly attending Friends give \$50 or less each year. I have heard that some Friends, especially newer ones, have had no idea that their meeting might be in need of contributions. We are sometimes so reluctant to talk about financial matters outside of business meeting that those who don't attend have no idea how our finances work.

So while our monthly meetings are struggling mightily, I might even say in some instances, heroically, to support the work of the Yearly Meeting, we are not, as a group, giving much more than 3% of a minimum wage income to support the life



of our part of the Society of Friends. While I know that there are many individuals who cannot afford even that amount, due to manner of employment, fixed income, children in college, or who out of conscience live below a taxable level, I believe that most of our Friends worshiping with us are making much more than minimum wage.

I am not advocating we move to a tithing system, or go back to an apportionment system, abandoning covenant donations. Acting as led, rather than in a prescribed fashion, is the heart of who we are. But as tithing is a predominant way in which other spiritual communities express their joyful commitment to the mission they feel called to, I think it serves as a good illustration of the point I hope to make. That is, that we, as a body, underfund our monthly meetings relative to the resources at our disposal.

We have the resources. When Powell House's boiler blew, and they needed \$49,000 right away, the money appeared. When Ithaca monthly meeting became clear to buy and remodel a building for a new meetinghouse, they raised over \$300,000 in a matter of months. When Old Chatham monthly meeting became clear that they needed to not build their meetinghouse on Powell House property, but instead buy land costing almost as much as what they had raised to build their meetinghouse, they bought the land. And then they raised the money for their meetinghouse a second time.

We have the resources. Much of the time, we just aren't inspired to use them in support of the Society of Friends. This isn't because we aren't good and generous people. We are. It's because there is a disconnect between those doing the work in the name of the Yearly Meeting, and those paying for it. Many Friends in our monthly meetings know little or nothing of the work going on in their name. It's pretty hard to be inspired to support something you know virtually nothing about. And it is an open question as to whether the work being done through the Yearly Meeting budget is an accurate expression of the needs, leadings, and desires of the Friends who make up this Yearly Meeting. It could be. We hope that it is. But we don't know for sure.

If we have a coherent vision that is grounded in the discernment of our communities, and it is clearly communicated, and the extent of the needs to support that vision, both locally and in the larger Yearly Meeting, are made known, I firmly believe that we will have all the support we need to do that work. And,

we will be healthier spiritually for doing so.

We are now part way through that process of addressing what I would sum up as: Vision, Communication, and Development. We need to be working from a common vision. Arriving at a common vision will involve better communicating as to what we are doing, and a lot of grassroots listening about what is needed to nurture our monthly meetings and individual Friends, how we are being led, and how what we are currently doing needs to be better aligned with the needs and leadings across the Yearly Meeting. If we do that work well, I believe Friends will be inspired to support the work. Communication and Vision are thus intertwined. Our Priorities Working Group has been designing a process whereby we can do this work of listening, communicating, and envisioning together. Expect a request from one of them to visit your meeting.

In the area of Development, it is clear that we need to do a better job of supporting our monthly meeting budgets. If our monthly meetings are doing well, the Yearly Meeting organization will do fine, if its vision is consonant with the whole of the Yearly Meeting and is communicated effectively. The Development Working Group has been responding to the Financial Services Committee's request that we create a Development Committee. Much of the preliminary discussion has been about how the Yearly Meeting can better support our monthly meetings in their fundraising efforts. What we have found so far is that there is much that we can do in this area. We have been looking at how other yearly meetings do this work and also whether some sort of development function in support of the Yearly Meeting's work is feasible and advisable. We have arrived at a tentative "yes" to this question and will be bringing that discussion to General Services Coordinating Committee this Fall Sessions.

We are doing what needs to be done to move into a different pattern of how we fund the Life of our monthly meetings and our Yearly Meeting. I anticipate us drawing together behind a common vision, having a broader understanding of the work we do, and moving into a different attitude and practice around funding our work. If we do this well, we will embark on a different trajectory, one that nurtures our growing edges, one of less stress, strain, and struggle, deeper faithfulness, and more coherent community.

In closing, I would like to tell a story about my friend Sandy, when I was new to Twin Cities Friends Meeting. I had been at-

tending meeting a year or two and was deeply impressed and surprised when I learned that Sandy was giving \$25 a month to the meeting. Sandy was a single mom, who worked very hard to make ends meet, at a job that didn't pay terribly well. In today's dollars, her giving would be more like \$50–75 per month. At the time, I had my own building-contracting business, and was able to be pretty comfortable. Yet Sandy was giving way more to the meeting than I was. It was her commitment, and she honored it resolutely. What I also saw was that living that commitment deepened her relationship with the meeting. She was more a part of it than I was, partly because she gave, and partly she gave because she was more connected. I was more of a consumer, appreciating what the meeting had to offer but not invested in that deeper relationship.

I lost out on a great deal due to that attitude, one that fortunately changed over time.

If we all behaved as my friend Sandy did, a single mom with a mortgage, a young son, and very limited means, we would all be the richer for it. And so would our meetings. And that will not happen unless and until we are inspired to do so by the vision and the work set before us. We have some work to do to get there. Let us be faithful to it.

**New York Yearly Meeting**  
**Spring Sessions**  
April 13–15, 2012

School of the Holy Child, Rye, New York  
Saturday, April 14, 2012, 10:20 a.m.

*Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit), Clerk*  
*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Assistant Clerk*  
*Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield),*  
*Recording Clerk*  
*Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2012-04-01. Friends gathered in worship. The Clerk spoke: Source of Love and Truth, let us be faithful. Let us release our striving, our wanting, knowing and managing. Let us be conduits of Love and Truth. Last evening Friends gathered at Purchase Meeting heard Larry White, who attends Morningside Meeting, speak of his experience and concern with the criminal

justice system in this country, particularly the prisons. Rather than focusing on how others should change, Larry called us to question our own assumptions, beliefs, and actions regarding punishment. This call applies to all areas of our lives. May the ministry we have received last night and this morning carry through the work that lies before us both here and in the wider world. Let us be full of faith. May faith be overflowing!

2012-04-02. On Friday evening Larry White—an attender at Morningside Meeting who has spent most of his life in the prison system—charged Friends, as founders of our penitentiary system, to address the horrendous breakdown of that system. Only Friends have the moral authority to say that this is not what we intended and to make the argument for a system that changes behavior for the good—which the current system does not do. The studies have been done; we know what works to change behavior. Friends have the responsibility to work and speak out for these changes.

2012-04-03. The Clerk introduced the Friends at the clerks' table and reviewed the agenda for our session.

2012-04-04. The Clerk asked those attending a Yearly Meeting session for the first time to rise and be welcomed. Two Friends rose.

2012-04-05. The reading clerk called the roll of meetings in attendance by region. All regions were represented.

2012-04-06. The clerk of Purchase Quarterly Meeting, Norma Ellis (Scarsdale), welcomed us and introduced the members of the host committee whom Friends can contact if they have questions or concerns during these sessions.

2012-04-07. The clerk of General Services Coordinating Committee, Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), introduced the reports from the committee: All good news.

2012-04-08. Jeffrey Aaron reported on the move of the Yearly Meeting office from the basement to the third floor of 15 Rutherford Place in New York City. The new quarters are superior to what they were before and the reduction in operating costs may happen sooner than expected.

2012-04-09. Gabrielle (Gabi) Savory Bailey (Chatham-Summit) reported orally on her work as Young Adult field secretary. Over the past year, she has made more than 35 visits to

Friends in meetings and other settings, and is conducting a survey of young adults, which is still in progress. She senses that there is a lot of Spirit in New York Yearly Meeting.

We need to question our assumptions and expectations that interfere with knowing each other and our experience of spirit. She gave us several queries. Do I assume that because I have known someone for a long time I know what they believe and their relationship with Spirit? Do I welcome the gifts and challenges that come with spiritual community? Am I prepared to be whole?

Am I afraid that I will not be led if I release my assumptions and expectations about Spirit? When have I experienced someone really seeing a spiritual gift or quality in me, telling me, and holding me accountable to be faithful to that which I have been given? Am I willing to create a space where people feel safe to talk about their faith? Where is it OK for me to say what I believe? Do I hold so dearly to traditions and past experiences that I am unable to see how Spirit is moving in the present? Am I willing to give up something precious in order to be faithful?

Gabi shared how her 15-month-old daughter had eldered her by insisting that family worship before a meal not end as quickly as her parents thought it should. What assumptions do we make about the spiritual gifts of our youngest members?

The meeting was gathered into worship beyond words as we considered the ministry which we had heard and felt an awesome presence.

2012-04-10. The Treasurer, Susan Bingham (Montclair), presented her report: The closing balance on December 31 was \$204,735 reflecting a surplus of +\$177 for 2011. On March 31 the closing balance was \$174,550, a net change of -\$30,185 (expenses more than receipts) which is normal for this time of the year. Friends received the report.

2012-04-11. Jeffrey Aaron presented a proposal from General Services Coordinating Committee for a Development Committee to establish an organized approach to assuring adequate material and financial support for the work of the Yearly Meeting, and also support the work of constituent monthly and regional meetings and Yearly Meeting entities in meeting their own financial needs. A survey of other Friends organizations by the existing working group has shown that New York Yearly Meeting is virtually alone in not yet having such a committee.

A proposed *Handbook* page is being prepared.

Concern was expressed for transparency and clarity in what we as a Yearly Meeting spend in our various capacities outside of the operating budget.

Friends approved the establishment of a Development Committee.

2012-04-12. Friends approved the morning's minutes except for minutes 1, 2, and 9.

2012-04-13. Judy Meikle (Wilton), who travels under a concern for reforming the criminal justice system, particularly the abolition of the death penalty, reported that the Connecticut legislature has approved repeal of the death penalty and that it now awaits the signature of the governor. She shared the testimony she gave to the State Senate in support of SB Number 280 An Act Revising the Penalty for Capital Felonies in the name of the Yearly Meeting. The text of her testimony is appended. Connecticut is about to join New York and New Jersey, and 14 other states, in abolishing the death penalty. Once nine more states do this, a majority of the states will not have the death penalty and the Supreme Court can more plausibly be asked to declare it unconstitutional as cruel and unusual punishment.

School of the Holy Child, Rye, New York  
Saturday, April 14, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

*Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit), Clerk*  
*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Assistant Clerk*  
*Andrew Mead von Salis (Brooklyn), Recording Clerk*  
*Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2012-04-14. Friends gathered and deepened in worship. From the silence, the Clerk calls us back to faithfulness to our business.

2012-04-15. Minutes 1, 2, 9, and 13 were read by Roger Dreisbach-Williams, recording clerk from this morning's session. Further consideration will be given to the language they require.

2012-04-16. Naomi Paz Greenberg (member of Flushing Meeting currently attending Morningside Meeting) introduced a minute of Flushing Monthly Meeting, with the ap-

proval of New York Quarterly Meeting, regarding the United States' policy relations with Colombia, including a "free trade agreement." The reading clerk read it, as follows:

### **Flushing Monthly Meeting Proposed Minute on Colombia and So-Called Free Trade Agreement Ratification**

The peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends has led the Flushing Monthly Meeting to join the many people of the world concerned about the ongoing and deepening humanitarian crisis in Colombia. The result of a decades-long conflict, Colombia's internally displaced population is the largest in the world, estimated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to range from 3.5 to 5.2 million. These Colombians—many of them peasants, indigenous and Afro-Colombian people—have left their land, which is their only source of livelihood, and have become refugees in their own country or have fled to neighboring countries.

The government of the United States has a long history of intervention in Colombia—starting with US military actions to secure Panama, which was still part of Colombia until 1903. In the past decade, efforts have centered on "Plan Colombia" in which billions of US taxpayer dollars have gone to the Colombian military ostensibly to eradicate coca crops. While cocaine production has not diminished, US aid has served to militarize the Colombian countryside. As a result, large segments of the rural population are caught in the cross fire between the army, the guerrillas, drug dealers, and paramilitary groups. In addition, environmental groups like Earth Justice estimate that Plan Colombia has already fumigated three million acres, which has created serious ecological damage throughout the countryside.

We call on all elected officials, and especially the President of the United States, to put an end to the "War on Drugs," rightly named the War on Certain Drugs, invest resources domestically in prevention, education and treatment rather than incarceration.

We call on elected officials to put an end the funding of fumigation programs in Colombia and help Colombia invest in alternative life-sustaining crop production with development assistance to the peasants who have suffered the most during the civil war.

Recent ratification by the Congress of the United States of "Free" Trade Agreements with Colombia, South Korea and Panama serves to further devastate the rural economy in these countries and undermine the ability of peasants to compete with the flood of subsidized US agricultural



products that will result.

We urge the government of the United States of America to acknowledge the great burden of moral responsibility for the immense harm inflicted on the people of Colombia, to invest resources in true foreign aid, to help to rebuild a broken society, and to invest immediately in programs to support refugees and victims of this decades-long war.

Furthermore, we call on elected officials to direct financial assistance away from military funding and toward programs of healing the great social rifts such as a Truth and Reconciliation process.

The Meeting was asked to approve its call to our nation to acknowledge and act upon its great burden of moral responsibility for the harm suffered in Colombia as a result of the United States' economic, environmental, military, and anti-drug policies. Friends noted that these policies have inflicted some harm in the United States as well as in Colombia, and addressed the minute's treatment of the different aspects of the harm. Further consideration was given to whether we are called to address ourselves to civil authority for the amelioration of a moral and spiritual concern, and how we might advance the efforts of Flushing Meeting and New York Quarterly Meeting other than by approving their minuted language.

Friends received the minute with deep appreciation and expressed unity with the concerns raised in the minute. Witness Coordinating Committee was asked to discern how we can further them.

2012-04-17. The clerk of Witness Coordinating Committee, Fred Dettmer (Purchase), presented an oral report on the Sharing Fund. The 2011 goal was reduced to \$50,000, and contributions of \$46,331 came to 92% of that goal. For 2012, the Witness Coordinating Committee has set the Sharing Fund goal at \$55,000. Fred reminded us that the Sharing Fund is our channel of substantive support for all our witness activities. He noted that the treasurer's report for 2011, as received today, includes Sharing Fund Endowment income of about \$20,000 where it reports "Total Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income" of \$66,331. Contributions were urged.

2012-04-18. The reading clerk read Chapter 29, Verse 11 of Jeremiah:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you future with hope.



2012-04-19. The clerk of the Steering Committee for Meetings for Discernment, Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), read that committee's report. A meeting for discernment convened at Ithaca on Saturday, March 3, 2012. Inner experience and outward expression were articulated in messages that were recorded by note-takers, some of which are cited in the report. The next meeting for discernment will convene during our Summer Sessions on July 24, 2012. Friends received the report.

2012-04-20. The clerk of the Priorities Working Group, Lee Haring (Bulls Head-Oswego), gave an oral introduction to the group's written report, which he read and commented upon. He commended to us the 2011 minutes of Yearly Meeting when the working group was established, detailing its charge, which is crystallized in the phrase, "to gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends as to how the Spirit is at work among us and where it is leading us as a society of Friends in the immediate future."

To introduce the members of the working group who were present, Lee invited them to stand, and encouraged Friends to seek them out and contribute further input. He asked us to expand the working group by volunteering for occasional or on-going service as participants. Friends' specific questions were answered, and their appreciation of the working group's attention to their concerns was expressed. The report was received.

2012-04-21. Friends approved the minutes of this session so far.

2012-04-22. Following an announcement presented by the reading clerk, the Meeting returned to a period of settled worship at 3:30 p.m.

Purchase Meeting, Purchase, New York  
Sunday, April 15, 2012, 10:35 a.m.

*Heather M. Cook (Chatham-Summit), Clerk*  
*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Assistant Clerk*  
*Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield),*  
*Recording Clerk*  
*Robin Mallison Alpern (Scarsdale), Reading Clerk*

2012-04-23. Friends gathered in worship. Friends heard:

Traditional Quaker decision-making... is a Spirit-led process in which we seek to learn the will of God for the meeting in the matter at hand. ... To discern the leading of the Spirit we listen for promptings within ourselves and in the ministry of others. This does not mean that we don't use our brains or think. It does mean, however, that we try to open ourselves to an awareness of the working of the Spirit both within ourselves and within the meetings as a whole. It is this experience of being gathered in the Spirit that is the unity we seek in making decisions.

—This We Can Say: Australian Quaker Life, Faith and Thought, *Australian Yearly Meeting, 2003, 86.*

The Clerk introduced those at the clerks' table and reviewed the agenda.

2012-04-24. Minutes 1, 2, 9, and 13 from yesterday morning were approved.

2012-04-25. The Clerk expressed appreciation to Purchase Quarter for hosting these sessions.

2012-04-26. The consent agenda was presented for approval without discussion as is our practice. Friends approved minutes 27 through 29 in accordance with the consent agenda.

2012-04-27. Friends received the following requests for release from service:

Susan Laughter (Brooklyn), Communications 2013  
Fred Doneit (Poughkeepsie), Supervisory Committee for  
the General Secretary 2013  
Nancy Gabriel (Ithaca), Supervisory Committee for the  
General Secretary 2014  
Jolene Festa (Brooklyn), Committee on Conflict  
Transformation 2013  
Daphne Mason (Butternuts), Indian Affairs Committee  
2013

2012-04-28. Friends approved the proposed addition of “Co-opting Practice” for inclusion in the “Appointments” section of the NYYM *Handbook*.

### **Co-opting Practice**

Co-opting is a process for noting Friends who serve under appointment of New York Yearly Meeting outside the usual guidelines for service. Names of co-opted individuals are listed in the *Yearbook* with the appropriate class and with the designation “co-opted.”

An individual may be co-opted for one year at a time in these instances:

- An individual under appointment through the usual nominating process may be co-opted if s/he is not a member of a monthly meeting. This individual must understand and accept Friends’ practice for conducting business in worship.
- An individual who has served on a committee for the maximum time allowed and agrees to serve for another year to respond to a particular need of the committee. This individual may be co-opted for only one year.
- Revised and approved by General Services Coordinating Committee, January 28, 2012

2012-04-29. Friends approved a proposed revision to New York Yearly Meeting *Handbook* Committee Guidelines Section D “Financing,” in the General Services section (page 77).

#### **2. Funding from Outside Sources**

Introduction:

This is a policy statement on Requests by Yearly Meeting Committees for Funding from Sources Outside of the Yearly Meeting, originally approved by Representative Meeting in 1980. The current version date is at the end of this document. It is applicable to all Yearly Meeting committees. Separately incorporated organizations related to NYYM are encouraged to develop their own guidelines for seeking outside funding. When the outside funding is the result of an endowment or special bequest to NYYM, and an existing or special NYYM committee or task group is required to manage and utilize these types of funds, this is a special situation not restricted by the following Yearly Meeting Guidelines for Funding from Outside Sources. However, all NYYM committees and programs, no matter their source of funding, work within the guidelines of the YM authority and structure.

Guidelines:

Friends are committed to expressing faith in action.

We show our commitment by putting our own time, our own energy, and our own money into activities that demonstrate our beliefs. New York Yearly Meeting funds its concerns in part through the Yearly Meeting Operating Budget and trust funds of the Yearly Meeting, and the rest from the Sharing Fund. Money to do this comes from our Operating Budget, trust funds of the Yearly Meeting, the Sharing Fund, and from individual friends. Occasionally a committee many consider seeking outside funding to meet a need that seems beyond our financial resources at the time. This outside funding should be for the short-term, an immediate solution to a problem rather than a permanent part of our financial structure. If the need is projected to continue beyond a one- to two-year span or persists after that time, then Friends should give thought to meeting that need within our budget structure. Funding that is needed beyond a one- to two-year horizon should be sought only after careful consideration and seasoning to determine how meeting these needs can fit into the spiritual and financial structure of the Yearly Meeting.

Because of the danger that seeking outside funding may become an end in itself and become too large a portion of the Yearly Meeting Operating Budget, and the possibility that projects funded by such grants may become primarily interested in their own survival, it is important that there be clear guidelines for the grant applications. The following considerations should precede requests for outside funding:

1. A clear definition of the project should be developed by the originating group, showing the aims, the amount of money needed (according to budget categories, not just total), the time for the project's completion, and the disposition of the project once the portion to be funded is completed.
2. Friends should be clear on the nature of the organization from which funds are being requested.
3. Grants should be requested in the name of New York Yearly Meeting. They should be administered in such a way as to maintain the project's Quaker origin, character, and identity and to thought of as New York Yearly Meeting projects.
4. For any staff to be added as a result of project expansion due to outside funding, the Personnel Committee of the General Services Section shall review and must approve the proposed job descriptions, supervisions, salary, etc., for consistency with the Yearly Meeting personnel policies.

5. Certain projects supported by Yearly Meeting funds may be encouraged to seek independent status or other affiliation, in order that they may continue to grow and that the way may be open for Yearly Meeting committees to venture forth into other areas of endeavor. Such modifications should be made by the originating group in consultation with the section coordinating committee and the Financial Services Committee.

6. The proposal developed in accordance with the guidelines above shall be considered by the appropriate section coordinating committee. It shall be considered first on its merits, then for its relationship to other funding interests of committees in the section and for the appropriateness of seeking outside funding. If the coordinating committee approves, the proposal will be presented to the General Services Coordinating Committee and the NYYM Trustees for approval or further seasoning on issues including, but not limited to, insurance, payroll, liability, taxes, employment status, and other possible legal issues.

7. All money from grants will be held by the Yearly Meeting treasurer in a project-specific fund. The treasurer will have the responsibility for proper administration of these funds.

8. Responsibility for oversight of the funded project rests with the committee that originated it, and its general oversight with the section coordinating committee.

*Revised and approved by General Services Coordinating Committee, January 28, 2012*

2012-04-30. The clerk of Nurture Coordinating Committee, Deborah Wood (Purchase), reviewed the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Gathering which starts in Kenya in two days. Sylke Jackson (Rockland), Diane Keefe (Wilton), Margaret Mulindi (Manhattan), Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), and General Secretary Christopher Sammond (Poplar Ridge) are attending from New York Yearly Meeting, and are expected to report to us at Summer Sessions. A Friend spoke of her experience of representing the Yearly Meeting at a past World Gathering as a transforming experience, and led us in prayer for those attending—and for those who will receive the changed delegates upon their return.

2012-04-31. The clerk of Financial Services, Sandra Beer (Old Chatham), presented the revised budget for 2012. The deficit that was approved at our Fall Sessions has been eliminated and

\$19,420 has been added for a total balanced budget of \$524,087.

2012-04-32. Sandra Beer presented Financial Services' recommendations for revised expenditures. Full funding was restored to Powell House, Young Adult Concerns, and representatives to Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting. Partial restoration was made to funds for Friends organizations (FWCC, FGC, FUM) and Young Friends in Residence. One Friend asked to be recorded as standing aside.

2012-04-33. The clerk of General Services Coordinating Committee, Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), presented the proposed *Handbook* page for the Development Committee for a first reading. Friends were asked to prayerfully consider this proposal and respond to members of General Services. [The *Handbook* page may be found at <http://bit.ly/JeTfBO>.]

2012-04-34. Clerk of Sessions Committee, John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes), presented statistics on attendance at this session: 119, including 7 under age 11 and two younger children. He also reported that attendance at Fall Sessions 2011 was 116 (including 7 under 18 years old).

Jon Watts and Maggie Harrison have agreed to be our plenary speakers at Summer Sessions, when the theme will be "Living and Nurturing Integrity."

The handbook for hosting Fall and Spring sessions is now available on the Yearly Meeting Web site [at <http://bit.ly/J2N5DG>].

2012-04-35. The minutes of this session were approved.

2012-04-36. The meeting closed with a period of singing followed by open worship, to reconvene at our Summer Sessions, July 22–28, 2012, at Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks.

**2012 OPERATING BUDGET**  
as amended Spring Session 4/12

<b>General Services</b>	<b>2012 budget</b>	<b>2011 budget</b>
Section expenses:		
Audit	3,050	3,050
General expense & travel	2,000	2,200
Provision for Equalization Fund	3,000	3,795
NYYM officers' expenses	2,600	2,750
<b>Total section expenses</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>11,795</b>
Committee expenses:		
Communications Committee	22,300	23,500
Nominating Committee	200	350
Records Committee—donation	2,500	2,500
Sessions Committee	9,500	10,000
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>36,350</b>
Office operations:		
Administrative expenses	12,900	13,600
Computer consultation	700	700
Office equipment	950	1,000
Insurance	4,950	4,950
Rent & utilities <i>(diff space/also reduced sublease income)</i>	25,835	30,386
Office staff travel	8,500	8,000
<b>Total office operations expenses</b>	<b>53,835</b>	<b>58,636</b>
Personnel expenses:		
Hourly staff compensation	24,450	24,450
Staff employees salaries	173,390	173,390
Salary and wage-related expenses	45,325	45,325
Staff development	1,500	1,200
Volunteer support	400	400
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>245,065</b>	<b>244,765</b>
Bookkeeping services	31,200	31,200
<b>Total General Services</b>	<b>375,250</b>	<b>382,746</b>

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>2012 budget</b>	<b>2011 budget</b>
Committee and task group expenses:		
Advancement	250	0
Conflict Transformation Committee	400	700
Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee	200	250
Section expense & travel	500	500

Spiritual Nurture Working Group	800	1,600
Task Group on Racism	600	875
Worship at YM Sessions	100	100
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>4,025</b>
Program expenses:		
Bible study leader Summer Sessions work grant	600	500
Provision, Meeting Visitation	0	0
Pastors Conference	1,250	1,250
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>5,775</b>
<b>Nurture Section</b>	<b>2012 budget</b>	<b>2011 budget</b>
Committee expenses:		
Committee on Aging Concerns	211	250
FWCC Committee of NYYM	0	0
Junior Yearly Meeting	18,350	21,100
Young Adult Concerns	675	800
Young Friends in Residence	8,373	200
Youth Committee	253	200
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>27,862</b>	<b>22,550</b>
YM appointee expenses:		
FGC Central Committee—reps to board	591	700
FUM—reps to board	2,955	3,500
Provision, FUM reps to Triennial	422	500
Provision, FWCC regional hosting expenses	0	150
Provision, FWCC—Section of the Americas meetings	0	1,435
Provision, FWCC World Gathering (Triennial/Quadrennial)	1,604	900
<b>Total YM appointees expenses</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>7,185</b>
Allocations & Donations:		
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	127	150
Friends General Conference (FGC)	5,910	6,106
Friends Council on Education	127	150
Friends United Meeting (FUM)	5,910	6,106
FUM—Third World attendance to Triennial	422	500
FUM Triennial—Third World Board reps	127	150
Friends World Comm. for Consultation	2,871	3,105
FWCC Section of the Americas— Third World reps	127	150



N.J. Council of Churches	0	0
N.Y. State Council of Churches	0	0
Oakwood Friends School	7,599	8,500
Powell House	54,881	65,795
William Penn House	0	0
Quaker EarthCare Witness	0	0
<b>Total allocations &amp; donations</b>	<b>78,101</b>	<b>90,712</b>
Section expense & travel	1,773	2,450
NYYM Resource Library	253	300
<b>Total Nurture</b>	<b>113,561</b>	<b>123,197</b>
<b>Witness</b>	<b>2012 budget</b>	<b>2011 budget</b>
Committee expenses:		
Barrington Dunbar	0	0
Black Concerns	190	200
COPW	95	100
Indian Affairs	665	700
Meeting the Minimum Needs of All	0	0
Peace Concerns coordinator	238	250
Prisons	190	200
Torture Awareness Working Group	0	0
World Ministries	0	0
Witness CC Section expense	713	750
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>2,200</b>
YM appointee expenses		
AFSC—9 representatives	0	0
FCNL—6 representatives	0	0
Friends Peace Teams—2 representatives	352	370
National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund	0	0
NYS Council of Churches	0	0
Quaker Earthcare Witness	0	0
William Penn House representative	143	150
Additional funding for reps to Quaker orgs	428	450
<b>Total YM appointee expenses</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>1,450</b>
Donations		
American Friends Service Committee	143	150
Alternatives to Violence Project	143	150
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	143	150
Friends Committee on National Legislation	143	150
Friends Peace Teams	143	150
National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund	143	150

National Religious Campaign against Torture	143	150
Quaker Earthcare Witness	143	150
Right Sharing of World Resources	143	150
Rural and Migrant Ministries	143	150
William Penn House	143	150
N.J. Council of Churches	143	150
N.Y. Council of Churches	143	150
<b>Total donations</b>	<b>1,859</b>	<b>1,950</b>
Sharing Fund Campaign expense	2,185	2,300
<b>Total Witness</b>	<b>7,056</b>	<b>7,900</b>

### EXPENSES CONSOLIDATION

	2012 budget	2011 budget
General Services	375,250	382,746
Ministry	4,700	5,775
Nurture	113,561	123,197
Witness	7,056	7,900
Meeting for Discernment	600	600
Priorities Working Group	3,500	0
Contingency	0	0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>504,667</b>	<b>520,218</b>

### INCOME

Income from Endowment	11,500	12,000
Other revenue	16,000	23,313
Registration fees	24,000	23,600
<b>Income subtotal</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>58,913</b>

### COVENANT DONATIONS

All Friends	51,700	59,800
Butternuts	6,100	6,475
Farmington-Scipio	63,126	66,354
Long Island	50,850	48,745
New York	71,300	71,300
Nine Partners	31,573	36,573
Northeastern	29,264	30,361
Purchase	88,048	89,790
Shrewsbury & Plainfield	47,000	50,000
<b>Covenant subtotal</b>	<b>438,961</b>	<b>459,398</b>
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>490,461</b>	<b>518,311</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>504,667</b>	<b>520,218</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-14,206</b>	<b>-1,907</b>

## MEETINGS FOR DISCERNMENT

### Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee

The Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee holds a monthly conference call and met once face to face this year at Fall Sessions. The committee has the responsibility of planning and holding two Meetings for Discernment each year, one at Summer Sessions and the other in the late winter at a meeting place of the committee's choosing.

The Meeting for Discernment to take place at Silver Bay on July 24, 2012, will mark the end of the fifth year of Meetings for Discernment. Last year the 2011 Meeting for Discernment at Silver Bay was well attended. Friends considered the query "How has your faith helped you keep your spiritual grounding, hope, and optimism while living your witness in the world?" The 2012 winter Meeting for Discernment took place on March 3, 2012, at Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Around 65 Friends attended, with Friends from each of the nine regions and quarters of NYYM being present. The query asked, "How are we living out a faithful response to God's leading in community? How are we living faithfully inwardly and outwardly? How have connections beyond our meeting brought opportunities for deeper faithfulness?"

The Meetings for Discernment are still a new formation in the Yearly Meeting, but time and experience have helped the committee understand what is helpful for making each session meaningful and fulfilling. Each meeting is a time of extended worship over the course of a day. All are welcome to attend. The committee invites Friends to each session to serve as elders and hold the meeting. A query is used. To assure that Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting are present, monthly meetings and worship groups are asked to appoint two people to attend. Since the meeting does not consider minutes or other items of business, those appointed are considered "appointees" and not "representatives" who might otherwise be expected to bring business items or reports. The intent is to hear about the condition of monthly meetings and the body of the Yearly Meeting through the ministry of Friends speaking out of the silence as led by spirit. It is an opportunity for the Yearly Meeting to discern what is rising among us.

Over time there has been a settling in and maturing of the process so that Friends may now experience Meetings for Dis-

cernment as a time when the presence of the spiritual foundation of the Yearly Meeting becomes visible. This year many Friends reported a feeling that in Meetings for Discernment as a body we're "doing it right."

At the 2011 Summer Sessions the body agreed to extend the provisional status of Meetings for Discernment for a three-year period. This decision followed a three-year provisional period just completed at that time. As we continue to find our way and mold the process for Meetings for Discernment as part of the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting, there is still work to do in finding its place in the formal structure. The committee continues to be engaged in that work and welcomes input and advice from Friends.

*Jeff Hitchcock, clerk*

### **Ministry Coordinating Committee**

This has been a rich year for Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC). We have found that our work benefits from time at each of our meetings for deep worship and sharing. When we slow the pace, shorten the agenda, and maintain our commitment to doing all our business from a place of openness to Spirit, our meetings are rich and we leave with a sense of purpose and gratitude. As a coordinating committee much of the work is done by the various committees and working groups in our section. But when we come together and hear each other and share, we often are inspired and can see the ways in which God is using us all to nurture and enrich the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We are finding our way to a vision of a vital corporate ministry and exploring the roles each committee and working group plays in that vision. Spirit is active at our meetings and in our work.

After many months of discernment and faithful work by the Task Group on Racism in NYYM, MCC approved an Apology to Afro-Descendants for Quaker involvement in slavery. With a cover letter and queries this was sent out to the monthly meetings. It is our hope that this will be a spark and tool to our ongoing work of racial healing. We have begun to receive reports back from monthly meetings who have used this apology and materials and we have found these responses valuable. It's apparent that this is a difficult issue and the apology brings up many strong feelings. It seems to be valuable as a tool for continuing the work of discussing and listening.

In the course of our work as shepherds of the process of recording gifts in the ministry, we have become aware of concern and confusion about our Yearly Meeting's practice of recording. This has led to several helpful MCC meetings in which we shared our own understanding of the history, process, and reasons behind recording gifts in the ministry with one another. As with all our practices and beliefs, it can be valuable to revisit them periodically to see what value and meaning they have for our Society today. With this in mind MCC is developing a series of opportunities for Friends across the Yearly Meeting to engage with the issues of recording gifts in the ministry, as well as the life cycle and nurturing of vital ministry in all our meetings. We plan to start this process with a threshing session at Summer Sessions and will continue the discussion through a Powell House weekend and an issue of *Spark*.

*Amy Willauer-Obermayer, clerk, MCC*

### **State of Society Report**

Each year, monthly meetings and worship groups are asked to summarize their spiritual experience in State of the Meeting reports. These reports are used by the State of Society Committee to consider the state of the yearly meeting as a whole. This year, the following queries were offered as possible guides:

1. How does ministry thrive in our meetings? How do we identify and support the ministries rising among us? Do we communicate our faith with tenderness and honesty to each other, to our meetings, and to the larger world?
2. Every meeting carries part of the long legacy of Quaker faith and practice. What do we contribute to that legacy? Are we called to participate in non-Quaker movements that express or could use Quaker values?

These two queries—how do we minister, and what do we add to Quaker legacy—called forth a mixture of satisfaction and dissatisfaction in the monthly meetings. On one hand, we enjoy the ways we can continue the practices and values of the past. We take care of each other and try to speak constructively to the world. On the other hand, we wonder about our vitality in spoken ministry and our path forward in conflict inside and outside our meetings.

Meetings defined ministry in a variety of ways, drawing distinctions between ministry to the larger community, to the

meeting, and to one another. One meeting said they understand the term “ministry” both in the sense of spoken words that carry the Spirit during meeting for worship, and in the sense of activities that carry the Spirit to those in the meeting and beyond it. Some defined ministry as caretaking on a large and small scale, or as identifying and following leadings that arise from meeting for worship. Others focused on the spoken messages and the quality of the silence during meeting for worship.

Friends minister to each other by providing pastoral care, providing rides to Friends who find it difficult to make it to meeting for worship, or visiting and sharing worship at a housebound Friend’s home. There is pastoral ministry in speaking thoughtfully with others during a social hour, and in washing dishes when the social hour is over.

Ministering to the outside world includes making Quakerism, and one’s meeting, more visible, with hopes that this visibility will help people come into deepening relationship with one another and the Divine. Meetings send out press releases to local media about events, participate in open houses, and improve signage at their meetinghouses. Meetings participate in local ecumenical groups, and often join in local protests and actions. Many meetings maintain regular and long-standing peace vigils in their communities. Meetinghouses lend their space to community groups in need, providing a form of ministry to these groups and outreach to their community.

Ministry is part of the blessing of Quaker process within meetings. One meeting states, “The process of discernment with members of a clearness committee is one of the great gifts of the Society of Friends.” A leading that is rising up in an individual can be tested, refined, and supported. A well-functioning Nominating Committee can get to know a meeting’s members and attenders and help identify an individual’s gifts.

Functioning, active committees in a monthly meeting are a sign of a healthy ministry and are the legacy of Quaker practice. Several meetings have struggled to fill committees or complete the necessary business of their meeting and have created new ways of doing business. One meeting has tried having all its committees meet on the same day at their meetinghouse, so that Friends could easily attend any committee meeting they’re led to attend. Meetings have committees in which a clerk could not be found so the clerkship rotates among its members, a situation that works out well. One meeting sends out reports to

be read before business meetings, “so that more time is available in Meeting for Business to discern spiritual matters.”

Meetings reported special concern for vocal ministry that is spoken during meeting for worship. A few meetings reported talkative, “popcorn” style meetings—sometimes due to an influx of newcomers—and one has recently recorded two members’ calls to ministry. But many unprogrammed meetings seem to be experiencing mostly or completely silent hours of worship every First Day. The quality of this silent worship is often treasured by its participants, even as some worry about this lack of verbal participation. Many meetings report that there will often be a completely silent hour of worship followed by a lively and vocal period of afterthoughts or worship sharing. Some Friends wonder why this is; are Friends feeling too intimidated to break the silence? Are they having difficulty identifying messages that may come to them? Some Christ-centered Friends feel hesitant to speak because they are afraid their messages will not be welcomed. One meeting reports, “The more we sit in silence, the quieter we get. Hesitancy to speak leaves a void. We are working on ways to invite Friends to test the water and open ourselves to share the messages rising within us so that we can deepen our spiritual connections with each other.”

A few meetings have struggled with painful interpersonal conflicts over the past year. In some cases this has driven a member to transfer to another meeting or stop attending altogether. Quakers can have difficulty resolving conflict when silence is used to avoid painful discussion. Dealing with conflict can make people uncomfortable, angry, and sad, so disagreements can linger long without resolution. One meeting said “Our failure to deal effectively with conflict remains troubling....We seek strategies to prevent and alleviate relationship difficulties between Friends and for resolving conflict when necessary.”

In good times and bad, every meeting and every Friend carries part of the long legacy of Quaker faith and practice. Many Friends report that they witness to Quaker values in all their actions. Friends feel strongly about continuing the Quaker legacy of equality and social justice, whether within a Quaker context or not. Friends are currently involved in a large number of concerns, including earthcare, especially protesting, educating, and writing minutes against hydraulic fracturing; racism concerns, including the racism in the criminal justice

system and raising awareness of white privilege; participation in the Aging, Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) program and in the Alternatives to Violence Project; support for Friends who conscientiously object to war taxes; and visiting in prisons. Quakers are also involved in actions in their communities, including the holding of peace vigils, support for immigrant and refugee families, fighting hunger and homelessness, and advocating for healthcare for all.

The Occupy Wall Street movement in particular has inspired Friends. The Occupy movement echoes Quaker values with a nonviolent, open-ended decisionmaking process that models what one meeting called “acceptance of ambiguity, giving up control, not having to have resolution right away.” Meetings in the New York City area have provided shelter, support, and on-site meetings for worship for Occupy protesters. At the end of 2011, a process of discernment was ongoing in several meetings to consider future engagement.

Several meetings held well-attended public events for the tenth anniversary of 9/11. A New York City meeting combined worship, worship sharing, film, and a long banner stretched outside where people could write messages. Farther north, Friends led a public healing where “over a hundred gathered at the foot of Otsego Lake symbolically to wash their hands of the past decade’s fears, animosities, and recriminations. Many of that large crowd belonged to none of the village’s congregations but were drawn to the ceremony because of shared values.”

The Quaker legacy of concern for those in prison finds vibrant expression in prison worship-sharing groups. The ministry in those meetings takes the form of active listening and acceptance of each other, transcending the barriers of race, gender, and ethnicity. Those within prison report they are spiritually enriched by visitors from the Yearly Meeting. Their ministry also includes participation in the Alternatives to Violence Project, letter-writing campaigns about posttraumatic stress disorder, and Reconciliation Workshops.

Meetings with historic meetinghouses feel the legacy of Quakerism in a very concrete way. Historic building tours and open houses give meetings an opportunity for outreach. Friends treasure the history present in their meetinghouses, though they are also challenged by the cost and energy of maintaining a historic structure. Other meetings have recently repaired, expanded, or moved their meetinghouses, projects that



often serve to draw a meeting's participants closer together.

Some of our meetings have been faced with dwindling numbers of members and attenders. Friends move away or die. Some meetings have aging members and no newcomers on the horizon, or have lost beloved elders. Sometimes a lack of a standing First Day school can keep people away. Meetings that encompass large geographic areas find it difficult to gather together a scattered demographic every week. But other meetings have been growing in numbers and diversity, which brings great joy. An increase in newcomers can lead to growing pains as newcomers learn about Quaker practice. And older, smaller meetings can be blessedly familiar and intimate. Meetings ebb and flow with time. Says one smaller meeting: "Compared with last year our numbers are smaller; our energy low. The water is there but the strength of the flow is down; ebb flow. We are in Expectant Waiting; a solidity of centeredness that is waiting for the next tide."

Meetings provide a space for safety, nurturing, and spiritual presence. People talk about their meetings as their homes, as the soil in which they grow, as their families. One Friend described meeting for worship by saying, "I'm coming home when I'm here." Another meeting reported, "The connections that we forge foster a spirit that we believe we carry with us throughout the week...holding each other in the Light habitually." Meetings know how to make "a sacred space in support of the spiritual growth of members and attenders both as individuals and in community....Where two or three are gathered there is a Presence and a Power and in that lies our faith, our hope, and our ministry."

As Friends, we treasure our legacy and frequently remember what Friends have done and said in the past. Questions are always rising within New York Yearly Meeting about what we are called to do now, in the social, political, and economic world that exists now, and what we might say, to each other and to the world, speaking from our safe houses. We pray that we may be not just comforted but also inspired, even unsettled, by the voice of the Spirit that created the legacy in the first place.

## **Spiritual Nurture Working Group**

In 2011, the Spiritual Nurture Working Group's (SNWG) main focus was on holding the last three of the eight "Feeding the Fire" retreats at Powell House: in January, Trusting in the Slow Work of God, led by Christopher Sammond; in April, Living in the Power, led by Callid & Kristina Keefe-Perry; and in August, Spreading the Fire, led by Noah Baker-Merrill and Kathleen Wooten. The August retreat was cosponsored by the Young Adult Concerns Committee. The "Feeding the Fire" retreats began in Fall 2009 and enriched the lives of many who attended.

Since Fall Sessions, the Working Group has worked with Ministry Coordinating Committee to craft opportunities for Friends to consider our practice of recording ministers. At Coordinating Committee weekend the coclerks clarified the scope of SNWG's work as it relates to the work of Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee. Members of the SNWG are being called into intervisitation, leading retreats, and accompanying Friends traveling in the ministry or in service. Looking forward, the SNWG is called to collectively support such intervisitation among Friends. The coclerks respectively attended the FGC consultations on Eldership in December 2011 and Inter-visitation in March 2012.

*Lu Harper and Anne Pomeroy, coclerks*

## **Task Group on Racism in NYYM**

The Task Group on Racism in NYYM met three times since our last report, in June, October, and February. We focused on three main areas: sharing our own experiences and understandings of racism, editing the Apology to Afro-Descendants, and searching to find ways to engage more Friends in this work.

In regards to sharing our experiences and understandings of racism, we gave space for each of us to speak to the following questions: 1. What might NYYM free of racism look like? What would that mean to you? 2. How does racism impact your life? 3. How is racism affected by entitlement?

Some of the answers to the first questions were:

- There would be more people of color.
- Friends of color would not be in any doubt as to whether any particular treatment is due to racism.

- Friends would know each other as individuals irrespective of race.
- We would know each other on a more personal level.
- It would be safer to talk about personal issues.
- Friends would understand and come to grips with issues of skin privilege and pain.
- Friends of European descent would be aware of their “whiteness.”

Ideas shared in response to the second question were:

- One Friend noted the sense of loss from a lack of diversity in her meeting.
- A Friend observed that young European Americans are free from the psychological burdens of race when raising children while young African Americans are not.
- A Friend noted that some people of African descent resist describing themselves as African American or black in lieu of Caribbean, Puerto Rican, Jamaican etc. and another Friend noted that most people of European descent will not refrain from describing themselves as white.
- Race affects the business calculations a Friend makes in his approach to potential new clients and in the company’s participation in affirmative action programs.

In response to the third question:

- We asked how we can give to others without fostering a misplaced sense of entitlement in those less fortunate than us. How do we foster healthy attitudes towards the poor and those not similar to us?
- We discussed our experiences of how Americans are viewed in other countries. American ethnicities are viewed differently abroad. Views abroad are greatly shaped by their perceptions of American culture.
- We discussed the pressures placed on us by our cultural expectations and how they shape our general outlook. We asked how we can overcome our limited perspective so that we can understand others better.

These times of sharing have been rich and deep and have brought us to a new level of understanding in our work.

Our work on the Apology involved responding to Ministry Coordinating Committee’s input to it, writing queries for meetings to use when engaging with it, and writing a cover letter to be sent out with the Apology and queries to encourage meetings to engage in this work. As a result of these efforts, MCC

approved the Apology at Yearly Meeting sessions in July and meetings received a copy of the Apology with the queries in the spring of 2012. Since then one meeting has written their own Apology as a result of this work. We are hoping that others will use this tool to begin working on issues of racism in their lives and their meetings. We stand ready to help with these discussions as Friends may wish.

In an effort to keep learning what Friends are doing, we submitted to the Ministry Coordinating Committee the following query for the State of the Meeting Report: What concrete steps has your meeting undertaken to foster our commitment to the elimination of racism within the NYMM? Even though it was not chosen as a query for the SOM reports, we are interested in hearing how Friends are engaging in this issue.

In our efforts to find ways to engage more Friends in this work, we focused on how to bring young Friends into the discussion. We sent a letter of invitation to the Young Adult Concerns Committee inviting them to share their experiences and ideas about how to look at this issue, and discussed ways we might be engaged with the youth program at Yearly Meeting sessions. We also discussed the possibility of meeting with other committees dealing with issues of inequality.

Our group meets three times a year for a full day. That schedule works well to give us the time to engage deeply in the conversation and act on the items that we are before us. We are always looking for new Friends to join us in this work. We welcome new faces, hearts, and minds. Join us!

*Irma Guthrie, clerk*

## **Advancement Committee**

The Advancement Committee has made good progress toward its 2011-2012 goal of seeking ways to better support the various ministries found in the Yearly Meeting. We are pleased to report that several meetings are having success in running the Quaker Quest program. One meeting has developed an abbreviated version, not called Quaker Quest but “Seeking the Spirit,” which it is now sharing with other monthly meetings. The Advancement Committee is looking at ways to continue our support of and involvement with both of these programs.

This year we also convened NYYM’s third Advancement Consultation, where 50 Friends from around the Yearly Meet-

ing gathered at the Stony Point Conference Center in Rockland County for worship and discernment.

Whereas previous NYYM Advancement Consultations focused on how to get people in the meetinghouse door and ensure that they were welcomed once they arrived, this year's event sought to develop that which we were calling people to join. We concentrated on empowering Friends whose faithful walks give such powerful witness to God's working in and through them that we believe that their ministries advance not just our Religious Society or our Yearly Meeting, but more importantly, the spread of Divine Love and Truth.

As all Friends are called to minister according to the measure of Light given them, each is also given different gifts of ministry. Gifts of the Spirit include gifts of prophetic vocal ministry, of healing, of serving as an elder, of community building, of witnessing in the wider world, and many others. In convening this year's Consultation, the Committee intended not to hold up any one form of ministry as more valued than any other, but rather to bring under one roof a body of individuals who might, together, help us see what institutional structures the Advancement Committee might put in place to stir up spiritual gifts and encourage Spirit-led ministries of all kinds.

The Advancement Committee now resolves to begin working with other committees and working groups within NYYM on the following eight areas that this consultation discerned to be priorities:

1. Creating a Directory of NYYM Friends offering ministries of various kinds, including an Elder/Companion list.
2. Developing a series of regional workshops on Friends' practices.
3. Seeking funding for ministries.
4. Exploring the adoption of a list of "Embraced Ministries," with funding protected by 501(c)(3) status, based on Baltimore Yearly Meeting's model.
5. Sending a letter to monthly meeting Ministry and Counsel committees, urging them to send representatives to the Powell House conference on September 21–23, 2012, entitled "Cultivating Ministry among Friends Today." This letter will encourage attendance by Friends challenged by or supportive of the idea of naming and recognizing gifts.
6. Planning a Yearly Meeting-wide consultation on vocal ministry, eldership, and those who nurture worship within our meetings.

7. Scheduling a worship-sharing session for the entire body, on how to develop leadership, at an upcoming Yearly Meeting session.
8. Creating regular opportunities to gather those involved in ministry and nurturing ministries.

The Advancement Committee still needs more Friends to share the labor. Friends led to work toward the wider dissemination of the faith, practice, and testimonies of Friends, to outreach to seekers, to the closer knitting together of Friends and Friends' meetings, and to the strengthening and growth of our meetings, are encouraged to contact the Advancement Committee coclerks or other members to test possible service on the committee. All Friends are encouraged to spend time at the Advancement table at Yearly Meeting Sessions to get a sense of the advancement work and materials of many of our constituent meetings. We encourage all Friends attending Sessions to attend the Advancement Committee meeting there.

*Don Badgley, Mia Kissil Hewitt, coclerks*

## **Committee on Conflict Transformation**

The Committee on Conflict Transformation had the opportunity to be of service to several bodies in the Yearly Meeting during the past year, including monthly meetings, worship groups, individuals, and the Yearly Meeting itself.

During 2011, the Committee was approached by seven monthly meetings and engaged four meetings in intensive assistance. These efforts seemed to be welcomed by those concerned. On its own initiative, prompted by suggestions by others, the Committee approached two other meetings to inquire whether it could be of service. In each of these cases, the meetings declined to pursue the issue.

At Summer Sessions, the Committee offered an interest group on the nature of spiritually led conflict identification and resolution. It was attended by about a dozen Friends as well as members of the Committee. After a brief presentation on the topic, individual Friends shared concerns within their meetings and also in their own lives. The sharing was deeply enriching.

The Committee offered a workshop in December 2011 titled "Conflict in Monthly Meetings: Crisis or Opportunity?" The workshop was led by Kristin DeMello and was hosted by

Montclair Monthly Meeting. Twenty participants, from nine monthly meetings in southern New York and northern New Jersey, were enthusiastic. The Committee hopes to conduct two similar Workshops in 2012—one in central New York and the other in western New York.

The Committee met three times during 2011 and felt nourished by the Spirit on each occasion.

*Peter Phillips, clerk*

## **Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee**

The purpose of the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee is to sustain and support quarterly, regional, half-yearly, and monthly meetings as well as worship groups to be instruments of God's love and to care for one another and to their members, attenders, visitors, and communities throughout the yearly meeting. The breadth of the purpose of this committee made it difficult to focus the energy of the group. This year the committee clarified its scope to supporting the pastors and pastoral meetings, administering the Stevens Fund, and supporting the Travelling Friends Advisory Group.

There is a real need to explore the financial and spiritual support of the pastors. Members of the committee are in touch with pastors. We continue to develop this support. The annual NYYM NEYM Pastors and Elders Retreat continues to be an important avenue of support. This year members of pastoral monthly meetings ministry and counsel and the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Pastoral Care and Ministry Coordinating Committees were also present to continue the exploration of providing support to the pastoral meetings and sharing their gifts with the wider yearly meeting community. The retreat provided an opportunity to share the joys and concerns of pastoral meetings both within the yearly meeting and between the yearly meetings.

The Stevens Fund continues to be faithfully administered. This fund helps support superannuated pastors and their spouses. The newly clarified process for applying to the Stevens Fund was implemented this year as a new recipient applied to the fund.

Representatives from both the Traveling Friends Advisory Group and Ministry and Pastoral Care attended an intervisitation consultation hosted by Friends General Conference. The



challenge of drawing Friends together who are active throughout the Society of Friends continues to challenge both attracting new Friends to the Traveling Friends Advisory Group and having Friends already part of the Group be actively engaged in intervisitation. The consultation illuminated the value of intervisitation in drawing out vital ministry. Intervisitation is an important way of strengthening and enlivening our monthly meetings and worship groups.

The prayer list is waiting for someone to tenderly care for it. We hold the search for a prayer list coordinator in prayer in hopes that someone will be led to take on this role.

The committee continues to be in transition with the transition in leadership. We expect the clarity of focus will enable us to carry out our work faithfully and with joy this coming year.

*Alice Houghtaling & Anne Pomeroy for the committee*

### **Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice***

The Committee gave a first reading of the proposed Advice and Query on Earthcare and will present these again for a second reading at 2012 Summer Sessions.

Most of our work both in the Fall and Spring Sessions was devoted to a new description and definition of worship groups, with particular attention to the situation of such groups within prisons. The present *Faith and Practice* lacks such definition. Initially the members found themselves not in total agreement about the particulars nor the language in the first proposed draft and labored successfully to achieve unity. A spirit of mutually respectful listening and caring in the best manner of Friends allowed a satisfactory outcome. The description will be presented to the coordinating committee prior to being brought to the Yearly Meeting.

A new committee clerk, Irma Guthrie, and recording clerk, Lee Haring, were approved.

*Joan Oltman, outgoing clerk*

### **State of the Society Committee**

*No report submitted.*



## **Committee on Sufferings**

The Committee on Sufferings has not met in the last year, since there have been no requests for assistance. Unless the Committee receives relevant requests that meet the guidelines outlined in the *NYYM Handbook*, there is no need for the committee to meet. Friends who feel moved to ask for help may pass the request on to the Ministry Coordinating Committee, which will then pass it on to our committee.

*Dick Goodman, clerk*

## **Traveling Friends Advisory Group**

Three Friends were the most active Travelers this year, completing more than 18 visits since Summer Sessions 2011. One of those visits resulted in the clerk of the meeting visited attending the clerking weekend with Arthur Larrabee at Powell House. Two Friends are often invited to preach as part of their visits.

As clerk of Traveling Friends, I was able to attend a weekend FGC consultation on Intervisitation. Several other Friends from NYYM attended, as well as a number from Canada and other yearly meetings in the US. It was a rich and gathered time, and it was interesting to hear about intervisitation from other yearly meetings.

The Advisory Group has not been able to find a time to meet this year, though its members did confer via phone and e-mail. The Advisory Group twice sought to gather those led to travel for a retreat, but each time was not able to get a sufficient response to warrant such a gathering. We hope to draw these Friends together sometime in the coming year.

*Deborah B. Wood, clerk*

## **Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions**

At Fall (Doane Stuart School and Powell House) and Spring (School of the Holy Child and Purchase Meeting) Sessions, the Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions Committee helped the quarterly meeting host committees by inviting additional Friends who have the spiritual gift of eldering. These Friends from the wider yearly meeting body were asked to join local Friends sitting on the facing chairs as well as sitting in the body during meeting for worship and meeting for worship with attention to business. They prayerfully grounded and held the body in the Light, being radiators of God's Love.

At Summer Sessions 2011, the Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions Committee helped oversee the many Summer Sessions activities under the care of the Ministry Coordinating Committee. At meeting for worship and meetings for worship with attention to business, the Committee invited and coordinated Friends sitting on the facing chairs as elders. These Friends provided a prayerful presence and helped remind us that we are connected to the Divine Center. The Committee helped coordinate and lent support to the additional worship opportunities at Silver Bay, including worship-sharing groups, the Healing Center, hymn singing in the Chapel, and meetings for worship at the Boathouse, as well as meetings for worship for healing the earth, meetings for worship for racial healing, worship with Friends in the Spirit of Christ, and worship with Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. The Committee contacted the Bible study leader and provided support those four nights as well as for the message provider at closing worship. The committee also identified two Friends to bring the message for Silver Bay's Monday and Tuesday vespers services in the Chapel.

The committee is currently working with JYM, Youth, and Young Adult Concerns for the community-worship opportunities at summer sessions 2012.

*Ann Davidson, clerk*

## GENERAL SERVICES SECTION

### General Services Coordinating Committee

The coordinating committees exist in large part to be sure the committees under their charge are functioning well, and to assist their work, in particular prior to any specific committee-generated concern to be presented to gathered Friends at our sessions. Details of the workings of the committees follow in their individual reports. General Services Coordinating Committee (GSCC) met four times, as it normally does, twice at Summer Sessions, once at Fall Sessions, and once at the Coordinating Weekend in January at Powell House.

At Spring Sessions 2011, Friends agreed to rename the Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary (SCGC). Also during 2011, a Development Working Group was formed under GSCC to address the need to analyze contributions to the Yearly Meeting and to act proactively to address fundraising concerns, and to assist monthly meetings in their fundraising, their bookkeeping and record keeping and related concerns. Although these concerns are addressed in other yearly meetings, they have not been actively addressed within ours. This absence has led to significant budget- and budget-process-related concerns, many of which relate simply to oversights and to timing of contributions, which concerns the committee will address. The group has been very active and has identified these and other areas of organizational weakness that can be addressed. GSCC proposed at Spring Sessions 2012 that a permanent Development Committee be considered by the Yearly Meeting. Friends approved. A *Handbook* entry is under development.

The half-time position of Young Adult field secretary was filled by Gabrielle Savory Bailey in April 2011, to address the specific needs of our young adults. Her work has had a very positive impact on many monthly meetings as well, and we will need to consider how to continue funding for the position beyond 2012.

Early in 2012, the office moved from the basement to the third floor of 15 Rutherford Place. The move was handled efficiently and with little expense. The new facilities are much more congenial for the staff and much more professional in appearance, and may be less expensive. The Office Study Task Group on the possibility and desirability of relocating the Year-

ly Meeting offices out of New York City has been inactive and has disbanded; there has been no recent input on this complex concern. The concern has not been formally laid down, and any further input will be accepted by the clerk of GSCC.

The effort is underway by a working group to update the Yearly Meeting's *Handbook* and make it easily accessible on the new Web site and downloadable page by page. It is finally moving forward after long delay. We expect that the *Handbook* will soon be online, maintained to keep changes current as they are put into effect, and downloadable entry by entry, with each page dated. We are aware that some of the entries will be outdated because they have not been updated by the committees, but we hope that that concern will be addressed as well, as we go forward.

Committee members are dedicated and thoughtful, and work continues to progress in a Spirit-led and timely fashion.

*Jeffrey Aaron, clerk*

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee met in April 2012 with the NYYM auditor, Robert Lee, to review his report on the 2010 financial accounts of the Meeting. After careful examination the Committee approved the Consolidated Financial Statements for 2010.

We noticed in the report that the receivables represent a relatively large proportion of our Assets. It was explained that monthly meetings lag in making their contributions to the Yearly Meeting, in part because they receive their income at the end of the calendar year. The Committee discussed its responsibilities regarding an audit of the Trustee Managed Accounts. We expect to clarify who should review such an audit in the coming months, an Audit Committee appointed by the Trustees or the Yearly Meeting Audit Committee.

The Committee decided to engage the present auditor for the 2011 audit, noting that a routine review of the auditor agreement should be done in 2012. We expect to do a final review of the 2011 Audit in mid June 2012 or at Summer Sessions.

Ed Doty agreed to continue as clerk. Lisa Gasstrom agreed to continue to serve as liaison with GSCC if she is reappointed to the committee. We look forward to the Nominating Committee suggesting nominees for committee service. The Committee feels it is fulfilling the charge given to it by NYYM. We

are continuing discussions about the amount to request for the 2013 budget. We believe the work of the committee impacts the life of the monthly meetings by reassuring them that the funds entrusted to NYYM are being cared for in a careful and responsible way.

*Edward Doty, clerk*

## **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee had a somewhat lower-key year. We continue to support the office staff in the preparation of thematic *Spark* issues. In 2011, *Spark* themes included Getting Down to Business, Sexuality and Spirituality, Envisioning the Future of Quakerism, Young(er) Friends, and Caring for Our Earth.

Friends' activism has been important in *Spark* recently. The January issue featured four articles on Quakers and the Occupy Movement. The March issue, on the theme of Activism and Spirit, followed, focusing especially on both the Occupy Movement and the response to fracking initiatives. There was so much material that the May issue continued this topic. Coming in the future will be Quakers and Science, Prisons, Education, and Pacifism and Nonviolence. The Committee welcomes ideas for future issues.

*Spark's* "Around Our Yearly Meeting" section, describing some of the activities of monthly meetings, has proved to be a popular section in *Spark*, and the Committee continued to consider how we might expand this section without sacrificing the other material.

The NYYM *Handbook* is sorely out-of-date, and steps have begun to develop a published version that at least contains the last-approved versions. We have discussed the question of whether a printed *Handbook* serves a purpose or whether the Yearly Meeting would be best served by Web version that could be updated piecemeal.

Working with the Personnel Committee, Communications was involved in developing a job description for the position of NYYM communications director and hiring of a new person for the job. We are grateful to Paul Busby for the many years that he has served the Yearly Meeting and welcome Steven Davison as his replacement. Steven has many ideas for us about how the Yearly Meeting might expand our use of new media

and attract younger Friends to the Yearly Meeting. We look forward to exploring those ideas in the coming years as well as continuing with *Spark* and our other printed publications.

*Adam Segal-Isaacson, clerk*

## **Development Committee**

The Development Committee was approved as a new committee at Spring Sessions April 14, 2012. It arose from a recommendation by Financial Services Committee to the General Services Coordinating Committee at Summer Sessions 2011, and was formed at that time as the Development Working Group. The Working Group has been actively functioning since that time, both to determine how these concerns are handled by other yearly meetings and to develop an organized approach to assuring adequate material and financial support for the work of the Yearly Meeting, as well as to support the work of constituent monthly and regional meetings in meeting their own financial needs. There was a first reading of the new committee's draft *Handbook* entry at Spring Sessions 2012, and a second reading is anticipated during Summer Sessions 2012. The members of the Working Group continue to serve in the interim pending nominations to the new committee at Summer Sessions.

Among the concerns that the working group and now the committee are addressing are:

- The need for a process of collecting and reporting of donations data to the YM, which has not been updated since the time of "assessments" to the regions, prior to the current general practice of "covenant donations" all coming from the monthly meetings, both as expectations during the process of creating each new budget and as actual donations throughout the year.
- The need for a process to review donations toward the end of each year comparing them to the covenant donations expected, and for making timely inquiries where appropriate.
- Seeking more clearness concerning the roles of monthly meetings and individual Friends and how we integrate Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings, and the various witnesses, entities, etc., into one coherent vision and coordinated program.

- The possible creation of a database for individual contributors to become more effective in communicating and energizing the individual base.
- The need for timely submission of expense vouchers to avoid the confusion of year-end pile-up and the uncertainty about how budget lines are being used. A protocol for submission deadlines is being developed.
- Regional and monthly meetings may welcome help in bookkeeping, fundraising techniques, and financial reporting to their members. Assistance might come from this committee or other sources.

A letter concerning the last of these items was sent out to all monthly and regional meetings early in 2012. At the end of 2011, when it appeared that there may be a serious concern about insufficient income for the year, Working Group members made phone calls to meetings, and many donations subsequently arrived, enabling the 2011 books to close in the black. Among these late donations, several meeting donations had erroneously not been sent in, as a result of change of bookkeepers or confusion about the given year for which a prior donation had been made, emphasizing the need for an organized overview process that has been lacking at the yearly meeting level.

*Jeffrey Aaron, convener*

## **Financial Services Committee**

Financial Services Committee continues the focus to:

- Help monthly meetings to make informed covenant-donation decisions and to share their priorities for NYYM. To this end, in addition the committee share an updated programmatic interpretation of how the Yearly Meeting spends its funds to further its various ministries
- Frame the NYYM budget based on realistic covenant donations and priorities articulated by constituent meetings

Financial Services Committee hosted the annual Budget Saturday, to seek clarity on a final proposed budget for 2012, but it was found that this happened too early in the fall to have a sense of the covenant amounts that could be used to budget total income. Combined with significant delays in receipt of current-year covenant donations as Fall Sessions took place,

the Committee recommended a deficit budget that also included some major reductions in expense line items from what coordinating committees had requested. This was approved.

At Spring Sessions, Financial Services presented information that it had determined there was substantially more anticipated income that could be used to eliminate the budgeted deficit and restore and revise various line items. Spring Sessions approved a final budget for 2012.

*Sandra Beer, clerk*

### **Committee on Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund**

Last year, at our annual sessions at Silver Bay, we distributed \$3,825.75 in books. This included \$3,617.99 for gifts to 73 monthly meetings, worship groups, prison worship groups, and Friends institutions (mostly schools). We gave gift books to 12 individuals (staff, recorded ministers, presenters at NYYM, and first-time visitors at our Yearly Meeting from other yearly meetings).

Please visit the Book Table, just inside the front door to the Inn lobby at Silver Bay, to replenish your monthly meeting's library shelves with up to \$50 worth of free books again this year. If your meeting is not sending a representative to YM summer sessions, please ask a neighboring meeting that is planning on sending a Friend, to select books totaling \$50 for your meeting as well. Everyone is invited to sign up for an hour or two to help us sell and distribute the books.

*Ruth Ralston, for the committee*

### **General Secretary's Report**

I devoted much more time to administrative work in this past year than I have in years past. I spent a great deal of time working to help the Yearly Meeting as a whole to work toward using our resources to fully support a common vision. This work fell into three broad categories: Vision, Communication, and Development.

**Vision:** I have continued to work with the Priorities Working Group as we work to fulfill the charge of listening across the Yearly Meeting to get a sense of the priorities Friends are called to for our work at an individual and a monthly meeting level.



**Communication:** I worked extensively with the Communications Committee and the Personnel Committee to redesign the communications director position, and in the search for, and hiring of, this new staff person. This new approach to communications should allow us to much better communicate the important work being done by the Yearly Meeting to our constituent members, and also to better share our Light with the wider world. I also worked with our Financial Services Committee to revise the program-based budget, our best tool for trying to effectively communicate the scope of work being done by our Yearly Meeting to our constituent monthly meetings.

**Development:** I worked with the Development Working Group to ascertain the need for a standing committee doing development work, and helped in the formation of that committee. I also worked with the Financial Services Committee to translate the leadings and needs of our committees into an operating budget that adequately supports the work we are called to. Additionally, I worked with the ad hoc committee looking at less-expensive alternatives to our current bookkeeping service.

This has been important work, work we needed to address at this time. This increased administrative work did take some time away from the ministry dimension of my work. As we were fast approaching, and then in the midst of, a budget crisis, it seemed like the best use of my time. I fully expect in future years to be able to give greater emphasis to the work of releasing Friends' gifts in ministry, which I understand to be the core of my work. Much of this administrative work has been short-term in nature, and a fair portion of it is winding down. I look forward in the coming year to have more time to be out visiting and working with Friends in our monthly meetings.

Despite the added administrative work, nurturing individuals and monthly meetings still constituted the greatest portion of my time. My work in meeting visitation, working with the Spiritual Nurture Working Group, the Advancement Committee, the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee, nurturing individual Friends, and offering support to our pastors and their meetings took up the lion's share of my time.

I visited 18 monthly and regional meetings and worship groups this year, and brought some kind of program to six of them. I love this work. It is a blessing and a pleasure to work with monthly meetings in nurturing the life in the Spirit to-

gether. I have felt particularly well used in leading retreats on opening to deeper worship, and I welcome invitations from meetings to do that work with them.

In my General Secretary's Report at Summer Sessions last year I highlighted the aspects of our life together that speak to decline, and the need to support those Friends with "a fire in their belly." Subsequently, the clerks of the Advancement Committee asked me to help them conceive and structure a consultation that would nurture those Friends whose gifts in ministry might enliven our Society. The idea is that the best way to advance the Society of Friends is to better support those whom God is powerfully calling into some kind of ministry. I have spent significant time working with them on this, and I hope that this consultation will be the beginning of our working to see how we can better support the work of the Spirit among us.

I have also continued my work with the Spiritual Nurture Working Group as we finished up the highly successful "Feeding the Fire" series of retreats and have begun to discern what work the group should take on next. At our annual retreat we began the work of looking at how to support workshops and retreats held at regions across the Yearly Meeting. This group continues to do vital, powerful work in this Yearly Meeting, and it is a pleasure to work with them.

I have continued to collaborate with my NEYM counterpart, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, in planning and supporting the two pastors retreats we hold each year. I expect long-term for more support for pastors to come from the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, but will probably continue to play a lead role in setting up and supporting the retreat portion of that support.

I was on the planning committee for the fourth annual East Coast Christ-Centered Friends Gathering, the first three of which have been held at Powell House. This next one will be in NEYM, near Boston. These retreats have been very important for NYYM Christ-centered Friends, many of whom have needed a supportive community beyond their monthly meetings. I have also continued to support the two Nightingales Singing Weekends each year, but am passing more of that responsibility on to some of the regulars in that group.

One of my greatest pleasures this past year has been in mentoring and supervising Gabi Savory Bailey in her new role as Young Adult field secretary. After some initial training in field-

work, she has hit the ground running and has been tremendously effective in her work. She has already had a greater impact on the life of this Yearly Meeting than I might have hoped, and she has barely begun. It is a pleasure working with her and a blessing to have her substantial contribution in our work in the field.

I continue serving on the Liaison Committee and have met, as much as I could arrange, with the clerk and sometimes the assistant clerk. I also continue to serve ex-officio on the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee.

In my work in representing us in the wider body of Friends, I attended the FUM board meetings and Triennial, which completed my sixth year on the FUM board. I have, however, at least for one more year, stayed on as clerk of North American Ministries. This committee, made up of general secretaries and superintendents from constituent yearly meetings, had been so paralyzed by tensions around theological differences over the past six years that we were literally not able to agree on virtually any significant work that we might do together as a North American ministry. Due to improved relations from years of work, an opportunity presented itself for us to break through this stalemate. We are now, for the first time in at least ten years, working on some exciting projects that have the potential to nurture our respective yearly meetings.

I also attended the annual Superintendents and Secretaries Retreat, an important bridge-building event at which we share about the state of the wider Society, trade shoptalk, and most importantly, create trusting relationships among the leadership of the various branches of Friends.

As the Friends Fiduciary gathering was less than two hours away from, and immediately before, the “Sups and Secs” retreat, I took the opportunity to attend and learn the basics of Quaker fundraising. What I learned there was invaluable; I brought back notes as to how other yearly meetings approach development, which helped the Development Working Group to gain clarity as to what we might do in NYYM.

Each calendar year, the Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary supports my doing one piece of work outside this Yearly Meeting, in support of the wider Society of Friends. In October of 2011 I served as Friend in residence at Earlham School of Religion, where I led a workshop, spoke several times in different public forums, offered spiritual direction, and led worship. It was a blessing to do that work, and I left with a

greater sense of ESR, and its work in the Society of Friends.

In this calendar year I attended the World Gathering of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya, where I led a workshop on “Living Out the Kingdom While Living in the Empire.” It was a valuable learning experience to lead a workshop questioning hierarchy and patriarchy with Friends from cultures where those are considered valuable and accepted cultural expressions instead of problems to be addressed. After the Gathering I joined three other NYYM Friends in traveling to Chwele YM to continue our dialogue and discernment about their request that we be a partner Yearly Meeting with them. It was wonderful to visit with them, and we had productive meetings.

I feel good about the work I have done in this past year. Using my broad view of the Yearly Meeting, I helped the Yearly Meeting as a whole to see and understand a comprehensive view of where we are and where we might go. Drawing upon this sense of how we are doing to inform our sense of where we are headed allowed us to avoid a likely future financial implosion of significant proportions and to further close the gap between the YM organization and the YM’s constituent monthly meetings. I continued to support the releasing of Friends’ gifts in ministry, which is the long-term solution to problems of budget, shrinking meetings, lack of spiritual vitality, difficulties finding Friends to serve, etc. I feel blessed to be a part of a body of Friends so intent on deepening in faithfulness and being true to the work being given us.

*Christopher Sammond*

## **Nominating Committee**

The New York Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee is composed of Friends appointed by their regions to serve the Yearly Meeting. Regions are allotted representatives according to membership numbers in that region. The work of Nominating Committee is done at Fall, Spring, and Summer Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting, with conference calls, e-mails, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings in between. It is ongoing work, but the busy time is spring and early summer. At Summer Sessions 2011, diligent work from committee members resulted in a consent agenda with very few positions left vacant. We consider our work to be discerning gifts and matching them with committees and positions, rather than filling slots.

It remains a concern that one region is not represented and several are still underrepresented although we rejoice in welcoming some new committee members from Farmington-Scipio and Long Island, two regions that had been without full representation. Committee members from regional meetings are able to seek out and name gifts of local Friends. Without adequate representation from the regions, such gifts may not be noticed and nurtured.

We have been asked to communicate more closely with young Friends regarding NYYM service and plan to join an online committee meeting with young Friends to explain the nominating process. This is being facilitated by our Young Adult field secretary.

Nominating Committee has reduced our expenses by using electronic versions of the traditional color-coded letters asking Friends to consider serving, thanking them for service, and asking the clerks for input. This has saved on postage, copying, and office supplies. Committee members are flexible and utilize e-mail, Facebook, phone calls, face-to-face meetings, and postal mail to communicate with committee clerks and prospective nominees.

This year, Nominating Committee created a handbook for members including a number of important documents and the above mentioned letters. The wording on the practice of co-opting was approved at Spring Sessions 2012, and it is to be added to the handbook under our committee description and in the section called "Appointments." The process of notifying Friends of their appointments and of letting clerks or conveners know who is on the committee was more effective following Summer Sessions using postcards, e-mail, and the NYYM Web site.

We encourage Friends to approach Nominating Committee members with questions about committee service to the Yearly Meeting.

*Jill McLellan & Deborah Wood, coclerks*

## **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee has had an active and productive year. We have been reviewing the personnel handbook and its policies. We created a sabbatical-leave policy that was approved by General Services and will be added to the handbook.

We have also reviewed the annual evaluations of staff and have shared information with the Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary. The personnel committee has been pleased with the performance of our new Young Adult field secretary, and we are working, along with Young Adult Friends, to secure funding for 2013 and beyond.

This year, we created a new job description for the communications director. This position combines the work of Paul Busby as well as the layout and design work currently contracted out and additional duties. We are hopeful that this position will allow for some savings as well as help us become more technologically advanced. The new communications director is Steven Davison. Steven was a longtime member of NYYM and is currently a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We anticipate that he will begin his work in early July.

*Barbara Menzel, clerk*

## **Yearly Meeting Staff**

*Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult field secretary*

This is my first Advance Report as the Young Adult field secretary since taking the newly formed position in late March 2011. The past year has been one of learning and feeling my way through new territory. I feel deeply blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve. It is a blessing to be engaged in this work, and to feel the support and excitement of Friends in this Yearly Meeting and beyond. This job is unique and difficult to describe. Its scope is large enough that it could be a full-time position, though it is only half-time. This has presented me with the challenge of making decisions to prioritize work and visits, always knowing that there is more to do than I can do. I have been able to do the work knowing that I am not alone in it and that truly all of us in this Yearly Meeting are responsible for building a YM body that is whole. I have found at times that I have been given ministry that will help bring to the surface issues that impact Young Adult Friends (YAF), and that is intended to help all examine assumptions and expectations that we carry. I have also felt strong leadings to hold up the importance of discerning gifts and leadings in ourselves and others, so that we may be best used appropriately as people, not because of age or life stage. I am hoping that as I do my work, and as gifts are lovingly discerned, we will know each

other more deeply and have a wider pool to dip into when work needs to be done.

Since the beginning of my time in this position in late March 2011, I have made 47 visits to all nine regions of NYYM, meeting with over 120 YAF. 19 visits were to monthly meetings, regional meetings, or worship groups, 15 were Young Adult events that I arranged but that were not associated with specific monthly or regional meetings or worship groups, and the rest were gatherings and events that provided outreach, YM business, or professional development. The purpose and nature of the visits included, Circle of Young Friends conferences, a week-long trip across New York State, Meetings for Discernment, a Friends General Conference (FGC) consultation on Young Adults, NYYM Advancement Consultation, meetings with individual YAF, the Young Adult Concerns Committee (YACC) committee retreat, and a presentation at Brooklyn Friends School. To some of these visits and events, I brought a program, while others were simply visits to participate in an already planned program. Some of my most treasured moments on the job have been in the opportunities that I have to stay with members of this Yearly Meeting. It is a rare and honored position to stay in someone's home and receive hospitality. There is a challenge in the large geographical area of this Yearly Meeting. I wish that I could spend more time with Friends, and it is difficult knowing that I cannot be in all places.

To better know the YAF in the Yearly Meeting, where they are, and what they need, I designed a survey to help gather information about the YAF in the Yearly Meeting. So far, I have distributed and gotten back 107 surveys, from YAF from all nine regions of NYYM. I will be compiling the data to help see statistical information about who YAF in the Yearly Meeting are, where they are, and how their experience of NYYM is. I expect to have the data I have collected so far, compiled and available at Summer Sessions.

I have been working with YACC as they are discerning the way forward. They have a very small committee at the moment, and I have been working with them to better know other YAF in the YM, and who among those Friends might possess gifts that they need to grow the committee and the work they are doing. I have joined in YACC meetings in person and via Google +, a video-chat program. It is a pleasure to be a part of the work that they are faithfully doing. A small yet important



part of my work has included providing support to YAF as they negotiate various challenges in their lives. I feel honored to be able to provide support, and be present for Friends who need someone to talk to.

Communication is a big part of my position thus far. I have been writing regularly for *InfoShare* and *Spark*. I have also reported to the NYYM body on three occasions at Yearly Meeting Spring and Summer Sessions. I have a Web presence, and an active Facebook account, which I use to disseminate information, network, and directly contact Young Adult Friends. I established a blog, on which I post news of my travels, opportunities within and outside the Yearly Meeting, and copies of the reports I make to the YM body. I have been working with YACC to update the database, and make sure that everyone who needs and wants to be on the list is included.

I have a very young daughter, who has accompanied me on most of my visits. This perspective has brought to light the concerns of many of the YAF I meet who have children. I have heard much from Friends with young families. Many wish for a support system from their meetings. I connected several families with kids at Summer Sessions and arranged for several families to all stay on the top floor of the Inn, so they could know each other better and gain support if they needed it. This proved to be a good experience. I have stayed with several families on my trips, and many express that being a parent is difficult and that maintaining a spiritual practice and balance is even harder. A group gathered at Powell House this winter to have fellowship with other families, and I joined them for the weekend. I look forward to talking to more families about what they need from their meetings and what networks they would like to develop.

I have spoken with or met with people/groups or students from five colleges and universities to see how I can offer support, help develop worship opportunities, connect monthly meetings to colleges, and improve communications.

As this job is large in scope and geography, and can feel overwhelming, I have begun to develop a support system that is essential to my work. I have a very good rapport with my direct supervisor, Christopher Sammond, NYYM's general secretary. I also meet every six weeks with an anchor committee from my home meeting. In addition, I have reached into the larger FGC community and been in regular contact with other YAF who are doing similar work. I also was trained by FGC to facilitate



the Build It! tool kit. This increases the resources from which I have to draw. I find that it is helpful to have conversations, with people outside the region I serve, about ministry, faithfulness, and working through uncertainty in difficult work.

I feel blessed to have this work. I am learning and stretching my own gifts in ways that I had both feared, and not imagined in the past. I find that I encounter more questions than answers, and Truths that can be hard to share. I look forward to seeing how this work evolves and what transformations are in store for our Yearly Meeting.

*Walter Naegle, Administrative Associate*

In addition to my usual duties outlined below, this last year presented an additional challenge: the relocation of the office to another space in the same building. Moving after so many years in the same space meant discarding many dated materials or shipping them to the Quaker Historical Archives at Swarthmore College. It was additional work, but moving to a more user-friendly space has helped to make me more efficient in fulfilling my duties.

I maintain the NYYM database in both paper and electronic form. The database consists of members of NYYM, members and former members of our prison worship groups, administrative offices of other yearly meetings (both domestic and international), organizations associated with the work of Friends, and individuals and groups who have asked to be included in our mailings. This foundation is the basis for compiling registration lists for the various Yearly Meeting sessions (Spring, Summer, Fall), Meetings for Discernment, Nightingales weekends, and other events. The mailing lists for *Spark* and the Sharing Fund appeals are also generated from this information, as well as the global e-mail list for those interested in NYYM news and events. The database also includes lists of elected officials whom we may contact either by postal or e-mail about issues of concern to our community.

Using the database, I work closely with monthly meeting recorders, who notify us about new members, births, transfers, and deaths, and who provide the statistics about their meetings that appear in each NYYM *Yearbook*. Twice a year each recorder receives a printout of their meeting's members, which they compare with their records for accuracy. I organize the announcements about our membership that appear in *Spark*.

I work with Helen Garay Toppins, NYYM associate secre-

tary, on NYYM finances, processing payment vouchers, reviewing bank statements, preparing bank deposits, and sending out acknowledgements for contributions to the Sharing and Equalization Funds. I send treasurer's reports via e-mail to monthly meeting and quarterly/regional treasurers.

I assist in collecting photographs and illustrations for use in *Spark* and *InfoShare*, and work on both the Alphabetical and Committee sections of the *Yearbook*. I collect the Epistles, State of Meeting Reports, and memorial minutes that are made available at Summer Sessions.

Everyday tasks include answering the telephone, reviewing/responding to e-mail, opening mail, ordering office supplies, and shipping out copies of *Faith and Practice* and NYYM *Yearbooks*.

*Helen Garay Toppins, associate secretary*

There is no question that the highlight of my work year was "the big move." We moved the New York Yearly Meeting office from the basement to the 3rd floor, overlooking Stuyvesant Park. Last week, I saw a hawk flying overhead. Coordinating the Yearly Meeting office move took a tremendous effort. Between the center office, the storage closet and the back closet, we found more than a half century of NYYM materials. Sixty boxes were shipped to our archives at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

The move could not have been accomplished without the dedicated help of Jeffrey Aaron, Boyce Bengé, Ernestine Buscemi, Heather Cook, and Paula McClure. These volunteers came in week after week to help get the job done. Other Friends, too numerous to name, provided invaluable assistance.

The move affected me in ways that I did not foresee. First and foremost, it affected me emotionally. As I sorted through decades of files I kept encountering written material from Joe Vlaskamp, Harold Risler, Doris Shamleffer, the Palmers, the Gilberts, and the Rubins, to name just a few. So many handwritten notes in the years before e-mail. Their words prompted me to ask, "Am I being the best I can be? Am I living out our testimonies in my daily life?" The answers are still a work in progress.

Another result of the move is that I now have more time during my workweek. By streamlining the office we have made it more efficient. Our new offices are smaller but better organized. Walter, our administrative assistant, took on more ad-

ministrative duties during the move, and he continues to perform these tasks. I now have a window of opportunity to visit meetings, and worship groups. I am particularly interested in community-building workshops. In addition, I am also writing grant proposals to extend the employment of our Young Adult field secretary past February 2013.

For many years I have been working with Paul Busby, communications director. Paul will be moving on, and a new director will be taking his place. I wish Paul well in all his endeavors.

## **Records Committee**

*No report submitted.*

## **Sessions Committee**

Our Spring and Fall Subcommittee has been working with host committees, and we are planning well ahead for years to come. We now have a separate *Spring and Fall Sessions Handbook* for planning, and a checklist for host committees to use. Liaison contacts and host committees are reminded to review printed versions with each person taking responsibilities.

At the Committee's February meeting we chose the theme for Summer Sessions 2012: "Living and Nurturing Integrity." We look forward to the music and messages of plenary speakers Jon Watts and Maggie Harrison. We also outlined the week's activities for the coming Summer Sessions, and thought about what a future "Jubilee Year" might mean in terms of program.

Equalization Fund donations from individuals and meetings totaled \$3,685 in 2011. Approximately 64% was associated with 2011 Summer Sessions, 17% with Spring Sessions, and 19% with Fall Sessions. As of March 1, 2012 our Equalization Fund balance is \$6,400.78.

For 2011 Summer Sessions, the Silver Bay YMCA complimentary-stay package added \$7,844 in value to the Equalization Fund. Adding \$1,700 from NYYM's Leach Fund and \$450 from NYYM's Women's Fund (for specified uses), we were able to designate a total of \$12,525 toward the total requests of \$13,205, assisting 68 individuals.

For Spring and Fall Sessions the Equalization Fund has been able to meet all requests for support with donations received during those sessions, with some left over each time to

apply toward the next session.

Sessions Committee work goes on behind the scenes. Since last summer we have met at Oakwood School in late September and early February (usually 12 to 18 attending). There is a crescendo of e-mails and calls as our Program Subcommittee and Arrangements Committee prepare for another Summer Sessions. We depend on volunteers, most unpaid and a few supported by partial attendance credit.

Sessions Committee–approved expenditures for 2011 were \$9,295, compared to a budget of \$10,000.

*John Cooley, clerk*

### **Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary**

1. Since our last annual report of, our committee has met six times, including four meetings with the general secretary (GS). We also had two committee-only conference calls.
2. At Yearly Meeting Sessions we chose a new clerk (Fred Doneit) to replace the co-opted clerk, Elaine Learnard, who was thanked for her extended service during the transition of the committee. We welcomed Nancy Tonachel Gabriel and Deborah Wood to the committee, replacing Edward Doty and Angela York Crane. Continuing members of the committee are Naomi Paz Greenberg, Karen Reixach, and Keith Johnson. Fred became the representative of SCGS to the General Services Coordinating Committee (GSCC). Since the interim report was created, two committee members, Fred Doneit and Nancy Gabriel, have asked for release from service. The committee is looking for Friends to serve on this committee with us.
3. In the spring of 2011, we completed a page for the *NYYM Handbook* describing the origin, purpose, and responsibilities of the committee. This was presented and approved at Summer Sessions.
4. In October the clerks of GSCC, Personnel, and SCGS, and the Personnel-SCGS liaison person met to clarify the division of responsibilities of the committees and to eliminate duplicate oversight of the work of the general secretary. SCGS and Personnel will continue to meet to share common concerns.
5. In our discussions with the GS, we typically review the allocation of his time in relation to NYYM priorities and the ongoing requirements of his job description. We are open to his concerns and provide advice, counsel, and support.

6. We solicited input from meetings, YM committees, and others for the performance review of the general secretary, and we asked for and received a self-evaluation from the GS in the preparation annual performance evaluation that was concluded in January 2012. The general secretary has provided the Yearly Meeting and other organizations with spirit-led leadership.

*Naomi Paz Greenberg (recorder), Keith Johnson, Karen Reixach (convener), Deborah Wood*

**TREASURER’S ACCOUNTS**  
**Statement of Operations 1/1/11 to 12/31/11**

	<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>
<b>Disbursements and transfers:</b>		
<b>General Services</b>		
<i>Section expense</i>		
General expense & travel	2,200	170.97
NYYM officer’s expense	2,750	2,756.08
Audit	3,050	3,050.00
Sessions attendance	<u>3,795</u>	<u>3,795.00</u>
Total section expense	11,795	9,772.05
<i>Committees</i>		
Communications	23,500	21,428.44
<i>Handbook</i>		-
Other		-
<i>Spark</i>		13,641.44
Web site/ <i>Yearbook/Adv Reports</i>		7,787.00
Nominating	350	-
Records committee		
Contribution—Friends Historical Library	2,500	2,500.00
Sessions committee	10,000	9,295.25
Fall/Spring Sessions		3,319.65
Summer Sessions		5,712.75
Other		262.85
Total committee expense	36,350	33,223.69
<i>Office expense</i>		
Office operations		
Administrative expenses	13,600	13,480.05

Insurance	4,950	4,786.70
Rent & utilities 15th St. (a)	30,386	29,733.99
Office staff travel	8,000	7,141.66
Computer consultation	700	110.00
Office equipment	1,000	3,004.18
<b>Personnel</b>		
Staff employee salaries	173,390	173,526.08
Hourly staff compensation	24,450	24,450.00
Salary and wage related expenses	45,325	46,842.35
Staff development	1,200	668.73
Volunteer support	400	308.74
Bookkeeping service	<u>31,200</u>	<u>31,200.00</u>
Total office expense	334,601	335,252.48
Total General Services	382,746	378,248.22
<b>Ministry</b>		
<i>Section expense</i>	500	85.00
<b>Programs</b>		
Bible study leader Summer Sessions	500	500.00
Conflict Transformation	700	369.11
Ministry & Pastoral Care	250	100.00
Meeting program assistance	–	–
Pastor's conference	1,250	1,250.00
Provision for meeting visitation	–	–
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	1,600	675.00
Worship at YM sessions	100	–
Task Group on Racism	875	351.16
Total program expense	<u>5,275</u>	<u>3,245.27</u>
Total Ministry	5,775	3,330.27
<b>Nurture</b>		
<i>Section expense</i>	2,450	161.75
NYYM Resource Library	300	126.75
Total section expense	2,750	288.50
<b>Committees</b>		
FWCC Committee	–	–
Junior Yearly Meeting	21,100	19,067
Planning		2,756.48
Silver Bay		16,310.61
Young Adult Concerns	800	800.00
Young Friends in Residence	200	–

Youth Committee	200	109.03
Committee on Aging Concerns	<u>250</u>	<u>–</u>
Total Committee Expense	22,550	19,976.12
<i>NYYM appointee expense</i>		
FGC Central Committee	700	1,092.19
FUM Board representatives	3,500	538.40
Provision for FUM Triennial Sessions	500	500.00
FWCC Section Meetings	1,435	195.00
Provision for FWCC World Gathering	900	900.00
Provision for FWCC Regional Hosting	<u>150</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total NYYM appointee expense	7,185	3,375.59
<i>Allocations and donations</i>		
Friends Council on Education	150	150.00
Friends General Conference	6,106	6,106.00
Friends United Meeting	6,106	6,106.00
FUM—3rd World Attend to Triennial	500	500.00
FUM 3rd World Board reps	150	150.00
Friends World Committee	3,105	3,105.00
FWCC Section of the Americas	150	150.00
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	150.00
Oakwood School	8,500	8,500.00
Powell House	65,795	65,795.00
Total allocations and donations	<u>90,712</u>	<u>90,712.00</u>
Total Nurture	123,197	114,352.21
<b>Witness</b>		
<i>Section/comm./app'tee/program expense</i>	5,600	2,143.73
Quaker Earthcare Witness (b)	–	150.00
Sharing Fund Campaign Expense	2,300	2,304.74
Total Witness	7,900	4,598.47
(b) moved from Nurture		
<b>Meeting for Discernment</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>108.00</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<u>–</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>520,218</b>	<b>509,637.17</b>

**Receipts**

Meetings

All Friends Regional	59,800	56,962.50
Butternuts Quarterly	6,475	6,060.00
Farmington Regional	66,354	71,960.00
Long Island Quarterly	48,745	34,674.26
New York Quarterly	71,300	80,325.00
Nine Partners Quarterly	36,573	37,573.00
Northeastern Regional	30,361	29,644.00
Purchase Quarterly	89,790	90,450.00
Shrewsbury & Plainfield HY	<u>50,000</u>	<u>49,924.00</u>

Total meeting income 459,398 457,572.76

Other sources

Registration fees	23,600	23,668.00
Trustees	12,000	11,223.11
All other (a)	<u>23,313</u>	<u>17,349.92</u>

Total other sources 58,913 52,241.03

**Total receipts** 518,311 509,813.79

**Year 2011 opening balance** 204,557.96

**+ Receipts** 509,813.79

**- Disbursements** 509,637.17

**Closing balance** 204,734.58

**NET CHANGE** 176.62

(\*) Appendix A: as per action taken at Spring Sessions 4-2-11, \$2,000 would be taken from the Contingency Fund according to Tier I proposals in the 2011 Approved Budget as follows: \$100 added to the FGC appointee line, \$1,000 added to the FUM Board Representatives line, \$450 to the Section Expense line for other Nurture representatives line, and \$450 to the Section/Committee/Appointee/Program Expense line for Witness representatives.

(\*\*) Appendix B: as per action taken at Spring Sessions 4-2-11, the \$1,907 in additional Covenant Donations would be added to the following lines: \$795 to Sessions Attendance line in GSCC; \$795 to the Powell House line in Nurture Allocations and Donations, and \$106 to FGC Donations, \$106 to FUM donations, and \$105 to FWCC donations lines.

(\*\*\*) Includes 2010 income from Brooklyn Monthly Meeting



## FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/11	Transfers from Oper. Budget	Other Income	Dist. Closing Balance 12/31/11
<b>Other funds</b>				
Advancement—Lafayette	9,244.70	-	3,750.00	12,314.72
Advancement—Leach	1,555.00	-	2,817.50	1,938.10
Advancement—Women	233.25	-	422.63	204.00
Equalization Fund	897.34	-	10,843.56	5,850.78
Aging Concerns	7,112.33	-	52,316.68	5,854.91
Aging Resources Web site	(182.55)	-	2,500.00	319.48
<i>Faith &amp; Practice</i> fund	2,580.54	-	816.22	3,213.18
Sufferings Fund	2,192.68	-	-	2,192.68
FWCC World Gathering	3,385.00	-	-	4,285.00
FUM Triennial NYM Attendance	1,123.59	500.00	-	1,030.07
FUM Kenya Board Meeting	-	-	-	-
Records Preservation	1,332.23	-	-	1,332.23
FWCC Regional Hosting	1,710.00	-	(150.00)	1,860.00
Meeting Visitation	8,835.91	-	-	6,642.46
Youth/Young Adults	22,386.82	-	1,255.00	11,591.82
YAC-CYF	1,628.82	595.97	75.00	1,609.79
Mosher Fund	6,778.99	-	5,935.44	6,881.33
YFIR Fund	17,712.64	-	11,417.00	10,878.26
Young Adult Field Secretary	-	18,050.00	5,000.00	15,910.21
Fall/Spring Sessions	-	-	4,143.81	-
<b>Total Other Funds</b>	<b>88,527.29</b>	<b>19,145.97</b>	<b>101,292.84</b>	<b>124,264.05</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>131,791.04</b>	<b>75,416.97</b>	<b>125,321.99</b>	<b>193,834.67</b>
				<b>138,695.33</b>

**FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)**

	Balance as of 1/1/11	Sharing Fund Campaign Income	Other Income	Dist. Closing Balance 12/31/11
<b>Sharing Fund</b>				
AVP Donation	54.00	4,008.69	-	-
Barrington Dunbar	8,309.65	13,679.96	-	10,435.61
Friends for Black Concerns	2,960.24	4,994.94	-	3,381.04
Indian Affairs Comm	3,666.17	6,430.37	4,582.76	4,079.30
Peace Concerns	5,012.37	4,132.20	-	4,089.78
Prison Comm	3,196.20	4,869.94	-	4,822.76
Right Sharing	(398.85)	3,092.61	-	2,693.76
Witness Activities	594.24	10,741.70	-	6,323.49
World Ministries	9,747.78	3,092.60	19,446.39	20,850.00
Cons. Object to paying for war	6,402.83	(3,517.81)	-	-
MMNA Working Group	2,661.36	891.10	-	-
Torture Awareness Working Group	0.22	524.18	-	-
NYYM Named Representatives	1,057.54	1,862.84	-	-
Quaker Earthcare Witness	-	1,467.68	-	-
<b>Total Sharing Fund</b>	<b>43,263.75</b>	<b>56,271.00</b>	<b>24,029.15</b>	<b>69,570.62</b>

**53,993.28**

Total Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income      66,330.67  
 2011 Sharing Fund Goal                                      50,000.00  
 Percentage of Goal    132.7%

## **Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund**

In 1836, the original principal of the Lindley Murray Fund was established with the residue of the estate of Lindley Murray, who died in 1826. Six trustees were named in the will to hold this principal in trust and to apply the income thereof yearly in perpetuity for all or any of a variety of purposes, including:

1. to liberate Black people from slavery and give them, their descendants, and other Black persons suitable education
2. to promote the civilization and instruction of the Indians of North America
3. to purchase and distribute books tending to promote piety and virtue and the truth of Christianity
4. to assist and relieve the poor in any description and in any manner that may be judged proper

The description of purposes is a considerable abbreviation of the will's exact terms. The will also specified that the trustees should have the advice and direction of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, which was given the power to reappoint the trustees and to establish such regulations and limitations as should seem proper and most likely to promote the ends the legator had in view.

When the \$42,700 fund came into possession of the trustees in 1836, two of the originally named trustees were deceased, so the Yearly Meeting appointed successors and also named a seventh trustee. The Yearly Meeting currently names seven trustees.

Over a period of nearly a century and a half, ten Friends made additional contributions to the Murray Fund, either through bequests or through direct donation. These donors usually placed special emphasis upon one or more Murray goals. Prominent among their objectives were needs of Indians and Blacks, relief of the poor and needy, promotion of Christianity, and the peace principles of the Society of Friends. One found "religious, educational and charitable objects" suitable language. As a result, the original Murray Fund more than doubled, reaching \$91,577 by 1975, in direct gifts and bequests. In 1915, Murray Fund trustees accepted the responsibility of managing the \$7,500 principal fund of the New York Female Association and forwarding the income to the association for distribution. Known for initiating free education in New York City in 1800, the Association is an independent organization ministering to "benevolent needs."

The historical account makes clear that the trustees of the Lindley Murray Fund are responsible for:

1. the care and proper investment of the trust funds in their possession; these funds were invested in the Unit Plan of the NYYM Trustees in January 2003
2. the collection of income from these investments
3. the disbursement of the income in accordance with their best interpretation of the terms of the bequests

The Lindley Murray Fund Trustees awarded \$31,889 for 2011.

AFSC Healing Justice Program	1,500
AFSC W. Virginia Economic Justice Program	2,000
Alternatives to Violence Project	1,500
Amerinda	1,500
Ann Schillinger (clothes - released prisoners)	600
Creative Response To Conflict	2,000
FCNL	2,000
Friends General Conference	1,500
<i>Friends Journal</i>	2,800
Indian Affairs Comm (NYYM)	1,500
Long Island Council of Churches	1,000
Oakwood Friends School	3,600
Powell House	3,000
Redemption Center	1,900
Westbury Friends School	1,300
YSOP	1,800
New York Female Association (7.5%)	<u>2,389</u>
 Total funds distributed	 31,889

The Lindley Murray Trustees are requesting that when applying for funds next year that you clearly state:

- how the current year’s award was used ( if awarded) and
- how the new request fits with the Lindley Murray Mission Statement

and that you apply by e-mail to Tilton45@optonline.net by December 1, 2012.

*Todd Tilton, clerk*

## **NYYM Trustees**

The value of the investment portfolio held by the NYYM Trustees with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation was \$5,301,213.11 as of December 31, 2011. Of the 88,416.271 shares in the Unit Plan at that time, 58,345.041 shares were held on behalf of New York Yearly Meeting and the rest were held as Funds under Management: 11,356.689 shares owned by various monthly and regional meetings, 11,513.530 shares for the Lindley Murray Fund, and 7,201.01 for the Sharing Fund Endowment. The net asset value of each share can be rounded to \$58.07. The dividend rate paid to each share is computed using a 36-month average; in 2011, the rate was \$2.72 and for 2012 the rate is \$2.75. Note that the 36 months used to compute the 2011 rate and the 2012 rate included some significantly “down” months in the years from 2008 through 2011. The Trustees approved not deducting from the dividend rate the usual administrative fee of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent for 2011 and deducted only  $\frac{1}{8}$  of one percent for 2012 in order to distribute more money to the beneficiaries of the trusts.

In 2011 the Trustees approved a contribution of \$5,000 to the Young Adult Field Secretary’s Fund from the Florence Stevens Trust Fund.

The Trustees, on behalf of New York Yearly Meeting, continue to own the Monkton, Vermont, and the Yorktown Heights, New York, meetinghouses. These buildings, which had been owned by Meetings that were laid down several years ago, are currently being used by other religious organizations. We are continuing our ongoing efforts to settle the titles of these buildings with the groups currently using them. In November, 2010, the Stamford-Greenwich Meeting was laid down by Purchase Quarter. At this time two different religious groups are renting the building.

Trustees would again like to remind regional/quarterly/half-yearly meetings to attend to the overall health of their constituent monthly meetings and to alert the clerk and general secretary of New York Yearly Meeting of any meetings that could use additional support and assistance.

*Todd Tilton, clerk, NYYM Trustees*

*NYYM Trustees Financial Report  
Distribution of Funds for 2011*

These dividends from certain trust funds are distributed regularly twice yearly to those beneficiaries who have been previously determined by the trust donors and/or by action of the Yearly Meeting.

Oakwood Scholarship	22,686.51
Oakwood Administrative	43,727.60
H.H. Mosher	3,690.93
Powell House	10,992.48
Advancement Committee	3,240.13
Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting	1,684.66
World Ministries	19,446.39
New York Yearly Meeting	11,223.10
Friends Foundation for the Aging	4,767.21
Manasquan Monthly Meeting	2,348.39
Indian Affairs Committee	3,082.76
Friends Historical Library	6,438.56

**Funds Under Management**

Scarsdale Monthly Meeting	1,041.34
New Brunswick Monthly Meeting	1,060.40
Montclair Monthly Meeting	22,502.24
Farmington-Scipio Region	1,847.88
Cornwall Monthly Meeting	3,217.67
Buffalo Monthly Meeting	<u>1,983.75</u>
Total	164,982.00

### NYYM Retained Income Funds—2011 Summary

The income from these funds is held until a request is received that meets with the purposes of the fund as designated by the donor and/or the Yearly Meeting. Some of these funds are released at the request of specific committees or regions of the Yearly Meeting and others are released at the discretion of the Yearly Meeting Trustees.

Fund	Bal 1-1-11	Income	Disbursements	Bal 12-31-11
Haines	5,379.11	1,512.84	0.00	6,891.95
Sutton	1,318.94	301.92	0.00	1,620.86
Monkton	15,952.14	1,631.72	709.00	16,874.86
Yorktown-Underhill	1,440.64	943.76	1,250.00	1,134.40
Stevens	13,204.10	5,771.60	6,000.00	12,975.70
Beers	1,073.56	244.76	0.00	1,318.32
Smith	2,626.00	598.40	0.00	3,224.40
Morris Cemetery	16,313.16	558.20	0.00	16,871.36
Lockport	897.54	765.24	0.00	1,662.78
Brinkerhoff	810.41	663.68	0.00	1,474.09
York	8,819.42	9,158.24	11,025.00	6,952.66
Sufferings	7,616.56	894.12	0.00	8,510.68
DeForest	0.00	704.61	0.00	704.61
TOTAL	75,451.58	23,749.09	18,984.00	80,216.67
<b>Funds under management</b>				
Lindley Murray	35,806.86	31,316.80	35,268.80	31,854.86
<b>Non-regularly distributed fund under management</b>				
Sharing Fund endowment	16,116.38	19,586.76	21,755.00	13,948.14
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General	3,657.32	547.52	0.00	4,204.84
Florence Stevens	8,481.90	5,452.16	5,000.00	8,934.06
Trustees administrative	27,070.52	0.00	3,531.46	23,539.06

## NURTURE SECTION

### Nurture Coordinating Committee

The Nurture Section has committees under its care that serve our yearly meeting, and representatives to various Quaker organizations. One purpose of Nurture Coordinating Committee (NCC) is to provide support for activities of its constituent committees. NCC receives reports from the bodies to which we send representatives or delegates, and encourages our yearly meeting to support concerns and leadings from those bodies where appropriate.

This year, NCC formed an ad hoc task group to look over JYM expenses for volunteers leading the JYM program during Summer Sessions over the last five years. The group will be looking to see whether the expenses adhere to the policies put in place by the JYM Committee. We expect to have a report at Summer Sessions this year.

NCC is looking over its *Handbook* page to ascertain whether our work could be accomplished with fewer at-large members. During Summer Sessions, we look forward to hearing from our delegates to the Sixth World Conference of Friends being held in Kenya in April. Christopher Sammond will tell us about progress with Chwele (Kenya) YM toward becoming a partner with our yearly meeting.

John Edminster, one of our representatives to FUM, has brought news of *Forty Days of Prayer for the Future of Friends*, to be held from October 10 through November 18, 2012. FUM will make available a daily reading guide with queries for reflection, prayer suggestions, and action steps. We will be looking for ways to involve monthly meetings in participating. John plans to lead an interest group during Summer Sessions with more details about this initiative.

*Deborah B. Wood, clerk, Nurture Coordinating Committee*



## Committee on Aging Concerns

Imagine a map of New York Yearly meeting in 1996 (New York State, parts of Connecticut and New Jersey). On that map, in Plainfield New Jersey, stood the McCutcheon home where many Quakers lived. Among them were the former “keeper of the records” for NYYM, a woman pastor of Unadilla Meeting, and Larry Apsey of AVP renown.

The facilities included six apartments, a 25-bed nursing home, and 18 private bedrooms. Caring staff supported “the highest possible quality of life for residents” and attended in-service training on Quaker values.

The development of the ARCH program and the Committee on Aging Concerns grew from careful discernment about sale of the McCutchen Friends Home, with funds therefrom being stewarded by Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA). (See the 2009–2010 *Yearbook*, page 3, for more detailed history.) The possibilities for proactive outreach to Friends in the “last third of life” have continued to grow and develop within widened geographic and programmatic boundaries.

Since that time, Anita Paul and Barbara Spring, the coordinators of the ARCH program (Aging Resources Consultation and Help), have offered workshops to meetings across the expanse of NYYM. The workshops hold Quaker values at the core of considering end-of-life issues and of care one for another as participant Friends address the challenges and spiritual opportunities of aging. Workshop topics have included Anger and Forgiveness, Getting Ready for the Retirement You Want, Care Teams, Grief work, and Telling Our Stories.

A very successful Powell House weekend retreat for caregivers (those who engage in daily care in the home for persons unable to care for themselves) was held in November 2011. Attendance for some Friends was made possible by an additional grant from FFA.

A key function provided by ARCH is the training and support of ARCH Visitors. Visitors are Friends from meetings in NYYM who are, or are willing to be, active in supporting aging Friends in their meetings. Barbara Spring and Anita Paul have planned interactive training programs for the participating Friends.

At this time, there have been three training programs for ARCH Visitors, who number 36 at present. The weekend events provide opportunities to increase listening skills and

acquire information of possibilities for bringing problems to solutions for those with aging and disability concerns in their Quaker meetings. We look forward to the fourth workshop, planned for early June 2012.

The ARCH staff strives to see that there are ARCH Visitors in all areas of the Yearly Meeting. Recognizing the cost, in time and money, of travel to a workshop, the coordinators continue to seek opportunities and locations in geographically diverse regions to conduct additional training programs.

The Committee on Aging Concerns and the coordinators have held a retreat each fall at Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie. In September 2011, we were joined by representatives of the Friends Foundation for Aging as we considered the progress and challenges of the work to date, as well as the possibility of new programmatic outreaches. As a result of that work, and with the approval of Nurture and General Services Coordinating Committees, we submitted to FFA a one-time grant in the amount of \$5,000 to engage in a period of strategic planning.

We are currently engaged in work with two part-time consultants to address the following:

1. What are NYM's primary concerns that our committee should be addressing?
2. What work should we be doing?
3. How can we improve our work?
4. How can we make our organizational structure more sustainable?

Plans for hiring a third ARCH coordinator are under consideration.

ARCH Coordinators and individuals on the committee are currently in the process of seeking feedback from Friends on their experience with our efforts thus far and ideas for the future.

Please be in touch with CAC committee members, ARCH coordinators, and Visitors with ideas about your experience and what your Meeting has to offer others as well.

ARCH coordinators can be reached as follows: Anita Paul, 518-374-2166 or [anitalouisepaul@gmail.com](mailto:anitalouisepaul@gmail.com); Barbara Spring 406-544-9476 or [barbaraspring@msn.com](mailto:barbaraspring@msn.com)

*Deborah Dickinson and Norma Ellis, coclerks*

## **Epistle Committee**

We prepared the outgoing Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting and received Epistles from eight yearly meetings, which is fewer than in the past. These will be available to Friends at Summer Sessions.

The Committee expects to meet during Summer Sessions this year and to prepare a report—possibly an epistle—for consideration by Friends.

*Roger Dreisbach-Williams, clerk*

## **Friends General Conference representatives**

*No report submitted.*

## **Friends United Meeting Representatives**

New York Yearly Meeting's representatives to the Friends United Meeting (FUM) North American General Board for the 2011–2014 triennium are Beatrice Beguin, John Edminster, and Regina Baird Haag. No alternates are currently under appointment. Each representative serves on at least one committee of the Board: Beatrice on Nominating, John on Communications, and Regina on Finance and the 2014 Triennial Planning Committee.

The Triennial Sessions held at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, July 27–31, 2011, whose theme, “Transforming Lives,” alluded to the words of Romans 12:2, drew over 350 Friends from 28 yearly meetings, including 11 from New York Yearly Meeting, one of whom then wrote “Bringing the Triennial Back Home,” published in the October–November 2011 issue of *Quaker Life*. In it, author John Edminster describes his meeting's call to learn to pray for itself and especially for its own meetings for worship, and to let God replace fear with “deep love and transformative faith.”

The General Board has met twice since the 2011 Triennial Sessions, and the spirit there has been friendly, positive, and hopeful as incoming general secretary Colin Saxton and incoming clerk Cliff Loesch (pronounced “lash”) bring new energy and vision to the Board's work. They are looking to focus primarily on spiritual renewal in this new triennium called, in the words of George Fox's description of his vision from Pen-

dle Hill, “a Great People to be Gathered.” The February 2012 General Board meeting began with a report from the Restructure Task Group that stated, “We recognize that structural change without spiritual renewal will not result in the nature of transformation and growth that will lead to the vitality of FUM’s ministry. For this reason we urge the members of FUM to participate in a season of spiritual renewal through prayer, reflection, and action.

“During the fall of 2012 (October 10–November 18), FUM will be hosting ‘Forty Days of Prayer for the Future of Friends.’ FUM will make available a daily reading guide, complete with queries for reflection, focused prayer suggestions, action steps, and group discussion for renewal.

“At the end of the forty-day call to renewal, FUM will be encouraging each meeting to host an ‘FUM Day of Discernment.’ Interested groups will have access to a set of prayer resources and queries to help us listen to one another and God about the future of Friends. Responses from these listening meetings will be shared with the FUM office, synthesized, and communicated back to yearly and local meetings. These responses will also be used by FUM in discerning any future organizational and ministry changes, as we seek to be more relevant and faithful.”

To prepare FUM’s constituent yearly and monthly meetings for the Forty Days of Prayer for the Future of Friends, the Restructure Task Group’s Report states, “We are asking each Yearly Meeting associated with FUM to provide a 15 minute time for presentation during their 2012 annual sessions (or other suitable time) for an FUM representative to make a report on the Great People to be Gathered theme. In addition, we request time for a workshop/interest group to be held where the representative(s) can provide an update on FUM and go into greater detail around this effort. Yearly Meetings will be provided some introductory materials announcing the kick-off of this theme and are asked to make them available to their members.”

Katie Terrell Wonsik, FUM’s beloved and multiply gifted communications manager and editor of *Quaker Life*, has announced her plans to leave those positions by June 30. As of this writing, we are still awaiting news of who is to succeed her. News of the open position and the job qualifications are posted on the FUM Web site.

*John Edminster*

## **FWCC Committee**

The big news from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is the Sixth World Conference of Friends, which took place April 17–25, 2012. About 850 Friends from 112 yearly meetings and groups in 51 countries gathered in Nakuru, Kenya, on the theme of “Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World.” The theme was explored and reflected upon through worship, in small-group discussions, by speakers from across the globe, and in working groups, looking at areas such as peace work, poverty, and the environment. On the Web site [www.saltandlight2012.org](http://www.saltandlight2012.org) study materials were made available before the Conference, and the talks of plenary speakers and worship leaders were posted during the Conference. We expect to hear reports from the Yearly Meeting’s four delegates, and the FWCC Section of the Americas will encourage meetings and regions to hold gatherings (with a speaker supplied by FWCC) to focus on such queries as “How is God leading us to live the Kingdom more fully?”

The annual meeting of the Section of the Americas took place during the Conference. FWCC no longer holds a plenary meeting every three years because of the expense and the environmental effects of travel.

The Section’s new executive secretary, Robin Mohr, succeeded Margaret Fraser in June 2011. Robin is a member of San Francisco Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting. Robin has worked professionally in organizational fundraising and development; she has lived in Mexico and Colombia and speaks fluent Spanish. She has also written extensively in Quaker journals and facilitated many workshops in the past five years, and she is a leader in Convergent Friends, which promotes communication among Friends across boundaries of geography, theology, age, and language. Her blog can be read at [www.robinmsf.blogspot.com](http://www.robinmsf.blogspot.com).

The Committee would like Friends to be aware that the Section has created a Web site intended to attract browsers who might be interested in Quakerism, [www.voicesoffriends.org/](http://www.voicesoffriends.org/). This site displays, among other aspects of Quakerism, publications of the Wider Quaker Fellowship, which publishes or reprints talks and articles on Quaker-related topics ( “read what Friends are thinking”). Another Section program is the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage; the next one will be in 2014, and ap-

plications will be due by September 2013 ([fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml](http://fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml)).

The Committee meets at Yearly Meeting sessions and puts up a display at Summer Sessions, where in 2011 we sponsored an interest group that was, however, poorly attended. One Committee member has made contact with a group of Latin American Friends in Saugerties; we wish we could find a way to interact with them. Two other Committee members had previously located Haitian Friends in Brooklyn, but they have apparently gone elsewhere. Not unlike other committees, we struggle with distance, busyness, and some inactive Committee members as we seek ways to carry out and communicate FWCC's mission of "bringing Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communication, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world."

I am thankful for the opportunity that working with FWCC has given me to meet Friends from many different places, not only in this hemisphere but around the globe, and get to know some of them. My term has come to an end, and I am very pleased that we have a new clerk, Mike Clark.

*Judith Inskeep, clerk*

## **Junior Yearly Meeting Committee**

The Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee is responsible for the program for young people at Summer Sessions. In 2011 it appointed two coordinators and they, in turn, appointed 29 volunteers to work with the various groups of children. As in years past, the financial aid provided for volunteers enabled enough of them to participate so that the children could be adequately supervised. The 2011 JYM program was a positive experience for everyone who participated. Both Café Night and the Fun(d) Fair contributed substantially to the support of Powell House and the Sharing Fund.

The number of teens participating in worship groups has increased. Both the women's and the men's worship groups are very popular with the 11th and 12th graders. This is a form of initiation into the adult community in which the boundaries between youth and adults can be suspended for a time.

We are very concerned about the reduction in our budget, as the costs of running the program at Silver Bay continue to

rise. Although youth attendance has been lower in the last few years, we are unhappy at the thought of reducing costs by offering the Silver Bay experience to fewer children and young adult volunteers.

*Peter Close, clerk; Mary Eagleson, assistant clerk*

## **Oakwood Friends School**

Oakwood Friends School comes to the end of another academic year characterized by optimism and energy, stable student enrollment, strong academic programs, and meaningful community worship against a backdrop of a challenging economy and unsettling national and world events. Faculty and students continue to work together to strike a balance among conceptual study, experiential learning, creative expression, physical skills and athletics, engaged service, and reflective worship, all within the distinctive ethos of a Quaker community.

Our enrollment of 150 students is composed of grades six through twelve. We have an equal number of boarding and day students, an equal number of boys and girls, and 38 percent of our students receive need-based financial aid to make our tuition more affordable. Our boarders include both domestic and international students, thereby providing an opportunity for enriching cross-cultural friendships. Most of our students are not Quaker, so the school provides powerful outreach to kids and families of other religious traditions or no religious tradition at all. This outreach is centered in our weekly meeting for worship, but it also includes a variety of other programs: the Quaker Youth Leadership Program, Youth Service Opportunities Program, and programs under the auspices of the Friends Council on Education. This spring, Oakwood collaborated with Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting in organizing two events related to the life of Bayard Rustin: a screening of *Brother Outsider* at the meetinghouse and, several weeks later, a lecture by Michael Long, author of *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*, on Oakwood's campus. Programs of this kind provide important opportunities for young people and adults to share in the life of the Quaker community and to support Quaker outreach to those around us.

Service projects continue to have ripple effects across the Oakwood community and beyond. This year, the school sponsored our seventh trip to New Orleans to help with ongoing



post-Katrina rebuilding efforts. A different group of students and faculty traveled to Paris this spring and, along with language and cultural study, performed service work in several local organizations. Our student leadership class organized an on-campus “fair trade fair” with a variety of items for sale, benefiting indigenous populations in several countries. Proceeds from the fair were directed to Dutchess Outreach here in the Hudson Valley. Members of our children’s theater class performed at daycare centers and local elementary schools. And for next year, we look forward to welcoming our second Bolivian Quaker intern teacher, under the auspices of Bolivian Quaker Education Fund.

All of you who support Oakwood Friends School participate in our school’s endeavors, however far you may be from the campus. None of the school’s work could be done without those who have helped to sustain and nurture this institution over the years. Alumni, members of the Board of Managers, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, friends of the school, and Friends in New York Yearly Meeting and beyond, all work together to make this school an exceptional place for young people to learn and to form the values that will guide them on the varied paths of their lives.

*Peter F. Baily, head of school;  
William F. Bogle Jr. ’76, president, Board of Managers*

### **Elsie K. Powell House, Inc.**

In last year’s Advance Report, there is an eloquent reference to “that boundary of ministry and business where Powell House has always placed itself.” Some months after that report was written, in late September 2011, the boundary became less clear when it was learned that the Internal Revenue Service had revoked Powell House’s tax-exempt status.

Here are the factors that converged to lead to that revocation:

- In 1999 Powell House, on the advice of both its accountants and Powell House Committee members, ceased annual filing of IRS information form 990 on the grounds that it was unnecessary paperwork. This advice, while well-intentioned and meant to simplify matters, turned out to be based on confusion as to whether Powell House’s status, in the eyes of the IRS, was that of a church or a religious organization.



- Compounding this error, in 2006, Congress passed the Pension Protection Act, requiring most tax-exempt organizations to file an annual information notice with the IRS. As part of this act, nonprofits that had not filed 990 forms for 2007, 2008, and 2009 had their tax-exempt status automatically revoked.
- Since Powell House was still under the impression that filing 990s was unnecessary, it became one of the more than 275,000 organizations that had its tax-exempt status revoked in the summer of 2011.

The intent of the law was to clear the IRS roster of 501(c)3 organizations that had ceased operating. The result of the law has been that the IRS is overwhelmed by nonprofits—Powell House among them—that have applied for retroactive reinstatement of their tax-exempt status. This has led to a wait for applications to be processed. In February 2012, that lag-time was seven months.

Powell House’s application for reinstatement was acknowledged by the IRS in January 2012. That application will be assigned to an accelerated process, because it requires minimal additional information. We are waiting to find out when that accelerated process might begin and what minimal additional information is required.

In February, Powell House staff and committee members met with an assistant to Congressman Chris Gibson, representing Columbia County in Washington, DC. His staff is reaching out to the IRS on our behalf in an attempt to expedite the process.

The clerk of the Powell House Committee has remained in contact with the New York Yearly Meeting trustees and attorney as the process of reinstatement continues.

For its part, the Powell House Committee has focused on discerning ways to enhance Powell House’s business processes and the procedures and operations of the Powell House Committee itself, so that this type of error won’t happen again. Subcommittees are identifying and implementing enhancements to compliance processes, to personnel support, and to committee and staff engagement and communication, so that committee members can anticipate, be aware of, and attend to the most important issues Powell House is facing. To that end :

- Powell House’s clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, and recording clerk are meeting via teleconference an average of

every two to three weeks to reflect on the work of the committee and staff, where things are going well, and where there are vulnerabilities. Members of this group have periodic updates with the executive director.

- Two critical subcommittees, fiscal and personnel, have also established regular teleconferences to conduct ongoing work between Powell House Committee's weekend meetings. Fiscal meets once a month and personnel twice a month. Both subcommittees are reviewing current Powell House processes and filings to ensure legal compliance.
- Powell House has contracted with a new accounting firm to do its audits. The firm is experienced with nonprofits, to ensure better guidance and advice.
- The executive director is regularly checking on tax policies and how they may evolve.

Although contributions to Powell House have been affected by the current absence of 501(c)(3) status, it has been heartening to find that there are supporters willing to give money for the ministry of Powell House whether they can claim a tax deduction or not. In addition, Powell House is grateful to the Yearly Meeting for restoring at Spring Sessions the \$10,000+ contribution to Powell House cut from the budget in the fall. Powell House is also grateful to the Lindley Murray Fund for a generous contribution to be used as scholarship money for those wishing to attend conferences.

The best news of all is that, as of this writing (which takes place before the books have been closed and audited), Powell House has broken even in fiscal year 2011, which is a sign of all the hard and effective work the staff and the committee have been doing. It has been several years since Powell House ended its fiscal year without an operating deficit for the year.

Beyond and through all this, Powell House continues its ministry. This work is carried out by a staff of three full-time directors and 14 part-time employees. The Powell House Committee consists of 23 members, meeting three weekends a year, with an average attendance of 14. In addition, Powell House's ministry is supported by those who volunteer for the annual Spring and Fall Work Weekends.

In the coming year, Powell House hopes to begin work on Phase II of the Anna Curtis Center renovations and to make significant progress on installing a chairlift from the ballroom to the gift-shop level of Pitt Hall and on converting the garage into an on-site laundry.

Although the loss of tax-exempt status has unquestionably interrupted the strategic-planning process begun with last year's survey, which so many Friends participated in, it has also brought a blessing. Subcommittees and individual members are getting under the weight of a new awareness, brought on by the tax-exempt-status loss, of the responsibilities they have to Powell House and to New York Yearly Meeting and the commitment required to fulfill the service to which they are led. A new spirit is rising in the committee. We are making progress. However, the path forward continues to be challenging. We are grateful to Friends for holding us in the Light.

*Elizabeth Powers, clerk, Powell House Committee*

*Powell House Financial Report, 2011*

**Statement of Financial Position  
As of March 31, 2012 and 2011**

	<b>March 31, 2012</b> (unaudited)	<b>March 31, 2011</b> (audited)
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	926,633	836,621
Accounts Receivable	0	3,250
Other Current Assets	<u>1,638</u>	<u>59</u>
Total current assets	928,271	839,930
Fixed assets	<u>992,851</u>	<u>992,851</u>
Total assets	1,921,122	1,832,781
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>		
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	28,073	8,409
Deferred revenue	<u>23,428</u>	<u>16,178</u>
Total liabilities	51,501	24,587
Total equity	<u>1,869,622</u>	<u>1,808,194</u>
Total liabilities & equity	1,921,123	1,832,781

**Statement of Activities**  
**For the years ending March 31, 2012 and 2011**

	<b>March 31, 2012</b>	<b>March 31, 2011</b>
	(unaudited)	(audited)
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions	54,394	106,595
Guest fees	254,391	217,209
Investment income	43,585	15,343
New York Yearly Meeting	64,123	77,204
Rental income	7,450	7,200
Other revenue	<u>4,098</u>	<u>2,705</u>
Total income	428,041	426,256
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>2,158</u>	<u>—</u>
Gross profit	425,883	426,256
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	22,128	32,311
Adult programs	10,255	10,638
Annuities payable	1,130	1,130
Buildings and grounds	55,013	55,494
Fundraising	3,211	9,334
Housekeeping	36,285	35,175
Office administration	6,812	9,435
Personnel	282,060	252,517
Youth Program	4,770	5,010
Other	<u>—</u>	<u>22,627</u>
Total expenses	<u>421,664</u>	<u>433,671</u>
Net income	4,219	(7,415)

## **Young Adult Concerns Committee**

2012 has been a year of change and adjustment for our committee as we strive to respond to the needs of our community as reported to us through the Young Adult field secretary.

We continue to host retreats, having organized and facilitated two this year in addition to our regular programming at Summer Sessions and cohosting (with the Spiritual Nurture Working Group) a Powell House weekend. We look forward to another year full of enriching activities.

At Spring Sessions we launched an effort to raise funds in support of the continuing existence of the YA field secretary position and were gratified by the enthusiastic response from Friends. Already we have had to reconsider what we thought to be an ambitious fundraising goal due to the outpouring of financial support. Our members continue to organize fundraising activities throughout the Yearly Meeting.

Our committee membership is small but vibrant and full of the spirit. We look forward to welcoming new members and to expanding our work.

*Joyce Ketterer, convener*

## Young Friends in Residence Committee

I can't remember what I originally thought we, as a program, were going to all be about. The only thing I remember is that it wasn't what we ended up with. Because the YFIR program, it turns out, is about living deeply into community.

*Anna Obermayer, YFIR intern*

This year saw the successful completion of the Young Friends in Residence pilot program. Four young adult interns from across the Yearly Meeting participated in it, two for the full two years and two for one year each. Throughout the pilot and in the subsequent months the YFIR Committee and members of Perry City Monthly Meeting have examined the lessons learned, successes accomplished, and difficulties encountered. We've interviewed interns and reviewed articles and reports submitted by different participants in the program. We have found that the program transforms individuals and faith communities in vital and profound ways. It is, as one intern put it, "really worthwhile work and work that needs to be done." Below is a condensed version of our final report for the pilot study and identified needs for the continuation of the program. The full report can be found on the NYYM Web site.

### **Transformation**

All four interns shared how they became adult members of the Quaker community through the program. They moved from being a child of a meeting or a satellite youth program alumnus to a participating, informed member of the Yearly Meeting, the regional meeting and the monthly meeting. This transition went both ways. Monthly meeting members and other Friends also grew in their recognition of young Friends as adults and spiritual leaders.

As the program developed the interns became much clearer in articulating their work and their faith in their communications with the support committee, regional meeting, and Yearly Meeting. Owning their leadership role became important. One intern shared that while she always liked leadership positions, the challenge here was becoming such a public leader—needing to speak to larger groups of people, making eye contact with others, realizing she was a role model for others. It was hard but a really valuable experience. She learned that there was a "whole level of modesty you have to lose and a whole level of humility that you have to gain." In the end there was a real sense of accomplishment among the interns in making the

program something that is taken seriously in the wider Quaker community.

### **Youth Program as Springboard and Anchor**

Initially the youth program piece was what drew three out of the four interns to YFIR. Those three had extensive experience with youth programs as both former participants and leaders and a strong desire to give back some of what they felt they had received. It was also something the region and the Yearly Meeting recognized and considered important to fund. It was an area where the interns felt capable of leading and an area of shared work. Adults who had previously not been a part of youth retreats had an opportunity to see what successful retreats consisted of and were impressed by the themes explored and the variety of activities that made up a typical weekend, including thoughtful discussions, alone time, field trips to local farms, and play. The youth program also cast the farthest net, bringing in participants from across the state and even outside of the Quaker community, not to mention guest facilitators from all over, including out of state. And the youth program is the thread connecting the pilot YFIR program to an anticipated ongoing YFIR. Guest young adult facilitators are continuing to hold youth programs as we seek our next round of full time interns for the program. (See Appendix A: YFIR Youth Retreats in the full report.)

While the youth program provided a solid core around which to establish the YFIR program, adult ministry became an integral part of YFIR, thanks to the leadership and passionate calling of one of the first interns. She listened deeply to Perry City Monthly Meeting Friends during her interview process, worked closely with Perry City's Ministry and Council Committee, and followed her heart. She developed three Quakerism readings and discussion series, led a monthly Bible study, and began a series of workshops on contemporary Quaker Faith and Practice issues. Her classes were described as reflective and spirit-led, the readings as challenging and often very rewarding. (See Appendix B: YFIR Adult Programs in the full report.)

### **Intentional Community: The Crucible**

A vital part of the program turned out to be the intentional community piece. It was also the most difficult piece. It was here that the interns experienced perhaps the most personal

and spiritual growth and also the greatest frustrations. Within the intentional-community framework they successfully dealt with the language of faith. The interns developed a real tenderness for each other's spiritual journey and the vocabulary that went with it. They moved beyond the words that in the past may have separated them and had deep discussions on faith and spirituality. Striving to live into Quaker testimonies of simplicity and concern for the environment was also a group effort. Food prep, worm farming, composting, and wood stacking were all areas where the interns connected with one another. For most of the interns, though, the living situation was a stretch on a number of levels. As one intern put it, "Living with so little money is really hard in this culture." The location of the home in a rural hamlet also felt isolating. Lack of clarity on expectations and degree of commitment to being physically present in the house was a real source of friction.

That said, it was clear in working with the interns that they had a great deal of tenderness toward one another. They recognized that bond and shared that it was easiest to feel when they were away from the house but still together: at Yearly Meeting and regional sessions and road trips for intervisitation. As they put it "We're Team YFIR. We feel like a cohesive group. We feel supported and supportive of each other." It is hard for the interns to imagine the program without the intentional community piece.

## **Connections**

Deeper connection with young adult Friends leading the way was a clear outcome of the program. One of the interns during closing evaluations summed it up this way. "The program was really challenging, but it really does strengthen community on all sorts of different levels in the Quaker community. It does this in ways that are purposefully designed to put Young Adult Friends in a leadership role in that process. I can't think of another program that does that."

Participation on the Yearly Meeting YFIR Committee has also drawn young adult Friends and teen Friends into the wider work of the Yearly Meeting. Abe Kenmore wrote in a *Spark* article:

I started coming to these [NYYM] sessions because of the YFIR Committee, but just as importantly, outside of the committee meetings I was finally able to see the larger body of NYYM at work. Indeed, during general business



meeting for the Yearly Meeting I witnessed a process that, while not easy, was deeply centered in and around the Spirit in a way I had rarely seen elsewhere.

Being able to work on the NYYM level gave me a broader sense of the Society of Friends outside of my monthly and regional meeting, and it gave me new insight into my own private faith and practice. I believe this experience contributed directly to my fully identifying as Quaker.

## **The Wider Circle of Young Adult Friends**

YFIR has been embraced and owned by the young adult Friends and teens within New York Yearly Meeting. Word is also spreading beyond the Yearly Meeting and generating excitement. Young Friends have been present at Yearly Meeting sessions to support the program. They have responded to calls for help from the interns, offering to be adult presences at retreats and filling in as facilitators for the youth retreats in the interim period between interns. They serve on the YFIR committee in real ways, participating in evaluations, interviews, and publicity. They see it as an option for service in their future. We are moving to ensure that that is the case.

## **Next Steps**

In recognition of the value of the work of the YFIR program for young Friends and the wider Quaker community, the Young Friends in Residence Program was minuted as an ongoing program of New York Yearly meeting at its Spring Sessions in April 2011.

By August 2011 all four interns had completed their service to the program. We had hoped to have another round of interns ready to start in September 2011. We have posted job openings at several Quaker and like-minded colleges and sent information to all the monthly meetings within the Yearly Meeting. We have had a number of inquiries about the internships but currently do not have any applications. Location of the program and concern over repayment of student loans may be deterrents to applicants.

Initially we had thought it important to have continuity between interns and had envisioned a two-year commitment with two interns coming on each year and two leaving. Our experience has shown that that model is neither feasible nor desirable. A significant amount of leadership, ownership, and sense of community developed within and among the interns as they designed the scope and style of the work they would be

doing together and alone. A real strength of the program has been its flexibility and openness to the gifts of its participants. Beginning anew every couple of years will help to maintain this spaciousness. The current hiatus will also allow the YFIR Committee and Perry City Friends to evaluate structural components of the program and strengthen them before our next round of interns.

### **Current Committee Needs**

Our top need is for a concerted effort by monthly meetings and others to identify young adult Friends who would be called to the work of the program and to tell them about the intern position openings. Application, program description, and position details can be found on the Yearly Meeting Web site.

Secondly we need two or three Friends who feel called to support this work through active participation on the YFIR Committee. Grant researching and writing skills, flexibility, ability to maintain a big-picture view while keeping track of the many small details, sense of humor would all be valuable assets for working on the committee.

*Chris DeRoller and Amy Willauer-Obermayer, YFIR  
Committee coclerks*

### **Youth Committee**

The committee has had a productive year. Our focus has been planning, staffing, and implementing programs for young Friends ages 6 to 18 years of age during Spring and Fall Sessions.

Months before each seasonal gathering members of the committee have met via conference call to discern an appropriate program for each of two age groups, children 6 through 11 and those 12 to 18.

With adult supervision the younger children have been involved in community-service programs, discussions of Friends' history, art projects, and of course games. These programs are offered on the Saturdays during business and committee sessions.

The older youth generally start their program on Friday by joining adult Friends to hear the speaker or participate in the scheduled activity. They then gather with their adult facilitators at the local host meetinghouse for community-building

activities and a sleepover. On Saturday, additional youth have arrived and been welcomed into the groups. Some of the programs have included opportunities for involvement in local community-service projects, attendance at Occupy Albany, AVP training, and discussions of Friends' values. Many of these Young Friends choose to attend NYYM Sessions and some of the committee meetings. They join the wider body of Friends for Saturday lunch and dinner. Saturday evening is set aside for all the youths to join in games, discussions, and settling down to sleep in the local meetinghouse. They have often had a business meeting clerked by an adult or youth member of the committee. Of course here is also time set aside for getting to know each other and just plain fun.

The numbers of youth attenders at these programs have grown as more and more youth and parents become aware of these events. However, we are still trying to find ways to get the word out to more young people. In addition to publicizing in *Spark*, we have had some success using Facebook, and we will be considering direct e-mailings in the future.

Our work planning and implementing these events has absorbed all our time, effort, and energy. The other responsibilities that the Yearly Meeting has charged us with are not being fulfilled. We affirm the value of these programs but request that responsibility for them be transferred to another entity that is already experienced with youth programming.

The committee is responsible for the Yearly Meeting's First Day School Resource Library. Increasing awareness of the available books and a means by which to lend them to local meetings is a challenge for the coming year.

We know that there is much to be done in future years and we are heartened by the successes of the past three years. Input from Friends is always welcomed.

*Kathleen Lawson, clerk*

## WITNESS SECTION

### Witness Coordinating Committee

Friends express God's gifts in our witness. We celebrate God's unbounded love for all creation in our service to our community and our Earth. We know that: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all [persons]." 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NIV).

The Advance Reports below from the committees, working groups, and NYYM representatives to outside Friends' organizations under the care of Witness Coordinating Committee (WCC) relate many ways in which Friends in New York Yearly Meeting are engaging our world with God's generous gifts and the power of the Spirit. In 2011, Witness Coordinating Committee brought some of this engagement to the Yearly Meeting Body in reports and proposed minutes and worked to facilitate Friends' witness in our internal actions.

The theme at the 2011 Summer Sessions—"Peace with Earth: Transforming Our Communities"—was proposed and organized by the Earthcare Working Group, under the care of Witness Coordinating Committee. Among other things, during plenary sessions Friends heard from Anne Mitchell, the new general secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, and from a panel on visions for a global future, sponsored by WCC and the Earthcare Working Group. The panelists—Lucas Braun (Old Chatham MM), Marissa Badgley (Poughkeepsie MM), Alexander York (Purchase MM), Elizabeth Vardy (Mohawk Valley MM), Sky Gurvich Loth (Wilton MM), and Alanna Badgley (Poughkeepsie MM)—spoke about their commitments, work, and vision of living in peace with the Earth.

At Summer Sessions, WCC offered a minute on the then imminent 10th anniversary of the violence our nation experienced on September 11, 2001. The minute provides:

Ten years ago members of al-Qaeda used four passenger aircraft as weapons to kill nearly 3,000 people on September 11, 2001. The United States government's response was to answer violence with violence. In the ensuing wars, hundreds of thousands more people have been killed. New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) urges everyone to recognize this anniversary as an occasion to remember that there are always alternatives to violence

and that there is a Spirit in every human being which responds with gratitude to these alternatives.

The Religious Society of Friends has always upheld the way exemplified by Jesus, who taught us never to return evil for evil, but to love our enemies and pray for them, forgiving them every offense. We confess that we, being human, do not always fulfill this high standard. Nevertheless, we continually strive to discern the guidance of the living God who loves unconditionally, and extends unlimited compassion, comfort, mercy, guidance, grace, and revelation to all who ask.

We testify to the world that we disown all wars and fighting with outward weapons for any cause whatsoever. These are never necessary. There are no just wars.

Among the weapons we renounce are the tongue and the pen, when these are used to provoke prejudice and hatred. Neither will we be silenced by fear when we are called to witness against evil masquerading as good. We seek to build a world in which a just peace is possible. We seek the strength to support and keep faith with those who suffer for nonviolent acts of conscience. We live by the gospel of God's love for all. Join us.

The Yearly Meeting Body approved the minute and directed the NYYM clerk and general secretary to sign and distribute the minute widely. (Minutes 2011-7-69 & 70.)

Witness Coordinating Committee approved the creation of a working group—the European American Quakers Working to End Racism (EAQWER) Working Group—under the care of WCC. Members of the Working Group have been meeting for approximately eight years without being under the care of any body (in or outside NYYM) and discerned that their leading had sufficiently matured to justify formal association with NYYM and WCC. Friends in the Working Group share a calling to end racism and have particularly charged themselves to help develop and articulate a white antiracist voice. The Working Group will offer emotional and practical support to each other as Friends work on our racism, will seek to be a catalyst for antiracist change in NYYM, and will act as allies both to people of color and to white people outside of the Working Group in addressing racism.

During 2011 (and continuing into 2012), Witness Coordinating Committee considered peace concerns witness and work at the Yearly Meeting level. In April 2008, the NYYM Peace Concerns Committee was laid down and a Peace Con-

cerns coordinator position was created. The coordinator was to serve by networking among monthly meetings and NYYM Friends and by raising awareness of peace concerns. Over the ensuing three years, the coordinator met with various groups to facilitate their conversations on various peace concerns, but found that efforts to network with monthly meetings demanded very significant time commitments and that efforts to meet with regional meetings did not result in substantially positive responses. Witness Coordinating Committee is discerning the way forward with the work, including whether there is value in providing peace concerns witness and services at the Yearly Meeting level and, if so, whether to continue the position of Peace Concerns coordinator, or re-form a peace concerns committee, or form a working group, or take other action.

Witness Coordinating Committee considered a request that NYYM support the proposed Safe and Fair Evaluation Parole Act (“SAFE Act”), which was before the New York State legislature. The act would substantially change New York’s parole practice and policy to redirect focus to factors other than the nature of the crime, including particularly the applicant’s rehabilitation, achievements and conduct during incarceration. The Committee discerned that the proposed law would further the concern and witness approved by the Yearly Meeting in 2007 (NYYM Minute 2007-04-06), and brought the matter to the NYYM Clerk so that the Yearly Meeting could be included in the list of organizations endorsing the SAFE Act.

Witness Coordinating Committee sought to support the work of a Yearly Meeting Friend, Judy Meikle (Wilton MM), to end the death penalty in the state of Connecticut. At the 2012 Spring Sessions, Judy reported to the Body on her efforts and the decision of the Connecticut legislature to abolish the death penalty in the state, which the governor was expected to (and subsequently did) sign.

In 2011, Witness Coordinating Committee experimented with meeting via conference call as potentially a cost- and time-effective method for conducting its business and discernment (and possibly for making decisions). A conference call in preparation for Summer Sessions was well attended and proved to be very useful. The Committee will continue to test the concept in 2012.

For the last two years (2009 & 2010), Witness Coordinating Committee sponsored and organized a “Committee Fair” at Summer Sessions to give Friends an opportunity to learn more

about the work of the committees and other groups throughout NYYM. NYYM’s Sessions Committee discerned not to include the Committee Fair at Summer Sessions in 2011.

During the 12 months of 2010, the Sharing Fund received donations totaling approximately \$46,331, which was 92% of the goal of \$50,000. Those contributions were supplemented by income from the Sharing Fund Endowment in the amount of approximately \$20,000. Witness committees disbursed \$69,570 for programmatic work in 2011 (including funds from other sources and carryover from the prior year). The year-to-year carryover balance temporarily increased by about \$10,000, but that increase was reduced by over \$8,000 by March 31, 2012. The Sharing Fund goal for 2012 was set at \$55,000.

*Frederick Dettmer, clerk*

*Witness Activities Fund Grants in 2011:*

Support of Quaker Congolese refugee family (Buffalo MM)	1,500
Support for Friend’s work with Peacebuilding en las Américas program of Friends Peace Teams (Purchase MM)	2,500
Assistance to attend the AVP International Gathering and workshops, including trauma-healing workshops, in Guatemala (AVP)	750
Indian Affairs Committee project to bring Quaker youth to visit the Akwesasne Reservation and to engage in community service there	500
Support for a leading to travel among monthly meetings to talk about criminal-justice issues, particularly abolition of the death penalty (Wilton MM)	1,060
Support for a workshop on nonviolent civil disobedience (New York QM)	375
Support for work with the Redemption Center in Brooklyn, NY (Housatonic MM)	500



## **Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Inc.**

AVP New York grew our work in both prisons and in communities in 2011 even as we lost two prison programs due to prison closures. The number of workshops offered and the number of participants are up significantly over 2010. Landing Strip, our support group for people released, continues to meet twice monthly in Manhattan.

### **Our Community Programs**

We held 19 community workshops with 297 participants and trained 33 apprentice facilitators. These numbers include our work in schools reported below. The seeds planted in the Bronx in 2010 sprouted five full workshops in 2011 and nine new apprentice facilitators, two of whom are now instrumental in the establishment of a new area council. In Westchester Area Council, we held four workshops in community settings—two in Yonkers. In Rochester, we held two workshops at the Church of the Ascension—a church that has strong prison ministry. We have plans for creating a home to a Rochester Landing Strip. In Buffalo, we held a basic for participants from Occupy Buffalo.

### **Our School Programs**

This year, the Walton Central Schools requested that we offer mini workshops to their 5th grade twice during the year in addition to the annual minis for all 6th and 7th grade classrooms, reaching approximately 500 students with approximately 20 young (high school) facilitators. Again this year, we held all three levels of full workshops for 8th–12th graders. At Our Lady of Victory High School (Ossining) we held two workshops. Our afterschool program in Poughkeepsie offered a basic workshop in 2011 with 33 youth. 122 youth participated in full workshops and approximately 500 in mini-workshops; 24 were trained to be facilitators and 27 youth served on facilitation teams.

### **Our Prison Programs**

While we lost two prison programs (Arthur Kill and Mid-Orange) due to prison closures this year, and another program (Elmira) was suspended in 2010 and has not been reinstated, the number of workshops is up by 20 percent to 159 and the number of participants rose by 14 percent to 1,825. We trained 201 new apprentices inside the walls, and 205 inside facilitation



tors served on at least one team; 120 outside facilitators served on-team at least once, either in prison, in the community, or both. Special-topic workshops focused on manly awareness, building a support system, myself and my relationships, re-entry / new-entry, stigma, anger management, and parenting from inside.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Auburn in 2011, and the “Home Team” delighted in sharing the new exercises they have developed with 18 outside facilitators visiting from across the state. We were thrilled to be able to feature the Auburn team in our fall newsletter, complete with photos!

### **Our Work Outside New York State**

12 facilitators from NYS participated in the 2011 AVP International Gathering in Antigua, Guatemala. The week-long gathering drew 96 facilitators from 22 countries and five continents. Nadine Hoover, joined by Sarah and Nick Rozard, continued her 20-something-year-long venture of growing AVP in Indonesia, in recent years as part of Friends Peace Teams’ Indonesia Initiative.

Greta Mickey and Turtle MacDermott served on-team in several workshops with Maia Gonjilashvili (of AVP/Georgia) in the Republic of Georgia, under the care of New York Yearly Meeting (Quakers). Margaret Lechner worked with Friends Peace Teams’ Peacebuilding en las Américas, facilitating workshops in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Shirley Way served on-team for a trauma-healing workshop in Honduras also with FPT’s PLA. John Gallagher, Laurie Scott, and Carolyn Polikarpus served on-team for a workshop in a prison in Costa Rica.

Many thanks to all who both do this work and who make this work possible. As always, the support of New York Yearly Meeting is so important to this ongoing success story.

*Jill McLellan, clerk of AVP NY representatives  
to the AVP/NY Board*

*Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc. (AVP-NY)*  
*Financial Report, 2011*

Income

Direct public support	
Contributions—individual	
Landing Strip contributions	529.10
Retreat contributions	60.00
Scholarship	1,400.00
Contributions—individual—other	<u>16,840.07</u>
Total contributions—individual	18,829.17
Contributions—churches/meetings	
Landing Strip contributions	350.00
Contributions—churches/meetings—other	<u>2,425.00</u>
Total contributions-Churches/Meetings	2,775.00
Contributions—AVP programs	2,320.00
Area Councils revenue	
Landing Strip contributions	150.00
Area Councils revenue—other	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Area Councils revenue	<u>1,150.00</u>
Total direct public support	25,074.17
Indirect public support	
Contributions—NYYM	
Sharing Fund	3,776.13
Lindley Murray	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total contributions—NYYM	<u>5,776.13</u>
Total indirect public support	5,776.13
Program service revenue	
Manual sales	1,009.05
Annual meeting fees	237.00
Dividends & interest—securities	3,709.30
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>4,825.70</u>
Total program service revenue	<u>9,781.05</u>
Total income	40,631.35

Expense

Program services	
Certificates & TP cards	585.00
Annual meeting expenses	484.50
Landing Strip	2,748.37

Manuals	200.00
Newsletter	2,207.33
Scholarships	1,200.00
Volunteer expenses	572.76
Workshop expenses	1,549.23
Fundraising expense	957.53
Promotional materials	126.00
Retreats	<u>196.25</u>
Total program services	10,826.97
Management & general expenses	
Payroll expenses	12,543.68
Payroll taxes	1,154.76
Payroll service fees	1,035.75
Health insurance	6,890.09
Accounting fees	750.00
Supplies	355.47
Telephone & telecommunications	2,238.24
Web site	326.26
Postage	597.62
Rent	1,100.00
Travel & meetings expenses	198.00
Insurance—liability	637.98
Insurance—Workman's Comp	214.00
Filing fees—NY State	92.86
Equipment purchases	264.77
Fire-related expenses	<u>4,825.70</u>
Total management & general expenses	33,225.18
Investment fees	<u>50.00</u>
Total expense	<u>44,102.15</u>
Net ordinary income	-3,470.80
Other income/expense	
Other Income	
Unrealized gain (loss)	-5,130.70
Total Other Income	-5,130.70
Net Other Income	<u>-5,130.70</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>-8,601.50</u></b>

## **American Friends Service Committee New York Metropolitan Regional Office**

This year there were two major areas of activity within the New York Metropolitan Regional Office (NYMRO) of the AFSC—Immigrant Rights and Healing Justice. In both programs, staff work to assure that individuals are treated with dignity and are seen as human beings, while raising awareness of the larger issues in New York and New Jersey.

A number of events were held to educate the public about these concerns. The Immigrant Rights Program played an instrumental role in a day-long March 2012 conference in Newark, NJ, on immigrant detainees entitled “Alone, Unrepresented, and Imprisoned.” The conference aimed to raise consciousness about the plight of immigrants who have been detained. It brought together several hundred human rights advocates, the legal community, law students, and Senator Menendez. Another example of an educational event sponsored by the AFSC along with many other organizations was the workshop on Mass Incarceration that was presented at the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus weekend in Albany, NY, in February 2012. This workshop was well attended, and both the formerly incarcerated and criminal justice practitioners made presentations. Several members of the NY State Legislature spoke as well.

These events illustrate the importance of identifying and working with partners as a strategy of the New York Regional Office. The AFSC cosponsored these with a number of other groups, such as the Fortune Society and the Correctional Association. Other examples of partnerships is the work of the Immigrant Rights Program with the Rutgers School of Law to complete a report on possible alternatives to incarceration of immigrants whose status is being questioned. The Program inspired NYU’s Legal Clinic publication on immigrant conditions at Delany Hall and the Essex County Jail in New Jersey.

Staff working on the Immigrant Rights and the Healing Justice Programs has developed an expertise that is appreciated and acknowledged by our partners and the wider public. Areas of particular expertise for the Healing Justice Program are the use of torture and solitary confinement in prisons in the United States. Because of that expertise, we were invited to contribute to three UN Shadow Reports concerning the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention

against Torture, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The New Jersey branch of the ACLU recognized the contribution of the Immigrant Rights Program to the knowledge of the intricacies of immigration law with an award to Amy Gottlieb this spring.

The knowledge staff has acquired in these areas comes in part from the direct services provided to clients. Among the approximately 1,000 individuals represented annually in immigration matters, the AFSC presented the courts with new legal ground (mentally ill man from Ivory Coast), a reversal of a decision to deny medical assistance, and due process violations. They advocated for incarcerated persons with medical issues—parole, compassionate release, medical emergencies, and abuse. The Healing Justice staff has made uncounted referrals for reentry of those who are incarcerated and has advocated for individual prisoners with medical issues.

To educate the public on various topics, the regional office has worked to publicize issues in the media. An AFSC op-ed, “Secure Communities’ Deportation Program Breeds Mistrust among Immigrants,” was published in the *Newark Star-Ledger*. The op-ed emerges out of two-year program campaign to prevent implementation of Secure Communities in New Jersey. (Secure Communities requires local law-enforcement agencies to share fingerprints with federal immigration authorities.) In January 2012 the AFSC led a rally and held a press conference, which included TV coverage, on “stop and frisk,” a major current public issue. About 50 people attended the rally, which included a show of solidarity with a victim of a retaliatory arrest. This and the series of articles in the New Jersey papers on an older sister, brought to this country from El Salvador, to donate bone marrow to her younger sister, help to put a human face on our concerns.

Behind the scenes AFSC staff meet with public officials to ameliorate conditions and influence policy. Meetings have been held with the New Jersey Commission of Corrections to discuss the effects of solitary confinement in the Essex County jails, for example.

The AFSC has also had significant cooperation with other Quaker groups within the 15th Street complex. On March 17, a commemoration of the life of Bayard Rustin for the 100th anniversary of his birth was held at the Meetinghouse with participation of the 15th Street Meeting, Friends Seminary, and the New York Yearly Meeting office. The new location of the

Yearly Meeting Office, adjoining the AFSC/NYMRO office, has increased communication especially, around prison issues, a major concern of the Yearly Meeting.

As many of you know, with the new regional organization decided upon by the Board of the AFSC, the New York Regional Office will become part of the new Northeast Region. The new region will run from Pennsylvania to Maine and will include not only the programs here described but also the current programs of the New England Region as well as a Peace Program in Pittsburgh. Those of us who have been associated with the work of the New York Metropolitan Regional Office have experienced a sense of loss; however, we look forward better communication and a synergy of ideas as we work to integrate the new region and its many programs, some of which also address immigration and healing-justice concerns.

*Pam Wood, NYYM representative to AFSC/NYMRO*

## **Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development**

### **Telegram to Rev. Martin Luther King, Birmingham City Jail, Birmingham, Alabama**

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the New York Monthly Meeting of the religious Society of Friends is united with you in your nonviolent but courageous struggle against the violence of racial injustice. Your redemptive and sacrificial way of life sets an example for all of us, and it is in the highest tradition of the Quakers and those who follow after truth. May you find through your tribulation renewed strength and inspiration to carry on.

*Barrington Dunbar 11/3/67*

As the committee continued to review our mandate, history, and giving guidelines, we began investigating exactly who Barrington Dunbar was. We thought that his life would inform us of the Fund's underpinnings. When you google Barrington Dunbar the third thing that pops up is the telegram he sent to Martin Luther King at the Birmingham jail. Dunbar's interests included, but were not limited to, international peace, nonviolence, and racial justice.

When Dunbar was urging Friends to get involved in racial justice, one of the things he said was "Black people living in the ghettos of American cities...cannot hear Friends who profess the way of love and nonviolence, but yet maintain a destruc-

tive silence in obvious situations of social injustice.” The Black Development Fund was established in 1969 as the response of New York Yearly Meeting to the needs of the Black and Puerto Rican communities within the area of the Yearly Meeting. The Fund has been expanded to include Latinos.

The committee continues to carry a special concern in supporting Black and Latino disadvantaged students attending Quaker schools. We have provided funds to support this concern by helping individual students in addition to general Quaker school scholarship programs. We are very concerned about racial diversity in Quaker schools.

The Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development also provides grants for organizations operating in African-American and Latino communities.

In the past we have asked monthly meetings for individual and organization referrals, and we are asking again. If your meeting is involved in supporting disadvantaged Black and Latino organizations, working in underserved communities, and helping the disadvantaged, please apply for BDF grants.

*Helen Garay Toppins for the committee.*

## **Black Concerns Committee**

The New York Yearly Meeting Black Concern’s Committee has been faithfully trying to be true to address our charges from New York Yearly meeting as follows:

Our charge from the Yearly Meeting: **To increase awareness among Friends of the history and contribution of Blacks and other ethnic groups both within and outside the Religious Society of Friends.** To that end we have been promoting the Bayard Rustin Centennial: We asked monthly meetings and Friends in general to consider “What Would Bayard Rustin be doing today?” To help inform Friends we produced Bayard Rustin resource packets. A Rustin resource list can be found on the NYYM Web site under the Black Concerns tab. We also mailed Rustin Centennial information to: all monthly meetings and quarterly meetings in NYYM and to the Junior Yearly Meeting and Youth Committees; all yearly meetings in the United States; all American Quaker racial justice groups; all Quaker schools and colleges in the US; all Quaker conference centers in the US; Quaker archives; the Fit for Freedom mailing list; public libraries and seminaries

in our tristate area; and to individuals upon request. We also helped support a public event at 15th Street Meeting. Bayard Rustin: A Faithful Life Celebrating the Work of a Quaker Activist on the Centennial of his Birth was very well attended. It included Michael G. Long, author of *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*.

Our charge from New York Yearly Meeting: **To develop among Friends a keener awareness of the violence of racism.** This is the most difficult aspect of our work. Once you bring up the subject of racism you run into all kinds of sensitive issues: white privilege, internalized oppression, black anger, white guilt, to name just a few. To address this charge we are encouraging all of our committee members and other interested Friends to attend the Undoing Racism Training offered by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. The following is from their Web site:

The fabric of racism is inextricably woven and constructed into the founding principles of the United States. Racism was done and it can be undone through effective anti-racist organizing with, and in accountability to, the communities most impacted by racism. The People's Institute believes that effective community and institutional change happens when those who serve as agents of transformation understand the foundations of race and racism and how they continually function as a barrier to community self-determination and self-sufficiency.

Our charge from New York Yearly Meeting: **To help to support, enhance, and deepen the multiracial character of the family of Friends.** To support this aim we continue to sponsor the Bedford Stuyvesant Worship Group by paying the rent and paying for newspaper advertisements in local community newspapers. We also continue to offer Powell House scholarships for children of Color.

*Helen Garay Toppins, clerk*

## **Bolivian Quaker Education Fund**

As the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) moves beyond its first decade of work, we are blessed to witness the results of our programs in the lives of our scholarship recipients and other Bolivian Friends participating in the work. There is now a growing cadre of young Bolivian Friends who have graduated from the local universities and/or have participated



in other aspects of the program and who are using their profession skills in wonderful and life-enhancing ways. Some of their inspiring stories can be found on the BQEF Web site at [www.bqef.org](http://www.bqef.org). It is telling that many graduates now have the desire and means to pool resources to themselves sponsor scholarships for younger Bolivian Friends.

This year the BQEF Board has focused on the “Decades” campaign to build institutional resources and ensure stability going forward in program and administration. BQEF has developed an impressive set of materials that not only describe the work and growth of BQEF’s impact among Bolivian, North American, and European Friends, but also outline our plans and strategies to continue meeting our organizational purposes into the future. Creating this campaign has involved committed Board members’ taking on ever-more-active roles. While substantial thought has been put into articulating our long-term priorities and program objectives, energy has also been focused on the systems and structures necessary for a healthy organization. We are all concerned about the illness of Newton Garver, the organization’s founder and visionary, even while Friends have stepped up to cover multiple aspects of his work and role.

Some specifics on the organization’s program work over the past year include:

- We have increased to 50 the number of scholarships being offered to young Bolivian Friends.
- Funding has been obtained and work begun at the student residence in Sorata to build better facilities for the girls’ boarding section, and to upgrade the bathrooms. The residence continues to serve as a locus for visits from Quaker study and work tours.
- The AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) program has moved solidly into La Paz’s central prison, where there are now trained facilitators, and has initiated work in two other facilities.
- This summer we will welcome Alicia Lucasi back to the United States to promote the visiting teacher program as well as to share about the work of BQEF at Yearly Meeting gatherings around this country. Materials and contacts to enhance the visiting teachers program implementation, both in Bolivia at the candidate-selection end and here in North America for the purposes of clarity with the host schools, have been developed and refined.

- Rubén Hilari recently returned from the FWCC world gathering in Kenya, on the way to which he was able to stop in Britain and Ireland to share about our program and build the network of connections among Friends around the world. Two other graduates of the BQEF program also participated in the FWCC gathering and are examples of how BQEF has opened doors for Bolivian Friends to participate in the wider world of Quakerism as well as for them to pursue their passions in ways not likely even a decade ago.

We feel that our mission to provide access to university education to young Bolivian Friends, and to strengthen ties between Andean Quakers and those of North America and Europe, is being achieved. We appreciate the support from many in NYYM who share a sense of the importance of this work!

*Jens Braun, NYYM representative to BQEF*

## **Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War**

*No report submitted.*

## **Earthcare Working Group**

Earthcare Working Group (EWG) members have a range of concerns re the environment that is as broad as the issues that are precipitating our environmental crisis. These concerns begin with how each of us lives in an Earth-friendly way and extend to how our global societies and cultures can coexist sustainably. Our involvement ranges from prayer and personal discernment to education, advocacy, service, and, more urgently, to nonviolent direct action and political participation. The common thread that we seek to nurture in all our witness is that it be Spirit-led.

The EWG thus seeks to nurture a concern and to stimulate a conversation within the NYYM, so that all Friends can discern their role and can find their voice in giving witness to their concern for God's creation. Thus EWG members engage in diverse activities and find support and validation by sharing their work over our Google-group network.

At 2011 Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions, EWG members

played leadership roles in organizing, facilitation, and providing ministry in various activities during the week including interest groups, worship sharing, Bible study, giving Earthcare homilies at Silver Bay YMCA vesper services, and producing events with the Earthcare theme: the Awakening the Dreamer Symposium, the Young Friends panel, and the Council of All Beings. Over the course of the week, many Friends expressed appreciation for the diverse opportunities that were afforded to shape and strengthen our concerns for the Earth.

In October, two of our members attended the annual meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness in Chicago. The report of our named representative, Amy Savage, appeared in the QEW publication *Befriending Creation* and in *InfoShare*.

The November 2011 issue of *Spark* reinforced the Earthcare theme with many thoughtful articles written by Friends. Several members contributed articles to *Befriending Creation*.

The most continuous activity over the year was the active participation by members in the campaign to protect New York State water supply from the harmful effects of hydrofracking. We participated in demonstrations in Albany and in our local communities, wrote letters and called legislators, and organized a training session in Brooklyn on nonviolent action.

We also participated in Occupy Wall Street.

Since the first Yearly Meeting themed summer sessions on Earthcare in 2007, we have seen a growing concern within NYYM membership. EWG will continue to work toward the day when we, as a corporate body, can give public witness to the Earthcare concern.

*Patricia Chernoff and Fred Doneit, coclerks*

## European American Quakers Working to End Racism

European American Quakers Working to End Racism (EAQWER) began as an informal spirit-led group in the early 2000s. We met formally for the first time in November 2003, charging ourselves to be a voice for white Quakers against racism. Over the next several years, a core of eight NYYM Friends met regularly and developed a mission with three goals:

1. To offer those in our group emotional and practical support as we work on our racism.
2. To be a catalyst for antiracist change in NYYM.
3. To act as allies both to people of color and to white people outside of this group.

In July 2011, EAQWER was approved as a working group of Witness Coordinating Committee. This was not an easy process, as some Friends hesitated to accept a group that is exclusively white and has as its goal the end of racism, rather than work toward ending racism. Friends labored together and reached greater understanding, but there is still work to be done in achieving unity on these matters.

EAQWER meets three times a year, usually for a full weekend, as well as during Summer Sessions. We devote part of our weekend meetings to addressing our internalized patterns of racial superiority. This is often emotional work, as we confront wounds dealt to our hearts and minds by a racist culture. Through discussion of books and films, we educate ourselves about how racism damages people of color, and white people. We particularly focus on understanding structural racism, embedded in every US institution, with disastrous effects for all of us. We work for change in the Yearly Meeting, seeking ways to communicate, connect, inspire, and promote growth. We maintain liaisons with the Black Concerns Committee, Indian Affairs Committee, and the Task Group on Racism, attempting to collaborate with all three.

For 2012, we requested \$100 to support the cost of books and films for our education program and \$200 to fund travel to our business meetings. WCC approved our program budget, and almost \$200 for administrative costs.

In 2011 at Summer Sessions, EAQWER offered activities to support dialogue and education. Our interest group, Do Friends Care about White Privilege? drew about 20 attenders. We sold T-shirts printed with jingles we had written based on statistics from a book we had been studying, *The New Jim*

*Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander.

In meetings since then, we have deepened our commitment to work on concerns of Native Americans. We discussed books on this topic and invited Susan Wolf, clerk of Indian Affairs Committee, to present information on the Doctrine of Discovery. We endorsed IAC's minute on the Doctrine of Discovery and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In January 2008, EAQWER published an Apology to Afro-Descendants in *Spark*. Since then we have continued seeking to nurture the Apology's journey, in hopes it may one day be endorsed by NYYM. This past year we participated in many conversations in support of this controversial minute. One objection we hear is that an apology without reparations is meaningless to some.

Reparations to African Americans for slavery and its aftermath is a concern to which we have turned our attention over the years. This year we watched the video *Before They Die*, about the riot in which white people destroyed the black community of Greenwood, OK, in 1921. Survivors of the riot are still seeking to collect damages. EAQWER may find an opportunity to bring this film to a NYYM audience.

Some of the challenges we face include ongoing work to understand white privilege and internalized superiority. We look to see how these realities harm white people. We struggle to cut through denial and take ownership of our part in perpetuating racism. We work to seize opportunities to use our white skin privilege to undo racism.

In the past year we have continued to refine our antiracist analysis. We expanded the network of relationships in which we can talk about racism and white privilege. By becoming a working group of the Witness Coordinating Committee, we moved forward on our commitment to make our work visible and accountable. We look forward to becoming more involved in the work of NYYM.

*Robin Alpern for EAQWER*

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation representatives**

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the oldest and largest registered religious lobby in Washington, is a nonpartisan Quaker lobby in the public interest. FCNL works with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people from every state in the US to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, and protection of the environment.

The FCNL Annual Meeting is the annual gathering of its General Committee, made up of Quakers appointed by 26 yearly meetings and several dozen individual Friends chosen because they are particularly active on lobby issues. NYYM currently has four representatives to FCNL, whose principal responsibility is to attend the annual meeting in Washington and help make decisions about FCNL's goals and operations. Other interested Friends, who are not appointed representative but may be on various FCNL committees, attend as well. NYYM's current representatives are Ernestine Buscemi, Jonathan Collett, Fred Dettmer, and William Seltzer.

More than 200 Quakers from 34 states attended the 2011 Meeting, "Faithful Action in a Time of Conflict," in early November. A focus on lobbying began with Thursday's lobby day, where participants visited congressional offices, then continued with the skills-building workshops for beginner, intermediate, and advanced advocates, and the Saturday evening program on how you can talk to your senators about cutting the Pentagon budget.

"I can't remember a time in Washington, DC, when I've been in a room with more troublemakers...peaceful troublemakers," said Massachusetts Rep. Jim McGovern in accepting the Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace. Rep. McGovern and North Carolina Rep. Walter Jones received this award for their leadership in promoting a sensible strategy to end the war in Afghanistan

Arab-American Institute president James Zogby described the Palestinians' bid for statehood recognition at the U.N. in the context of the history of nonviolent work for change in the Middle East. He challenged Friends to work for a US policy that supports nonviolent movements for change instead of undermining them.

Diane Randall, the new executive secretary of FCNL, called

on Friends to imagine creatively the possibilities for work ahead with young adults, with seasoned Friends, and with our growing network across the country. “While we often focus on what’s current and the immediate legislation pending, we have to also take a long view and consider how we will sustain our witness, our Quaker lobby in the public interest.”

Always a high point of the annual conference, the eight interns described the personal journeys that led them to work at FCNL and some details of their involvement in issues such as immigration, nuclear disarmament, and peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. With a reduction in regular staff due to budget constraints, interns have assumed an even more important role in the daily lobbying and office work of FCNL.

The FCNL Policy Committee is preparing a set of congressional priorities for the 113th Congress. Throughout the spring of 2012, the committee is consulting with some 270 Quaker meetings and churches around the country to determine what Friends see as the most important work for FCNL in the upcoming Congress. A good number of meetings in New York Yearly Meeting have participated in this process. Anthony Smith of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting is on the FCNL Policy Committee and will be a new NYYM representative in 2012.

At the 2011 NYYM Summer Sessions Friends were surprised and pleased to hear that in spite of the budget crisis and seeming gridlock in Washington, other issues, such as peaceful prevention of deadly conflict and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, were still getting attention. And the budget crunch made people think that FCNL’s emphasis on cutting the defense budget might get a more positive response. Eight signed the “War is Making You Poor” petition at the FCNL table.

Much more detail on staff, legislative issues, and areas of work at FCNL are available at [fcnl.org](http://fcnl.org).

*Jonathan Collett, clerk, NYYM FCNL representatives*

### **Friends Peace Teams representatives**

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing, and reconciliation. FPT’s programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

FPT has three initiatives: the African Great Lakes Initiative



(AGLI), Asia West Pacific, and Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA). Each has its own working group to help ground the work and support the initiative coordinators. They are held together by the FPT Council, a group of dedicated Friends and staff who provide a place for their shared business concerns, management and issues. The FPT Council also includes yearly meeting representatives.

These are some of the highlights of the past year:

### **African Great Lakes Initiative**

In August 2011 a successful International Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) training for facilitators was held in Burundi. (HROC is a three-day experiential workshop modeled on Alternatives to Violence Project [AVP] that deals with the personal and community trauma from the violent conflicts in the region.) Some of the ten people from the United States have started conducting HROC workshops in the United States, mostly with immigrants.

This past year the HROC Program of North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, bought a piece of land and is planning to build a community center/peace house for a group of rape survivors they have been working with.

Bududa Vocational Academy in Uganda acquired seven lots in the middle of the town of Bududa, built the school buildings, and moved there for the new school year in February 2012. AGLI supports three student/orphan sponsorships programs: (1) Children of Peace in Bududa, Uganda, for 200 orphaned and neglected children, (2) secondary school student sponsorships in Rwanda, and (3) Kamenge Youth Peace Garden in Bujumbura, Burundi, which brings Hutu and Tutsi secondary school students together in a scholarship program.

Mediators in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo (North and South Kivu) have been trained in transformative mediation. The program now has lead mediators in each region capable of training others. In Kenya mediators have been trained in the basic skills, but upgrading and mentoring is still needed. An AVP program was launched in Kenya with 42 newly trained youth facilitators who have conducted basic AVP workshops for 1,600 youths in a volatile area of western Kenya.

In April 2011, AGLI coordinator David Zarembka published a book, *A Peace of Africa: Reflections on Life in the Great Lakes Region*. At the end of the year, Judy Lumb, an AGLI extended-service volunteer, published her book *Ending Cycles*



*of Violence: Kenyan Quaker Peacemaking Response after the 2007 Election.*

### **Asia West Pacific**

Friends Peace Teams expanded from Indonesia to Asia West Pacific as John Michaelis from Australia joined Nadine Hoover from NYYM as co-coordinators and Nick and Sarah Rozard are supporting AVP workshops in Singapore and Malaysia. If support expands, they hope to respond to requests from Nepal and Korea to support AVP workshops there.

East Aceh, Langsa, and Tamiang are working together to conduct regular Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP-HTK in Indonesia) workshops to strengthen the practice of the core team of facilitators; they started a blog, [htkaceh.blogspot.com](http://htkaceh.blogspot.com). Practicing AVP cooperative agreements promotes being good parents, teachers, and family and community members through a couple dozen schools as well as communities.

The thousands of people driven out of Aceh during the war (1999–2000) sought new forms of power when they were attacked and intimidated by over 1,300 forest rangers, police, and military personnel. Friends Peace Teams helped them report the incident to the UN and Amnesty International. Then the Initiative delivered hand-sewn dolls to children and teachers. Although workshops are limited to 24 participants, women have begun to travel more freely and 230 women showed up for one workshop. The problem was resolved by making 23 circles of 10 people each and proceeding.

In Java, FPT Asia West Pacific opened a joint Christian-Muslim training center for nonviolence, healing, and developmental play and began working with Indonesia Yearly Meeting. Peter Watson from Aotearoa/New Zealand works with woodworkers in Central Java to make developmental toys and Nicholas Rozard works with potters in Yogyakarta to make water filters. We built microbiology and ceramics labs to support the Indonesians to learn to make, test, and produce water filters on their own.

### **Peacebuilding en las Américas**

Last October, Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) sponsored 20 of 30 Latin American attenders at the very successful AVP International Gathering. Nearly 100 AVPers from 22 countries attended, and it was the first fully bilingual English-Spanish Gathering.

As a preconference training, PLA also sponsored a successful community-based trauma-healing workshop for AVP facilitators from around the world, and we had facilitators from all three initiatives. Since then we have had a number of proposals from groups in other countries to start similar AVP programs there. Val Liveoak will offer at least four of these workshops in the US and two or three in Bolivia and Ecuador this year.

PLA hired a young couple, Manuel and Viviana García Avila, to coordinate AVP in Colombia, where there are three regional groups (in Barranquilla, Montería, and Palmira, near Cali) that receive funding for over 50 workshops annually. Two more regions are developing (Medellín and Barrancabermeja).

In El Salvador, an extended-service volunteer, Margaret Lechner (NYYM), is working with young people in villages around Suchitoto, and a Salvadoran Friend, Salomon Medina, has organized a second workshop with Quakers near San Salvador.

In Guatemala, a full-time volunteer, Saskia Schuitemaker, has widened contacts with groups in several regions of the country and started work in very poor areas in the capital.

In Honduras, PLA's partner group, Tejedoras de Sueños ("Dream Weavers"), did 11 workshops last year and has started the 12 that are planned there this year. In Colombia, Guatemala, and Honduras, the work includes community-based trauma-healing workshops.

### **FPT's US Office**

This year the FPT office staff has had challenges in keeping up with the administrative and accounting requirements that support the work of the Initiatives. A second part-time staff member was hired. This year the organization had its first official audit of accounts. Two issues of the *PeaceWays* newsletter were published.

In addition to keeping up with the volume of work, raising enough funding to support the accounting and reporting about the work in the field has been difficult. FPT and the Initiatives mobilize a great amount of volunteer work in the US and internationally, and donations that support the necessary infrastructure are vital to continuing it.

New York Yearly Meeting is providing some of that much-needed support through the Witness Coordinating Committee and grants through the World Ministries Committee.

*Sue Nowelsky, NYYM representative to FPT*

## **Indian Affairs Committee**

The year 2011 was an exciting year for the increased international publicity on the needs and rights of indigenous peoples all over the world. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there are 564 recognized tribal entities in the United States, eight of them in New York State. It is a critical time in Native American affairs, and this year, our committee has had opportunities take an active part in new ways.

In 2010 we wrote and sent a minute through the Witness Coordinating Committee for the Yearly Meeting to consider. This minute calls for the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and asks that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) be made the law of the land. UNDRIP is an international instrument, adopted in 2007 to safeguard both the individual and collective rights of native peoples. It is not legally binding, but it has both moral and political force. The United States was the last of only four nations to fail to stand in support of the Declaration (the others were Australia, Canada, and New Zealand). President Obama officially endorsed it in December 1210.

Our minute was brought before Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay for a first reading in 2010, but cannot be considered for approval until more people in Monthly Meetings through-out the Yearly Meeting have been informed about the issues involved. Representatives from the committee have been visiting monthly and regional meetings. The Committee will continue to offer presentations for monthly meetings on the minute and the related issues. Please contact Indian Affairs if you would like to have someone present to your monthly meeting or regional meeting.

One of our major areas of outreach is support to individual students. We do this through a program of modest stipends and also through the Marjorie Sexton Scholarship. The stipends are offered to students at all educational levels and can be used at the student's discretion in any way that will support their efforts to pursue an educational program. We publicize this program widely and have recently made outreach to the Akwesasne Freedom School to assist their students in meeting the modest tuition fees they charge. Recently the numbers of stipend applicants has declined. This may be because more colleges have specific financial aid programs that assist Native American students. The Marjorie Sexton Scholarship is of-

ferred annually to a student at Onondaga Community College, and we try to arrange a luncheon to meet the recipient. This year's recipient is Aliza May Potter (Onondaga), a student in her final year.

We have continued our support this year for the following organizations with which we have ties:

**FCNL's Native American Project** supports legislation important to Native Americans throughout the country. We receive regular bulletins and updates from them which we share with monthly meetings throughout the Yearly Meeting.

**Kanatsiohareke** (Ga-nat-jo-ha-*lay*-gay), or "the place of the clean pot," is a small Mohawk community near Fonda, New York, founded in 1993 on a repurchased piece of original tribal land. Its goal has been to reestablish and preserve the Mohawk language, tribal culture, and traditional beliefs by practicing and teaching Mohawk traditions and wisdom, of which much was lost during the time of colonization and settlement. Tom Porter, an Akwesasne Mohawk elder and member of the Bear Clan, is its founder and spiritual leader. He is currently working to revitalize the programs there, and hopes to attract families who may want to build there and thus expand the community.

**Amerinda** is a nonprofit organization of Native American artists in New York City. It seeks out individual artists, provide guidance to training programs and employment, and assists artists in pursuing grants. This is the only the only organization in the state providing services specifically to Native artists.

**The American Indian Community House** has helped to sustain the native population in NYC with financial assistance, remedial education, vocational training, and health and employment services for the past 43 years. The American Indian Community House in Manhattan has faced both a difficult relocation and cuts in their funding in the last year. In these difficult times, our support is vital.

We have long dreamed of bringing NYYM youth to assist on a work project on the Akwesasne Reservation, located between NY State and Canada on the St. Lawrence river. We are thrilled to be planning our trip for August of this year. This is our second attempt to make this dream a reality. The trip we had planned in 2010 had to be canceled due to difficult developments between the United States and Canada and the Akwesasne people at the Canadian-Akwesasne-United States bor-

der. We are grateful to WCC and World Ministries, who have given us the financial and spiritual support that will make our trip possible. If this first step is successful, we hope to establish the trip as a regular opportunity for Yearly Meeting youth to work and learn with people from Akwesasne.

We have been offered an unexpected opportunity for Quaker witness by the Seneca Nation. They have called upon the long-standing ties that have existed since the 1800's between Friends and the Seneca people and have asked us to support their application to operate the Pumped Storage Project at the Kinzua Dam. There is a long and difficult history surrounding the creation of the dam, one that is part of the pattern of the United States government's dealings with Native American peoples during that time. The creation of the dam flooded Seneca lands, including several sacred sites. We are waiting to hear from the Seneca to see how we might stand in support. We have also been asked if we would support the Seneca people on other important issues. Our committee feels honored to have had this hand of friendship extended to us.

In the spring of 2012 the U.N.'s Special Rapporteur James Ayana will examine how well United States jurisprudence and policies have protected Indigenous rights in this country. Anaya is a Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona, and a Navaho. From his report, we may see what further tasks we may be called to take up in support of the tribal nations.

*Ann Schillinger and Susan Wolf, coclerks*

*Indian Affairs Committee Financial Report, 2011*

Operating budget	<u>240.86</u>	
Administrative Expenses		109.16
Travel to Attend Committee Meetings		131.70
Sharing Fund	<u>9,400</u>	
Stipends		2,600
Marjorie Sexton Scholarship		1,500
Support for Friends Groups		1,500
Support for Native American initiatives		3,800
Lindley Murray Fund	<u>1,500</u>	
American Indian Community House		1,500

## **National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & Peace Tax Foundation**

As a report on the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund and the Peace Tax Foundation, Inc. was not included in last year's *Yearbook*, this report will cover developments at both organizations since May 2010.

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, that advocates for passage of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (currently HR 1191). When enacted, this law will protect the rights of citizens whose consciences do not permit physical or financial participation in war. Federal taxes of designated conscientious objectors will be placed in a nonmilitary trust fund, enabling these citizens to be free from spiritual bondage, increasing federal revenue, and restoring the balance of government between collective security and noninterference in an individual's free exercise of belief. The NCPTF functions as a lobbying organization and is classified as a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, so contributions to it are not tax-deductible.

The Peace Tax Foundation seeks to conduct research and inform the public about the concept of freedom of conscience, including the religious, ethical, and historical bases for conscientious objection to war. It researches and educates citizens about the concept of alternative-tax-payment programs based upon conscientious objection to military preparations. The Foundation also serves as a liaison to the international peace tax movement. The Foundation does not lobby and received tax-deductible contributions as a 501(c)3 organization until recently. Due to a misunderstanding of Internal Revenue Service filing requirements, the nonprofit status of the Foundation was suspended in February 2012. At this time, gifts to the Peace Tax Foundation, Inc. are not considered tax-deductible. The Fund is currently reapplying for nonprofit status and expects to be reinstated. If it is reinstated retroactively in the current calendar year, as is hoped, gifts will then be considered tax-deductible.

On March 17, 2011, Representative John Lewis (GA-05) introduced the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill as HR 1191 in the 112th Congress. It was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The bill currently has seven co-sponsors. The text of HR 1191 and links to information about the bill's status in the House of Representatives are available

at [www.peacetaxfund.org/thebill/](http://www.peacetaxfund.org/thebill/). The NCPTF's current programmatic work focuses on recruiting more cosponsors for the bill.

In May 2011, Jack Payden-Travers was hired as part-time executive director of both the NCPTF and the Foundation. Previous executive director Bethany Criss resigned in October 2010. Due to financial constraints, Jack is currently the sole employee of the NCPTF and the Peace Tax Foundation. Jack's main responsibilities involve office administration, overseeing finances and bookkeeping, fundraising, and maintaining contact with Congressional sponsors. The NCPTF earnestly seeks additional sources of funding to hire an administrative assistant so that Jack will be able to devote greater energies to programmatic work.

Rick Woodward, who has been a conscientious objector to paying military tax since 2004, is the current chair of the Board. Rick started a campaign in May 2009 to broaden the NCPTF's base of support. The campaign's ultimate goal is to find at least two individuals in every US representative's district who will contact their representative on a monthly basis in support of the bill. Please contact Jack if you are interested in joining their efforts! In the past two years, Board members have conducted visits with many religious denominations to ask for support and reach individuals in those congregations who might be interested in becoming more involved with the NCPTF's work.

In the past, the NCPTF organized an annual lobby day in Washington to visit representatives' offices and discuss with them the importance of signing on to the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill. Unfortunately, staff and financial limitations have not made it possible to hold lobby day in the past two years. Hopefully this important tradition will be resumed in 2013.

New York Yearly Meeting's representative to the board of the NCPTF and Foundation will be resigning in August 2012. The board is actively searching for a successor. The main requirement for serving on the board is an interest in and dedication to passing the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act. To find out more about the joys and responsibilities of serving on this board, please contact Lily Dalke at [lily.dalke@gmail.com](mailto:lily.dalke@gmail.com) and Jill McLellan of the Nominating Committee at [mclellan@frontiernet.net](mailto:mclellan@frontiernet.net).

Given our current challenges, your support for the NCPTF



and Peace Tax Fund is urgently needed. It is a particularly good time to redouble your support given that the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year! Please consider making a personal or meeting donation to the NCPTF. The Campaign also welcomes volunteers. Let's not let another 40 years pass without legal protection of freedom of conscience.

For more information about the NCPTF and the Foundation, please visit [www.peacetaxfund.org/](http://www.peacetaxfund.org/).

*Lily Dalke, NYYM representative*

## **National Religious Campaign against Torture**

Torture betrays our faith. Torture denies the divine Light present in every person. It displaces God's Love and call for the peaceable Kingdom with violence, hatred, sadism and tyranny....In the presence of our nation's use of torture, we hearken to Jesus's query: "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26; Mark 8: 36; Luke 9: 25 (NIV))

*NYYM Minute on Torture, July 25, 2008, [www.nyym.org/index.php?q=minute\\_on\\_torture](http://www.nyym.org/index.php?q=minute_on_torture)*

New York Yearly Meeting continues to be a participating member of the National Religious Campaign against Torture ([www.nrnat.org](http://www.nrnat.org)). NRCAT has been working since its formation in 2006 to change United States policy and practice in order to achieve an end to all US-sponsored torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees, and the adoption of US policies and practices that will help end torture by other countries. It has grown to now include over 314 religious organizations as members, including the American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT), and at least 42 Friends' yearly and monthly meetings throughout the country (including 6 monthly meetings within NYYM).

NRCAT works for an end to torture in four areas: (1) to ensure that US-sponsored torture of detainees never happens again; (2) to end the use of torture in US prisons and detention facilities, in particular the use of prolonged solitary confinement; (3) to end US support of any country that engages in torture and to work for US policies that help other nations stop their torture practices; and (4) to end the bigotry and hatred that promote the practice and acceptance of torture against re-



ligious, ethnical, and other targeted groups.

In 2010, NRCAT began working to end torture in US prisons, including, in particular, the use of long-term isolation. The United States is a world leader in holding prisoners in prolonged solitary confinement. There are 44 state-run super-max prisons and one federal super-max prison—each of which holds inmates exclusively in solitary confinement. Prisoners in solitary confinement are held by themselves in small cells for up to 23 hours per day and exercise alone for the remaining hour. Some prisoners have been held for months, years, even decades in these isolated conditions and have experienced long-term mental harm as a result. Many studies have documented the detrimental psychological effects of solitary confinement, such as hallucinations, paranoia, and panic attacks. Through this work, NRCAT seeks to educate the public and governmental officials that prolonged solitary confinement is the equivalent of torture and must be abolished.

In late 2010, NRCAT helped organize a new campaign to combat anti-Muslim bigotry, creating “Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values,” a coalition of 26 religious organizations. The fact that most of the people detained after September 11 were Muslim allowed our society to view them as “other” and to accept policy changes that allowed torture. NRCAT believes that reducing anti-Muslim sentiment helps ensure that the dignity of each person is respected and that torture is prohibited without exception.

In 2011, this work focused on (1) increasing the number of people in the US who believe that torture is always wrong; (2) continued advocacy for a US government-appointed commission of inquiry; (3) lobbying for the codification into law of elements of President Obama’s executive order on interrogations; (4) advocacy for the end of long-term solitary confinement in prisons; (5) urging President Obama to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (which would protect all prisoners in US custody from torture by setting up mechanisms to assure that US laws prohibiting torture are followed in all detention facilities, including domestic prisons); (6) advocacy for the State Department to prepare a Torture Watch List of countries engaged in torture and then to make US assistance available for efforts to end the use of torture; and (7) working with the Multi-Religious Campaign against Anti-Muslim Bigotry to end anti-Muslim bigotry. NRCAT prepares and

provides information about its current programs, including study materials, worship materials, and other programs that can be used by meetings to work to end torture. These materials, as well as additional information about all of NRCAT's work, are available at [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org).

*Frederick Dettmer, NYYM representative to NRCAT*

## **New Jersey Council of Churches**

*No report submitted.*

## **New York State Council of Churches Chaplaincy**

This year there were three meetings of the NYSCC Board of Chaplaincy. The Board of Chaplaincy has evolved over the last several years to consist solely of chaplains who work in prisons. Vacancies in prison chaplaincies have not been filled for several years, and ministerial program coordinator (MPC) vacancies have only recently been filled. (These are the people who make it easier for outsiders to gain entry into the prison.)

Earlier in the year, in a confrontation with the State Employees Union on budget issues, the governor proposed eliminating all chaplain positions in the prison system as unnecessary. Obviously, that had a demoralizing and dampening effect on the chaplains. Politics have been worked through, and funding has been restored. There has been the proposed addition to the budget of two part-time MPC positions in the prison system that may allow for easier access of all faith-based groups to work within the system in the near future. There have also been some political personnel changes in the commissioner's office at the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). It remains hard to convene an interfaith partnership and follow-through to address the concerns of the chaplains as one voice with DOCCS.

*Alice Houghtaling  
NYYM representative to Board of Chaplaincy*

## **New York State Council of Churches Collegium**

The New York State Council of Churches (NYSCC) is an alliance of Protestant churches, of which NYYM is a member. The Council is actively undergoing reflection and transition as it considers who we are now and what our mission is. With the assistance of a consultant, the Council is reconsidering its biblical mandate and exploring structural changes that will facilitate the pursuit of that mandate and encourage active member support and growth. Mary Lu Bowen, longtime executive director of the council, retired in December, and Robert White, formerly of the New Brunswick Seminary and other institutions, has stepped in as interim executive director. The position of communications and public policy consultant has been eliminated, and the Council is now sharing a communications and advocacy staff person with five New York presbyteries.

The Council's Collegium (its governing body) chose four areas for the Council's public policy work in 2012: (1) the environment, specifically hydrofracking; (2) prison reform; (3) poverty issues, particularly minimum wage, unemployment insurance, public assistance, and public education; and (4) gambling. However, as part of the ongoing period of reflection and transition, this year for the first time in memory we did not undertake a Peace and Poverty Lobbying Mission to visit legislators in Washington, DC, and so far have not met in Albany with Governor Cuomo and other New York State officials. Missing these opportunities for direct advocacy on behalf of the marginalized feels like a great loss.

The Council continues its work supporting prison chaplains, advocating for the rights of the chaplains to fair working conditions, and for the rights of incarcerated people seeking to practice their faith to have meaningful access to each other and to clergy.

Please hold the Council in your prayers that we may be faithful as we discern way forward!

*Heather M. Cook and Frederick Dettmer,  
NYYM representatives to the NYSCC*

## **Prisons Committee**

There are more than 200 men on our prison worship group list. Unfortunately, many of these men cannot attend Quaker meeting for worship. They have been transferred to facilities that do not have Quaker worship groups. A large number of men in prison are asking for worship groups, but there aren't enough Quakers available to facilitate them. And the waiting list for prison worship groups grows every day. The reasons for the lack of a Quaker response are many. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision makes it extremely difficult for Friends to attend a prison worship group. Volunteers must fill out numerous forms, only to be told, weeks later, that some minor detail was omitted and that you have to start the application process all over again. In addition, Friends are busy with their own monthly meetings, and adding visitation to a worship group is time consuming. The Prisons Committee would like to inform Friends that even a one-time visit can be of tremendous importance to those who are incarcerated. Please share how Spirit is moving in your life!

**Attica Prison Worship Group**—Outsiders and insiders minister to one another. The weekly “check-in” is very important to us. Each week before we settle into silent worship, we check in, sharing things that we might not share at any other time or place in the prison.

**Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting**—We have been worshipping continuously since 1976 inside the walls. We share personal experiences within our meeting and usually feel genuine acceptance, even tenderness. Acceptance is the opposite of the vengeance and rejection all too commonly found in prison.

**Cayuga Prison Worship Group**—Some of the books we discussed brought out different viewpoints. This was important because of our diverse backgrounds and upbringing. Since we have such a strong community, our compassion extends beyond our meeting into our everyday lives.

**Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting**—We keep all those on different paths in the Light, in hopes that they choose to return, just as we who once stayed away have made that decision to walk back into the Light.

**Otisville Prison Worship Group**—In our meetings, we

have developed openness, genuineness, trust, and confidentiality. Our meetings are a diverse encouraging environment. From a small group of about three people at one time, we have a regular participation of about fifteen people.

**Sing Sing Worship Group**—The men who attend the Sing Sing Worship Group find a place of community and fellowship in their Meeting for Worship. It is a place where they are among F(f)riends and can explore their spiritual journeys.

**Sullivan Prison Worship Group**—The inside members of the group appreciate the Quaker meeting as a safe haven, as a place where they can speak openly and feel the support of others in the group. They feel that the Quaker meeting has helped them to change and to be more caring and peaceful.

**Woodbourne Prison Worship Group**—The group used to meet once every other month and is now meeting twice a month. Visitors who have attended spoke about the Testimony of Peace, business meeting, and the Testimony of Integrity.

Judy Meikle is leading traveling group composed of those who have had direct involvement with prison ministry. Some are formerly incarcerated. They want to come and talk to your monthly and quarterly meetings. They want to share the impact prison ministry has had on their lives. They want to come and tell their stories. Please invite them to your meeting. The Prisons Committee needs you! Contact [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) if you would like to get involved in prison ministry.

*Jolene Festa for the Prisons Committee*

## **Right Sharing of World Resources**

Imagine a world in which everyone had enough to eat, every day. What if every child could have at least a basic elementary-school education? What if the practice of local medicine, based on traditional herbal remedies, were available to people for whom the cost of industrial pharmaceuticals is prohibitive? What if women joined together in small groups to support each other in creating businesses that fed their own children and their communities? Suppose these empowered women began to speak up in village politics and continued on up into higher levels—how would those local governments change?

We don't have to imagine these wonderful things. They are

happening, in at least a few places, thanks in part to the contributions made to Right Sharing of World Resources by New York Yearly Meeting and individuals who are part of NYYM.

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is a unique development organization. Part of the work of RSWR is to answer “that of God” in the poorest people on Earth—many of whom are fellow Quakers—by giving them the tools with which to feed themselves and their children. The other part of the work of RSWR is to promote the understanding among US and Canadian Quakers that our testimony of equality should lead us to collaborate with poor people in improving all of our lives. Theirs are improved by empowering them to provide for their own needs; ours, by helping us to appreciate the gift of simplicity in our own daily lives.

In late 2011, the board of RSWR received Roland Kreager’s resignation and began the process of searching for a new general secretary. Roland left the organization on February 6, 2012, and his replacement, Betty Tonsing, began her work in mid-April. Betty is an experienced fundraiser and has worked in developing countries. She has a passion for development, and the board is very excited to begin a new phase in the history of the organization.

It takes only one match to start a forest fire—and in some communities, it only takes a small grant to ignite a change that will eventually reach every poor person in it. Through the Sharing Fund, New York Yearly Meeting supplies the “match” to ignite change in about one community each year. We look forward to an increase in the number of “matches” from the US and the effectiveness of arranging the “tinder” by our partners in India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone.

*Mary Eagleson, RSWR resource person*

## **Rural and Migrant Ministry**

*No report submitted.*

## **William Penn House**

The Quaker seminar and hospitality center in Washington, DC, has continued to be a presence and a witness to Friends' values and testimonies—indeed, William Penn House is “a light upon the Hill.”

Meeting for worship in the second-floor living room every day of the year...dorm rooms teeming with youthful energy as seminar participants learn about how Quaker values intersect with contemporary issues...a Peace Pole in the front yard and rainwater gardens in the backyard...interns integrating the testimonies into their daily living while offering radical hospitality to sojourners...participants in Washington Quaker Workcamps sprawling in the seminar room and reflecting together after a weekend of hard work and new relationships...a committed board supporting staff in the “greening” of this highly visible Capitol Hill property—these are but a few facets of the William Penn House gem.

As funding becomes available, work continues on the carriage house vegetative-roof project. And the house fills to overflowing with international students and other travelers and tourists in our nation's capital to learn and sightsee.

While NYYM Friends gather at Silver Bay this summer, William Penn House staff and colleagues will be leading a workcamp on Dakota native lands at Pine Ridge.

Even with the House occupied by seminar groups, workcamps, and sojourners 365 days—and nights—a year, program revenue does not cover all the expenses of maintaining, upgrading, and staffing our presence on Capitol Hill. Please learn more about the vibrant and vital activities of William Penn House by visiting [www.williampennhouse.org](http://www.williampennhouse.org), and please join me in offering financial support to this Quaker presence in Washington, that William Penn House may continue to be a Light upon the Hill.

*Lyle Jenks, NYYM appointee, Wm. Penn House  
National Consultative Committee*

## **Committee on World Ministries**

The World Ministry Committee (WMC), with funds from bequests and the Sharing Fund, has supported the ministry of NYYM Friends in the “wider world” since 1889.

The WMC provides a means whereby members and meetings can both encourage and support programs of NYYM, FUM and other Friends’ groups.

WMC is a unique committee in that it meets twice a year by teleconference (or more if warranted), usually in May/June and late November. This timetable is based upon the time when funds become available to the Committee.

The WMC clerk receives grant requests by email, which are then disseminated to members of the Committee for review prior to the teleconference meeting.

Our main objective is to evaluate if the application is for ministry, to “spread Quaker love in the wider world.” This is a broad mandate, but it is a serious and often complex charge, so each request is first examined to see if it falls within this mandate and then whether the project can be implemented in a practical manner and, finally, to insure that the funds will have oversight by a member or members of NYYM to insure that the funds are used within the parameters of the grant request.

The approved grants requests are also based upon the amount of money available at the time of the committee meeting. This fiscal year, WMC approved grants to:

Schenectady Meeting—for Zimbabwe famine relief

Youth Service Opportunities Project—for grant renewal for NY Fellows Program

NYYM Indian Affairs Committee—\$750 toward to a two-day Quaker youth trip to Akwesasne, the St. Regis Mohawk reservation in Franklin County, NY

Indonesia Initiative of Friends Peace Teams—\$1,650 for one year of translation of Quaker materials

Orchard Park Meeting for Crossroads Springs School in Africa

Greta Mickey for AVP work in Georgia

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund

Peacebuilding in Las Américas for trauma-healing workshops

Gisenyi Friends Peace Center as part of the African Great



## Lakes Initiative

Indonesia Initiative of Friends Peace Teams—workshops for children and adults, as well as supplies and relief help

Several NYYM Friends are serving on WMC who are new to the Committee. We feel our mission has a unique purpose and helps to enable those Friends with special leadings to give their time, skills, and hearts by spreading the Light to those who need our help.

We feel strongly that in this ministry, within our limited means, WMC does make a difference. Mother Teresa once remarked, “It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.”

It is to that end that NYYM Friends are encouraged to apply for grant funds, to help WMC “spread Quaker love in the wider world.”

Requirements for grant proposals are posted on the NYYM Web site, and inquiries to the clerk of the Committee are always welcome: [sweisfeld@juno.com](mailto:sweisfeld@juno.com) or write: Susan Weisfeld, 11 Perry Place, Bronxville, NY 10708.

*Susan Weisfeld, clerk*

## **Liaison Committee**

Liaison Committee meets each morning during Summer Sessions to reflect on and prepare for the meetings for worship with attention to business and to consider concerns and leadings rising during the week.

The Committee also meets monthly by conference call. We open the calls with worship and responding to a query to help us in staying connected, in knowing each other—and ourselves—more deeply. The calls then move into considering what is rising up in our Meeting, reflections on recent NYYM sessions, and seasoning business coming forward. We also plan the Coordinating Weekend held in the winter.

Currently at the request of Sessions Committee we are considering the idea of a Sabbath or Jubilee Year at some point in the near future for NYYM. What would its purpose be? What would it look like? How would we prepare for it?

*Heather M. Cook, clerk*