

**Yearly Meeting #32 of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**

June 21, 2002 – Sixth Day (Friday), 1 pm

1. Opening

After a period of silence Clerk Sharon Annis welcomed Friends and read the following passages:

God said, "Let there be light!" and there was light.
God saw how good the light was
and God separated the light from the darkness.

Rabbi Isaac said,
"The light created by God in the act of Creation
flared from one end of the universe to the other
and was hidden away,
reserved for the righteous in the world that is coming,
as it is written:
'Light is sown for the righteous.'
Then the worlds will be fragrant, and all will be one.
But until the world that is coming arrives,
it is stored and hidden away."

Rabbi Judah responded,
"If the light were completely hidden,
the world would not exist for even a moment!
Rather, it is hidden and sown like a seed
that gives birth to seeds and fruit.
Thereby the world is sustained.
Every single day, a ray of that light shines into the world,
keeping everything alive;
with that ray God feeds the world.
And everywhere that Torah is studied at night
one thread-thin ray appears from that hidden light
and flows down upon those absorbed in her.
Since the first day, the light has never been fully revealed,
but it is vital to the world,
renewing each day the act of Creation."

When powerful light is concealed and clothed in a garment, it is revealed. Though concealed, the light is actually revealed, for were it not concealed, it could not be revealed. This is like wishing to gaze at the dazzling sun. Its dazzle conceals it, for you cannot look at its overwhelming brilliance. Yet when you conceal it — looking at it through screens — you can see and not be harmed. So it is with emanation: by concealing and clothing itself, it reveals itself.

With the appearance of the light, the universe expanded.
With the concealment of the light, the things that exist were created in all their variety.

This is the secret of the act of Creation.
One who understands will understand.

from *The Essential Kabbalah: The Heart of Jewish Mysticism*
Daniel C. Matt

And from Parker Palmer:

It is not a life that we live,
 it is a life that wants to live in us,
It is not a life that we lead,
 it is a life that wants to lead us.
It is not a life we create
 with our facts and feelings,
It is life as a gift we need only
 to open ourselves to receive.

2. Welcome of visitors

The clerk welcomed Vicki Hain-Poorman from Friends World Committee for Consultation; Peg and Nils Pearson, Ellen Helmuth and Jane Berger from Friends General Conference; Steve Olshewsky traveling under a concern about the Peace Tax Fund; and Keith and Judy Kendall from Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs. Errol Hess of Foxfire Meeting was welcomed back from William Penn House in Washington, DC. The clerk extended a special welcome to Friends from a new preparative meeting in Oxford, Mississippi: Ellen Douglas, Ginny Baumann and Kevin Bales.

3. Roll call

Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun read the roll of monthly meetings and worship groups. The following were represented at the beginning of the first session: Asheville, Atlanta, Berea, Birmingham, Brevard, Celo, Charleston, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Columbia, Cookeville, Crossville, Foxfire, Greenville, Hunstville, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon, Swannanoa Valley, West Knoxville.

A list of yearly meeting attenders is attached as Appendix A. State of the Meeting Reports are attached in Appendix B.

4. Epistle Committee

The clerk asked for volunteers for an Epistle Committee. No volunteers were forthcoming, so this item was carried forward to a future business session.

5. Friends World Committee for Consultation

Rachel Weir, SAYMA representative to the Friends World Committee for Consultation, introduced Vicki Hain-Poorman of the FWCC staff. Vicki works with Wider Quaker Fellowship and also serves as an interpreter for FWCC Section of the Americas Meetings.

Vicki offered to meet with SAYMA Friends who would like to learn more about FWCC. FWCC works to bring Friends together to discover what we share at a deep level and to explore how we can work together. FWCC will be sponsoring the Conference on Friends' Responses to the Growing Dangers of Wars and Terrorism at Guilford College on Martin Luther King weekend in 2003. The hope is to have at least two representatives from each North American yearly meeting. About 50 places will be reserved for young Friends.

Vicki also announced the FWCC Section of the Americas Southeast Regional Gathering October 18-20, 2002 in Atlanta. The theme will be "Friends Peace Testimony As We Practice It Today."

6. Friends General Conference

Penelope Wright is one of SAYMA's representatives on the Friends General Conference Central Committee. Her report is attached in Appendix D. Also included in Appendix C is an epistle from the FGC Committee for Ministry on Racism. The committee is sponsoring a training in Pittsburgh on Martin Luther King weekend 2003.

7. Site Selection Committee

Larry Ingle presented the following report of the Site Selection Committee:

The SAYMA site committee, after much searching, visiting and telephoning, has been unable to locate a college in the western (or indeed, central) part of the yearly meeting where our annual meeting can take place. I don't believe there is a college in the area that we have overlooked. We are profoundly conscious of the commitment we made in the middle 1990s to meet every two years east of the mountains and then for two years in the west.

We have found two places — Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, and Bryan College, in Dayton, Tennessee — whose facilities are ideally suited for our use, but neither is available to us now and will probably not be in the foreseeable future. Even Hiawasee College in Sweetwater, Tennessee, where we have met in the past but which some Friends have found lacking in the kind of amenities they prefer, has other groups scheduled for the next couple of years.

Hence, we can only recommend that until some other place becomes available we continue to meet at Warren Wilson College. Members of the committee invite concerned Friends in eastern Tennessee, north Georgia and southern Kentucky to keep them informed of possible sites.

Friends asked and Larry answered questions about several specific locations that the committee had investigated.

Friends agreed to return to Warren Wilson College in 2003.

Larry reported that June 5-8, 2003 and June 19-22, 2003 are available at Warren Wilson College. Another group has tentatively reserved the weekend in between.

Friends considered the needs of students who may still be in school or have just finished a semester vs. the problem of scheduling SAYMA close in time to the Friends General Conference Gathering. Friends agreed that the second weekend of June is preferable if it is available. However, if the second weekend is not possible, June 5-8, 2003 is the choice. Friends asked the new Site Selection Committee to work two years in advance at a minimum. In future years, Friends will aim to reserve the second weekend in June. Jess Purvis of Chapel Hill was recorded as standing aside.

A question was raised whether a Friend whose meeting is not a part of SAYMA can be recorded as standing aside. The clerk and another Friend spoke to the history of involvement by youth from meetings outside SAYMA. Many of our monthly meetings make little if any distinction between

members and regular attenders. With this practice as precedent, Friends agreed it was appropriate to allow this active participant in our yearly meeting to be recorded as standing aside.

8. Minute of concern on population sustainability

Bob McGahey presented a proposed minute on population sustainability. This minute had been sent back to committee by last yearly meeting. Friends from Celo, Cookeville and Nashville Monthly meetings worked together to rework the minute of concern. The minute includes a set of queries.

Geeta McGahey, clerk of the Faith and Practice Revisions Committee, asked whether the queries included in the population minute were intended to be included among the queries in *A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*. Members of the committee responded that inclusion in *Faith and Practice* was not assumed but would be something for Friends to consider.

After discussion and a change in the placement of one passage, the following minute was approved.

In accordance with Friends' testimonies of equality, simplicity and harmony, we recognize the sacredness of all life, the interconnection of all living things, and the balance required to sustain an acceptable quality of life for all inhabitants of our planet. We are committed to providing all children with a safe, loving, nourishing, and habitable world in which to live.

We offer this minute in a spirit of concern that while population stabilization may be less of an issue in our country, other countries, religions and cultures encourage large families. Historically, the large family is the primary caregiver to the elderly and infirm, and the protector of the poor, especially when no social security or government assistance is available. Yet, large families tend to place an even greater burden on the available resources. Special emphasis must be given to measures to reduce poverty, provide security for people as they age and empower women. Literacy, equal social status and the general education of women to broaden their life choices tend to delay childbirth, limit family size and improve the quality of life for them and their families.

Definition of sustainable population

Just as a lifestyle is sustainable only when one spends less than one earns, a population is sustainable only when that population consumes an amount of resources that is less than what is replaceable.

Population growth

In October 1999, world human population surpassed six billion, having doubled since 1960. At the present rate of growth, it is likely to double again within the new century. As the population increases, resource consumption and environmental impact increase.

Impact on environment

The total requirements of the current human population place an ever-increasing demand on earth's resources and intensify environmental degradation, which threatens all the creatures of the earth. All consumption affects the earth's environment. However, those of us living in the most prosperous circumstances have used earth's resources in disproportionate amounts. Our over-consumption contributes to environmental degradation in excess of our numbers.

Recommendations

While remaining sensitive to the needs and values of all cultures, we acknowledge our responsibility to become informed about world population growth and the concerns it raises.

- Through our leadings and sharing, we will seek knowledgeable, loving, and creative ways of encouraging responsible reproductive activities. These include endorsement of adoption and foster care as an alternative to having children and open support for those who choose not to procreate.
- We recognize that the more prosperous countries have a larger rate of per-capita resource consumption. Our responsibility is to strive toward a simpler and more equitable lifestyle.
- We will work toward a more equitable sharing of the world's resources and toward systems that provide a social safety net for those in need so that large families are not perceived as vital to the well-being of the group.
- We urge meetings to consider using queries such as those adopted by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as an aid to the clearness for the marriage process, specifically addressing the issue of family size and the consideration of adoption or foster care.
- Finally, we urge our government to renew contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, a family planning lifeline for couples in poor countries.

Friends Queries and Actions Applicable to Population Sustainability

- How do we as Friends work toward a more equitable sharing of the world's resources?
- What can we do to provide a global social system that will aid those in need?
- When Friends couples marry under the care of the meeting, are the following queries considered in the clearness process, asking couples to discuss them with each other:
 - Have you discerned with each other whether you want to have children? If so, how many?
 - Have you considered a plan to take responsibility for your family's growth in size?
 - Would you consider adoption or foster care for family growth?
 - What are the available resources from family, meeting and community for family development?
 - How will your family reflect Friends' testimonies of simplicity, concern for the environment and world population?
- Has your meeting expressed to our government a desire to support the United Nations Fund for Population Activities?

This minute is reprinted in Appendix C.

Friends agreed to refer the queries from the minute on population to the Faith and Practice Revisions Committee.

9. Nominating Committee preliminary report

Nominating Committee Clerk Penelope Wright expressed her appreciation to the faithful members of the Nominating Committee for their service.

The Nominating Committee recommended that the treasurer no longer serve as a member of the Personnel Committee. The treasurer and the Finance Committee will continue to be available for consultation with the Personnel Committee as needed. Friends approved.

The Nominating Committee recommended that SAYMA appointees to wider Quaker organizations be appointed for terms that correspond to the terms requested by the wider Quaker organizations rather than according to SAYMA's annual year. Friends approved.

The Nominating Committee asked whether Friends wish to continue to appoint a representative to William Penn House. A representative was appointed last year for a one-year term with the understanding that SAYMA would review the situation at this yearly meeting. Friends agreed to defer the decision until next year, until a report from this past year's representative can be received.

Penelope presented the following nominations for SAYMA positions:

Position	Person	Term Ends
Recording Clerk (extending term for 1 year)	Carol Lamm	'03
SAYF Steering Committee Co-Clerk	Dick Houghton	'04
SAYF Steering Committee Member (second term)	Sig Christensen	'04
SAYF Oversight Committee	Margaret Farmer	'04
SAYF Oversight Committee (second term)	John Potter	'04
SAYF Oversight Committee	Dolph Goldenburg	'04
Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerk	Susan Carlyle	'04
Ministry and Nurture Clerk	Kathy Burke	'04
American Friends Service Committee		
Southeast Region Office Executive Committee	Debra Johnson	'03
Friends Committee on National Legislation	Joyce Johnson	Nov. '05
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (second term)	Kim Carlyle	'04
Friends General Conference	Julia Sibley-Jones	'05
Friends Peace Team	Bob Welch	'04
Friends World Committee for Consultation (second term)	Rachel Weir	'05
Quaker House (Fayetteville, NC)	Geoffrey Pratt	'05

Friends approved these nominations.

The Nominating Committee will continue its work to fill remaining positions.

10. Addendum to Site Selection Committee report.

Larry Ingle reported that after conferring with Warren Wilson College staff, SAYMA is confirmed for June 5-8, 2003. There is a good possibility that SAYMA can have the second weekend of June in 2004, but this cannot be confirmed yet.

11. Preliminary budget presentation

Finance Committee Clerk Chris Berg presented a draft budget and asked that Friends review it before the next business meeting session. The Finance Committee recommended a reduction in the

assessment from \$55 to \$50. The Finance Committee learned from archivist Bettina Wolff that SAYMA records are not being archived at Swarthmore; consequently, the contribution to Swarthmore approved by April Representative Meeting was not included in the draft budget. Chris answered several questions from the floor and invited Friends with further questions to speak with him or treasurer Kendall Ivie before the next day's meeting.

12. Faith and Practice Revisions Committee

Geeta McGahey reported for the Faith and Practice Revisions Committee. The complete report is attached in Appendix C.

The committee is proceeding at a deliberate pace. The committee plans to send proposed changes to monthly meetings for consideration as the committee works through them and also to link proposed changes to *A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice* to the SAYMA web site so that Friends can have ready access to them. The committee reminds Friends that proposed changes to *Faith and Practice* must be recommended by monthly meetings before coming to the committee.

Friends agreed to use SAYMA's web site to post already-approved changes to *Faith and Practice* so that they will be available as they occur.

The committee recommended that SAYMA name a separate committee to work on a handbook of procedures. A committee of volunteers agreed to develop a proposed charge for a Handbook Committee: Penelope Wright, Jim Hamill, Missy Ivie and Dennis Gregg.

The committee also sought affirmation of its understanding that the committee is in good order when it discerns details about procedures found in *Faith and Practice* that need to be shifted to the handbook and refers these to the Handbook Committee. Consideration of this recommendation was deferred pending consideration of appointing a Handbook Committee.

13. Presentation of minute of concern regarding Israel and Palestine

Dennis Gregg and Geeta McGahey presented a minute of concern on the situation in the Middle East.

A Friend asked to whom the minute would be sent. Among the responses were that it would be appropriate for SAYMA to send the minute to a specific list of officials. Those who worked on the minute also saw its usefulness as a resource in their work for peace. The language of the minute offers a way to articulate Friends' concerns in many situations.

Friends were asked to consider the proposed minute and its dissemination in preparation for a later yearly meeting session.

Meeting closed with a period of silence.

June 22, 2002 - Seventh Day (Saturday) 9:30 am

14. Opening

After a period of silence, the clerk read traveling minutes for Peg and Nils Pearson from Friends General Conference; for Steve Olshewsky from Live Oaks Friends Meeting, traveling under a concern for Peace Tax Fund legislation; and for Bob Barns from Grass Valley Society of Friends traveling under concerns for Right Sharing of World Resources and the Alternatives to Violence Project.

15. Epistle Committee

The clerk announced that Barbara Esther and John Geary had volunteered to serve on the Epistle Committee. Edie Patrick also volunteered.

16. Southern Appalachian Young Friends

Kathleen Mavournin, Co-Clerk of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends Steering Committee, presented highlights of her report, which is attached in Appendix C. Sixty-two young people attended at least one retreat this year. Young Friends grow individually and grow as a group, and they are a joy. Having an administrative assistant for the first time has made a great difference. A handbook describing the SAYF program is in progress. A SAYF website with schedules, guidelines, information about conscientious objector status and other matters has been created and linked to the SAYMA web site. Thirty-five Young Friends and about half a dozen Friendly Adult Presences are present at SAYMA. Kathleen estimated that 40 adult volunteers have been involved over the course of the past year. A grandmother and a SAYF graduate spoke to how valuable the SAYF program is.

17. Minute of concern regarding Israel and Palestine

Friends expressed much appreciation for the work of Friends and the thoughts expressed in the proposed minute. After a period of laboring in which many questions were raised, the clerk asked Friends to lay the matter aside until later in the meeting. (See minute #31, below.)

18. Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Clerk Penelope Wright brought forward the name of Tim Lamm as Yearly Meeting Planning Committee clerk. Friends approved. Other positions to be filled on the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee are adult program coordinator, workshop coordinator, worship sharing coordinator, bookstore coordinator, Junior Yearly Meeting coordinator, and co-registrar.

19. Quakers and Racial Justice Conference

Joan MacKenzie from Asheville Monthly Meeting and Gita Larson from Columbia Friends Meeting attended the Quakers and Racial Justice Conference in October 2001 at Pendle Hill. Joan's report is attached in Appendix C. Among other topics, the conference participants noted a lack of interest in racial justice at the monthly meeting level and sought to understand the roots of this lack of interest. They noted that sometimes Friends' tradition supports inequality more than the tradition supports our testimony of equality. Included in the report is a list of action steps that came out of the conference. Gita read the epistle from the conference, which is also attached in Appendix C. The clerk encouraged monthly meetings to invite Joan and Gita to visit them to share the results of the conference.

20. Iraq visit

With the support of SAYMA and Memphis Friends Meeting, Debra Johnson recently traveled to Iraq with the American Friends Service Committee. The group was able to visit in Iraqi homes and with teachers, artists, and others and to learn first hand how the sanctions against Iraq affect ordinary people. The group also met with more than 30 organizations. An epistle and a list of recommendations from the group are attached in Appendix C. Debra encouraged SAYMA monthly meetings to join the Campaign of Conscience, through which she reported AFSC is doing wonderful work on the ground. A current emphasis is water treatment facilities. Adopting the Peace Pledge is another recommendation. It is important to continue to work for an end to sanctions. Depleted uranium is causing health problems and requires investigation. Finally, dialogue and exchange of information is important as the isolation experienced by the Iraqis has impacted medical care and many other fields. The clerk encouraged Friends to invite Debra to their monthly meetings.

21. Ecological Concerns Network energy use survey

Bill Reynolds presented a report based on 130 responses to the Ecological Concerns Network energy use survey. The full report is attached in Appendix C. Areas ripe for improvement include using compact fluorescent light bulbs, more efficient heating, choosing cars with higher gas mileage, buying Energy Star appliances, and drying clothes outdoors or on inside drying racks. Friends do a good job of conserving energy by avoiding yard work and by using human muscle to do much of their yard and garden work. The ECN wants to assist Friends to answer the urgent call in SAYMA's minute on global climate change.

22. Friends Committee on Unity with Nature

Kim Carlyle submitted a report on Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, which is attached in Appendix D.

He reported on Quaker Eco-Witness, a project of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature. QEW is supporting a Quaker intern in Washington and seeks financial support for this project. The group is organizing a conference on ecology and economy at Pendle Hill in spring 2003. They are also focusing on the connections between peacemaking and the environment. They have sent a questionnaire to all U.S. Quaker meetings and churches.

23. Handbook Committee

On behalf of the ad hoc committee appointed to develop a charge for a Handbook Committee, Dennis Gregg presented the following proposed minute:

After consideration by the Faith and Practice Committee, it is recommended that a separate Handbook Committee be established to update and complete the creation of a SAYMA handbook. The handbook is an organizational manual of current practices that functions as a guide to the operation of SAYMA as an organization. It includes such things as job descriptions for all yearly meeting positions, procedures for handling money, and procedures for organizing the yearly meeting gathering. It does not include procedures that affect the spiritual life of the yearly meeting such as procedures for membership or marriage which properly belong in *Faith and Practice*.

The charge to this new committee is to receive a copy of the existing work that has been done in creating a handbook, to review with current SAYMA officers whether the procedures described accurately reflect current practice, and where there are areas not previously described, to facilitate the completion of these sections.

Friends agreed to appoint an ad hoc Handbook Committee to review the handbook to be appointed by the clerk.

24. Connection between Faith and Practice Revisions Committee and Handbook Committee

Friends returned to the third recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revisions Committee. The committee sought affirmation of its understanding that the committee is in good order when it discerns details about procedures found in *Faith and Practice* that need to be shifted to the handbook and refers these to the Handbook Committee. Friends approved.

25. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Kendall Ivie presented the following report:

SAYMA currently has \$22,510 in available funds plus \$7,760 in dedicated funds. See the Account Balances Report for details.

For the fiscal 2002 year to date, SAYMA has income of \$54,932 and expenses of \$63,915 leaving a net loss of \$8,983. Details of income and expense to date are included in the FY 2003 Proposed Budget.

The Treasurer requests that reimbursement requests be submitted in a timely manner.

The Account Balances Report is included in Appendix C.

In response to questions, the treasurer stated that about \$8,000 more in income is expected in this fiscal year. Most expenditures have already been made. The yearly meeting does not currently have liability insurance.

Friends thanked the treasurer for his report and his work.

26. Finance Committee report and budget

Chris Berg presented the following report for the Finance Committee:

I wish to thank the members of the Finance Committee and its liaisons for the work accomplished this year: Peter Reilly, Berea; Dick Houghton, Nashville; Karen Morris, SAYF; Mary Ann Downey, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. I have benefited from significant support from our SAYMA clerk, the Personnel Committee and its clerk, John Geary, from Penelope Wright and other contributors from several groups and meetings. I would like to offer special appreciation to Kendall Ivie, our treasurer. Penny Wright and I are eager to hear from anyone who wishes a comparable experience as our next treasurer.

The year's accomplishments include approval of a cost of living allowance for SAYMA staff, and a decision to set a lump sum payment in lieu of health benefits. A recommendation was made to forego formal auditing in favor of a biennial review of the books, normally to coincide with a change in the treasurer. A decision was made to reimburse staff travel to SAYMA functions at the IRS mileage rate. It is recommended to limit the treasurer's term to four consecutive years.

Our principal recommendation is in the form of the revised budget for Fiscal Year 2003 now being distributed. It includes a reduction in the assessment from \$55 to \$50 annually per member and regular attender. The rationale is that while SAYMA should carry a financial balance, our resources would be better used if our balance was kept at a lower level. We suggest \$10,000 as offering a sufficient margin for contingencies and efficient operation. The \$50 recommended assessment gives reasonable assurance that this asset level will be maintained.

Continuing unresolved concerns for the committee include identifying a source of liability insurance for SAYMA, which is increasingly important as we undertake our responsibility as an employer.

Further research is needed to decide whether it is advisable to establish 501(c)(3) charitable status.

Attention is needed to develop guidance for delegates to wider Quaker organizations regarding appropriate expenditures.

The committee also recommends that whenever practicable monthly meetings make estimated quarterly or semiannual payments of the assessment to SAYMA. This would improve our ability to manage financial risk.

The committee reminds Friends that our normal process for deciding upon expenditures is to take recommendations from monthly meetings, program committees of SAYMA, or representatives of wider Quaker organizations. Such recommendations are to be forwarded to the Finance Committee by three weeks prior to the spring representative meeting. The Finance Committee will then submit its budget recommendations to spring representative meeting for seasoning. Our hope is to inform Friends of our recommendations for the upcoming budget prior to gathering for yearly meeting.

Today's copies of the proposed budget differ from those distributed yesterday by including corrected amounts for the SAYMA directory and *A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*, and including current year expenditures and annotations.

A Friend asked whether the proposed reduction in assessment would lower the balance below the recommended \$10,000 cushion. The treasurer responded that although it is not possible to predict which categories will not be fully spent, actual expenses overall tend to run lower than budgeted. Another Friend expressed a concern about the proposed \$13,000 deficit and further suggested that a \$30,000 cushion would be more appropriate.

The clerk asked that Friends first consider the budget, then consider the recommendation to reduce the assessment. After discussion, Friends accepted the proposed budget.

Friends then considered whether it would be better to maintain the assessment at its current level of \$55 and use the funds for donations and increased internal uses or to reduce the assessment to \$50 as proposed, thereby allowing monthly meetings greater latitude in the use of their funds. Friends did not reach unity on changing the assessment at this time; thus the assessment stands unchanged at \$55.

The approved budget for Fiscal Year 2003 (July 2002-June 2003), which includes income and expenses to date for Fiscal Year 2002, is included in Appendix C.

27. Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs

Keith Kendall, executive secretary, gave a brief history of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs and described its current program.

28. Welcome of visitor

The clerk welcomed Joe Volk of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

June 23, 2002 – First Day (Sunday), 9:30 am

29. Opening

Meeting opened with a period of silence.

30. Handbook Committee

The clerk appointed Jim Hamill of West Knoxville and Missy Ivie of West Knoxville to the ad hoc Handbook Committee. She invited others interested in serving on the Handbook Committee to let her know of their interest.

31. Minute of concern regarding Israel and Palestine

After a period of worship, Friends found themselves in unity with the following minute:

We, the members of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends, are deeply concerned by events in Palestine and Israel. The Middle East is being dragged to the brink of war by the acts of extremists on all sides. As Friends, we grieve the bloodshed and suffering. We fear the legacy of violence which seems likely to result. We pray for the strength to resist taking sides in this conflict, and to remain focused on being peacemakers. We understand that neither we, nor our government, nor, indeed, the leaders in this conflict, are able to see this situation as clearly as we would wish, or to control it completely, and we hope for patience and compassion on every side until resolution becomes possible. We reject terrorism in all its forms, especially the killing and maiming of people on both sides. We strongly oppose the destruction of the social and economic infrastructure of the Palestinian Territory, the confiscation of Palestinian land and property, the extreme curtailment of freedom of movement for all Palestinians, and the denial of such fundamental human rights as food and medical care to noncombatants.

As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in all people. We cherish the peoples of Israel and Palestine and the lands in which they live. We believe that violence does nothing but create more violence and will never allow the people of this region to live next to each other in peace and the fullness of human joy. We acknowledge that centuries of conflict, oppression, discrimination, poverty and segregation have led to this violence. Both sides of the conflict as well as many outside interests have caused or increased the violence. With such a weighty history, stopping the fighting and creating peace will be a long and arduous task, but it is imperative that we find ways to do so.

We call upon our government to use all its influence to seek:

An immediate end to all violence and assassinations,

An immediate cessation of all settlement activity,

An end to the occupation,

A return to permanent status negotiations leading to two states living side by side based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with mutually agreed-upon land swaps.

Even in the current climate of mistrust and mutual hostility, we believe that the above goals can be reached in the near future, ending the occupation and the conflict.

We implore our United States government to take a different kind of role in the region: to take the lead in providing international protection for the people in the region, to encourage dialogue, to stop our support of the Israeli occupation and to put pressure on the Israeli government to return land to the Palestinians. We ask our government to take the lead as a signatory of a treaty creating a Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Zone Free of all Weapons of Mass Destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Beyond the political responses that we as individuals may choose to make, as Quakers, we will continue to hold all of the people in the area in the Light. We will find ways to support the Quaker Meeting in Ramallah and Ramallah Friends School and all individuals and groups in the region who are seeking peaceful solutions. We will talk with our Jewish, Muslim and Christian friends, relatives and neighbors about this crisis and about our belief that there is a peaceful solution, which, although difficult to achieve, will be better than violence. We will search for "ways that open" which will help lead the world to a time of peace.

This minute is reprinted in Appendix C.

32. Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Representative meeting placed the possibility of establishing a standing Peace and Social Concerns Committee on the agenda of yearly meeting. Four monthly meetings have since recommended the creation of such a committee.

The clerk proposed a charge for a standing Peace and Social Concerns Committee. She reminded Friends that a standing committee needs funds for operation and creating one would have budgetary implications.

A Friend spoke to the importance of cooperation between the Peace and Social Concerns Committee with other SAYMA groups, such as the Ecological Concerns Network. This concern was incorporated into the charge.

Friends authorized the formation of a standing Peace and Social Concerns Committee and approved the following charge:

To serve the yearly meeting, the standing Committee on Peace and Social Concerns will:

1. Provide a support mechanism for seasoning minutes and actions brought to the yearly meeting through contact and work with monthly meetings.
2. Foster communication between monthly meeting Peace and Social Concerns committees regarding the varied activities in our yearly meeting region.
3. Report to representative and yearly meetings.
4. Bring minutes of concern to yearly meeting with recommendations for action and dissemination of approved minutes.
5. Operate as part of the whole by coordination with other committees working within SAYMA.

The clerk and assistant clerk are appointed by the yearly meeting, with membership by volunteers.

The Nominating Committee will seek a clerk and assistant clerk for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and will bring those names forward perhaps as early as September representative meeting.

33. Minute of concern regarding the death penalty

Friends referred the development of a minute on the death penalty to the newly authorized Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

34. Minute of concern regarding the Peace Tax Fund

On behalf of Atlanta Friends Meeting, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton presented a proposed minute on the Peace Tax Fund. After numerous statements of support, Friends approved the following minute.

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association expresses its support of those who are conscientiously opposed to war taxes, in keeping with our more than 350-year religious witness for peace and our historical peace testimony that: "We do utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever." We ask that our elected officials support and work for the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (currently HR 1186) as a way of recognizing our deep commitment to peace and social justice. We thank Representative John Lewis for introducing this legislation and ask all U.S. Congressional Representatives to join in co-sponsorship of the bill.

HR 1186 will allow legally defined conscientious objectors to pay 100 percent of their taxes into a separate fund that will be used only for government spending that is not for a military purpose. The level of contribution to this fund will be annually entered into the Congressional Record, and information about the fund will be published in both the tax return form and the instruction booklet. The apportionment powers of Congress will not be restricted while relief of suffering will be granted to tens of thousands otherwise not able to earn above the taxable level of income or otherwise forced to refuse payment of taxes.

This minute is reprinted in Appendix C.

35. Use of minutes

The clerk reminded Friends that minutes of concern need to be carried forward. Susan Penn offered to coordinate the dissemination of the minute on Israel and Palestine.

36. Junior Yearly Meeting

The clerk called on Assistant Clerk John Geary to preside while she raised a concern about Junior Yearly Meeting.

Sharon Annis explained that this year no coordinator was found for Junior Yearly Meeting. She proposed establishing an ad hoc committee to review the religious education program for our youngest Friends. The committee would bring to next yearly meeting a recommendation on how to best serve these Friends, perhaps through the creation of a standing Steering Committee. The ad hoc committee would also coordinate next year's JYM program.

Several Friends spoke to the history of the Junior Yearly Meeting program and the need for nurturing our children through supporting this proposal. Friends approved. Friends who are interested in serving on the Junior Yearly Meeting Committee were asked to speak to the clerk.

37. Junior Yearly Meeting report

Junior Yearly Meeting Friends presented a most entertaining skit, "Caps for Sale," sang this year's favorite song, "I Wish I Were an Oscar Mayer Wiener," and shared their personal highlights. Finally they offered the following epistle of advice to grown-ups.

- Don't try so hard to have fun. You don't have to spend a lot of money. You don't have to have lots of fancy stuff. Just go in the back yard and play with your kids.
- Show your emotions. Kids show emotions a lot more than grown ups.
- Don't read boring books.
- Don't lose your sense of humor.
- Don't judge things by how exotic and fancy they are. We should judge things by how fun they are. If you didn't come into the world to have fun, what did you come into the world for?
- Don't spray paint unless it's for a good cause.
- Don't kill something just to have something dead on your scavenger list.
- Use your resources wisely.
- Take a day off.
- Don't punch anyone.
- Violence isn't cool or entertaining.
- The death penalty is just killing more people.
- What's the use of killing more people in Afghanistan than were ever killed in New York?
- War is pointless because violence just causes more violence.
- Don't plan to bomb Memphis because some of us live in Memphis.
- Try not to waste food.
- Don't put your toxic waste in other countries.
- Don't incinerate nerve gas — it goes into the air and lands on people (like me).
- Why the heck are you building nuclear warheads if you say you are not going to use them?
- Don't bomb other places because God has a reason for making them.

38. Registrar's report

Co-Registrar Carol Gray reported that 233 Friends were in attendance at this yearly meeting. The registrar's report is attached.

39. Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Clerk Penelope Wright brought forward the following names:

Position	Person	Term Ends
Finance Committee Member	Charles Schade	'04
Co-Registrar (second term)	Missy Ivie	'04
Liaison/Local Arrangements	Bob Welch	'03
American Friends Service Committee Corporation	Free Polazzo	'04

American Friends Service Committee		
Southeast Region Office Executive Committee	Pam Beziat	'03
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns	Annie Black	'04
(shared position)	Dolph Goldenburg	'04

The Ministry and Nurture Committee has offered to take up the responsibility of coordinating worship sharing groups for yearly meeting. Bob McGahey will serve as contact.

Friends approved these nominations. The full slate approved throughout the course of yearly meeting is included in Appendix C.

The Nominating Committee will work between now and September representative meeting to find Friends to serve in the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Adult Program Coordinator
- Workshop Coordinator
- Junior Yearly Meeting Coordinator
- Liaison/Local Arrangements (one or two more)
- Bookstore Coordinator
- Site Selection Committee
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee Clerk
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee Assistant Clerk
- Archivist

40. Southern Appalachian Young Friends

Young Friends presented the following report.

August Nurturing Committee Retreat at Rooney Lamm's house in Berea: One of the major issues discussed was the re-organization and combination of guidelines and expectations to stress their importance. It was decided that, for the sake of consistency and clarity, the presentation of these guidelines should be done by the same two or three Nurturers when at all feasible. Also the Nurturing Committee decided the expectations and guidelines should be presented more seriously so as to allow newcomers to realize their importance.

September Retreat in Chapel Hill: This retreat was canceled due to the concern Friends voiced immediately following the events of September 11.

October Retreat in Chapel Hill: This retreat was originally planned to take place in Penn Center, but because the September retreat was canceled, we congregated in Chapel Hill out of respect for the Chapel Hill planning committee. We held a beautiful sunset worship which concluded with the placement of floating candles in the water.

November Retreat in Asheville: The theme for this retreat was spirituality and sexuality; a thought-provoking panel of speakers shared their experiences with us.

January Retreat in Knoxville: To help us abandon our misconceptions and understand Islam, we visited a mosque and shared our experiences about religion with the

Muslim group. We then engaged in several community service projects with their youth.

February Retreat in Atlanta: A large portion of the Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business was devoted to the topic of eldering. Another topic presented was the issue of young Friends leaving during a retreat; much clearness was reached and a revised mission statement was approved.

March Retreat in Asheville: The theme of this retreat was Conscientious Objection, and one of the activities was a CO workshop led by Bill O'Connell. There was also a dance, and much fun was had by all.

April Retreat in Atlanta: This retreat was held at a state park with the theme of simplicity. We slept outside on a freestanding screen porch, had a guided meditation, and a silent hour.

SAYMA: We had a variety of workshops that we chose, as well as workshops about meditation, clear thinking, Quaker process, and inclusiveness. We had a lot of fun, both within SAYF and visiting the wider community. Also, we say thank you, thank you for the beautiful new dorms. So thank you, thank you — for everything.

41. Appreciation for service

The clerk expressed the yearly meeting's appreciation for the work of many Friends in service to the yearly meeting throughout the past year.

42. Young Adult Friends

Young Adult Friends presented the following "YAF 'Pistle" to the tune of "Simple Gifts."

Tis a gift to be at SAYMA,
Tis a gift to be YAF,
Tis a gift to worship-share
And sing and laugh.
And when we find a movie
And some snacks late at night,
We will bond with graduates
And share our inner light.
Sadly, we never did play Wink;
But we had a good time with SAYFers, we think.
We talked about our colleges
And where we're going next,
And why our lives and futures
Are so . . . darn . . . complex.

Tis a gift to go to worship,
Tis a gift to sleep late;
How we manage both
Is a source of much debate.
We drag ourselves to meals
And we worship with adults,
Though zoning out at business meeting

Makes us feel like dolts.
When old and new friends have been fused,
We'll bond over memories
And catch the latest news.
Our numbers have risen
And our group is taking flight,
And we trust that in turning
We'll come round right.

43. Epistle Committee

Barbara Esther presented the epistle drafted by the Epistle Committee. After minor changes, Friends approved the following epistle.

To Friends Everywhere:

We greet you from the lovely campus of Warren Wilson College near the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina where we held the 32nd session of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). Our theme this year was "Turning, We Come Round Right," which was reflected in many of our yearly meeting activities.

Yearly meeting was opened on Sixth Month 20, 2002, with song and intergenerational games. Following that, each meeting and worship group gave a brief review of its annual state of the meeting report.

On the next evening we gathered to hear five Friends share their experience of turning and the insights gained in coming round right. Friends were encouraged to pursue their personal spiritual turnings then and throughout the weekend. Both the stories of these Friends and the workshops presented called us to a stronger witness in the face of troubling world events. Worship sharing queries led us inward to examine our own leadings and turnings.

Meeting for Worship for Business labored with and approved a minute on Israel and Palestine. It is hoped that the minute will support those working diligently for peace as well as influence a change in foreign policy. Friends can return to their monthly meetings continuing to explore application of the Quaker Peace Testimony in the Middle East. One Friend has volunteered to create a cover letter for this minute and a list of recipients which will facilitate the dissemination of the leading of our yearly meeting.

We heard reports from many committees and individuals as we considered wise use of our finances and the work of wider Quaker organizations. Results of an ecological survey indicated several areas in which SAYMA Friends can improve. However, it seems we already excel in energy conservation by doing very little yard and garden work.

The yearly meeting was moved by a report from Debra Johnson of her trip to Iraq under the guidance of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This Friend reported that great needs exist in the areas of education, health, and water purification. Friend Johnson pointed out the sharing of the part of the residents of the

region regarding long-term devastating effects of the depleted uranium contained in weapons used by the Allies around Basra in Southern Iraq during the Gulf War. She urged Friends to support the lifting of sanctions, to join the Campaign of Conscience and to begin a dialogue to bring the Iraqi people out of their sense of isolation.

Two Friends, Joan MacKenzie and Gita Larsen, reported on the conference at Pendle Hill entitled, "Quakers and Racial Justice." It is hoped that they will share their experience and what they learned with monthly meetings as Friends grow in sensitivity to practices that can be received as racist or exclusionary.

Once again our teens in Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) joined adults in workshops, meals, a talent show and other social activities. We were delighted to have several Young Adult Friends in our midst. Our Junior Yearly Meeting children swam, played and enjoyed the turning of the season with the warm showers and sunny weather this summer solstice weekend. The yearly meeting will be forming a committee to nurture and plan for the full experience of our younger Friends.

A new committee on Peace and Social Concerns was approved as a clearinghouse to foster better cooperation and communication to support and season efforts of yearly meeting committees, monthly meetings and worship groups. A minute on the death penalty will be an agenda for this newly formed committee when its members convene. Friends finalized a minute on population sustainability. We also approved a minute supporting HR 1186 which allows for a Peace Tax Fund to be chosen instead of support of the military budget. Friends are reminded that peace on earth is also peace with earth.

Friends of SAYMA are grateful for the many examples of turning round right we can look to in the past and present. We seek the opportunity to continue in this tradition to turn round right as the Spirit leads us.

44. Approval of minutes

Friends approved these minutes throughout the course of the Yearly Meeting, subject to final editing by the clerk and the recording clerk.

Sharon Annis, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Carol Lamm, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Asheville Monthly Meeting
Athens Monthly Meeting
Atlanta Monthly Meeting
Berea Monthly Meeting
Birmingham Monthly Meeting
Boone Monthly Meeting
Brevard Monthly Meeting
Celo Monthly Meeting
Chattanooga Monthly Meeting
Charleston Monthly Meeting
Cleveland Worship Group
Columbia Monthly Meeting
Cookeville Worship Group
Crossville Monthly Meeting
Foxfire Monthly Meeting
Greenville Monthly Meeting
Huntsville Monthly Meeting
Memphis Monthly Meeting
Nashville Monthly Meeting
New Moon Worship Group
Swannanoa Monthly Meeting
West Knoxville Monthly Meeting

(pagination may differ from the original)

**Asheville Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
Sixth Month, 2002**

As has doubtless been the case with other Friends meetings during the past year, Asheville's worship and action has been deeply inflected by ongoing events. One of our members was called to bear witness by accepting arrest and confinement in protest conducted against the use of the island of Vieques as a bombing range. Other members of Meeting reacted to the events of 9/11 by joining other faith groups in reaching out to our neighbor Muslim community with assistance and support. The attack upon the Taliban inspired some Meeting members to engage in public vigils for peace.

Meanwhile, the Meeting has engaged in prayerful and sedulous consideration of the ways in which our Quaker testimonies relate to our present national condition. Out of these communal processes has come a statement of "concern" which has united us in the conviction that we all have "the capacity to access" the "infinite Source of unrelenting love in the universe" in seeking "new ways to apply our commitment to nonviolence" and "to corporate and individual actions." To this end, we are developing a list of proposed actions which would be practicable, meliorative in their effects and unifying for the Meeting. Given the range of perceptions of our country's situation that can be found among us, this is not a simple task.

The life of the Meeting continues in its usual ways. Our monthly newsletter is generally about ten pages long and provides members with a print forum for discussion of their spiritual and social concerns as well as the record of meeting minutes. While individual contributions to it frequently enrich us with inspirational messages, it is not unusual to find opinions expressed which bring varied insights to controversial matters.

The Meeting has experimented with different ways of introducing our young people to Meeting for Worship and efforts to promote inter-generational experience continue. Several attenders of Quaker colleges from among our youth are given assistance. The First Day school members regularly conduct their own Meetings for Worship and Business and their minutes appear along with the Meeting's in the newsletter. Among their undertakings have been those which supported Hospice, the animal shelter, UNICEF, the local "Mother Love" project and some of our youth have worked for the "Manna Food Bank" and Habitat for Humanity. Plans are proceeding with due deliberation for the construction of an addition to the meetinghouse which would provide us with a more apposite and commodious worship space and free up room for First Day School activities.

The Meeting was pleased to assist members to receive the benefits of an experience at Pendle Hill and derived satisfaction from the fact that one of our members was instrumental in bringing a distinguished speaker to Asheville for the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration. The Meeting hosted a two-day workshop and forum entitled "Non-violence In Personal and Political Life". Our regular forums, now called our spiritual enrichment program, deal with a wide range of issues and subjects from the death penalty to the rights of gays and Lesbians. Friendly Eights, our group dinner meetings, continue to serve the purposes of helping members become more "friendly" and of having opportunities for serious discussion of matters of concern. Fourteen Friends made a nine-month commitment to daily spiritual

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

practice and to two meetings each month for a program, under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, entitled "Spiritual Formation".

After prolonged consideration the Ministry and Oversight Committee concluded that its tasks would be more satisfactorily performed if it were bifurcated into a committee to be called Ministry and Worship and a second committee called Care and Counsel with responsibilities reflective of their titles.

We were saddened by the loss of two long-time Friends this year. They were Sarah Watson and Lucille Carlson. Four Friends were welcomed into membership and five Friends transferred their membership to our Meeting. There was an increase of about five in the number of persons who began to appear with some regularity at Meeting as attenders. At this point we have approximately 66 adult members. It is difficult to determine how many attenders we have but on a typical First Day the number is about ten to twenty per cent of the total.

Submitted by Hal Hogstrom,
Co-clerk

State of the Meeting Report
Athens (Georgia) Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting of S.A.Y.M.A.
Sixth Month, 2002 (year 2001-2002)

We have experienced a difficult year, struggling with illness in ourselves, our families, and each other. We have tried to provide mutual nurturing through the healing process.

We are grateful for the efforts of our past clerk, Jason Lang, and our new co-clerks, Betsey Collins and Patricia Ridley. Weekly attendance at meeting for worship ranges from 5 to 15.

We welcomed several new members, some new to the meeting, and some long-time attenders. Several cherished families left our meeting, moving from Athens this year. Potluck lunches or dinners were held to welcome and wish farewell to those coming and going. The meeting sends birthday and other special occasion cards to present and past members and attenders. They are a joy to send and receive.

Neighborhood and Community Involvement - We developed closer ties with our neighborhood by hosting an ice cream social last summer and by attending quarterly potlucks with Oconee Methodist Church. Oconee Methodist owns the building where we meet and is located across the street from us. We supported their efforts to renovate their kitchen, which is used to prepare free lunches for the community. Together, we helped a trailer park resident move and find a new home as part of Athens' effort to help displaced trailer park residents. After much preparation, a sign announcing our presence has been erected in front of the Meetinghouse. Now you can find us if you come to visit!

We continue to be part of Faith Forum and the ARK, local faith group coalitions to provide for community support and action. We held a garage sale to raise funds for a new public school Montessori class where one of our members is teaching.

Religious/Personal Development - A series of discussions and presentations on caring for aging parents was held throughout the fall and winter. Many of us benefitted from shared wisdom and outside speakers. The only regret expressed was from a member who missed too many sessions due to time spent caring for her own aging parents.

A number of us spent a fall weekend at Hard Labor Creek State Park for a retreat on the peace testimony. We had discussions, watched the Friendly Persuasion video, shared dinner and a campfire. The retreat closed with worship on first day.

Our first day school attenders consist primarily of several older boys. The boys studied JAVA, a computer programming language during the fall and winter. Currently, first day school consists of joint gospel study/discussions with the adults once a month. We have program materials and volunteers ready to serve new attenders. One of our youths attends SAYF regularly. First day school is working with the meeting to learn more about the situation in Columbia and to assemble peace kits for distribution by AFSC.

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Holidays - As has become traditional, the meeting held a Christmas party and wrapped presents to donate to a family we have sponsored for many years. In addition to Christmas presents, we helped our sponsored family with a new gas heater and their gas bill. Our Easter worship was held in two places: at the meetinghouse and the State Botanical Garden as the weather was uncertain and so were we.

Peace and Social Justice - We have gathered several times to write political letters, particularly about pending executions. We share FCNL notices regarding urgent letter-writing actions. Sarah Woodard from the Center for Development in Central America visited and we sponsored her talks and crafts sales over a 3-day period.

Communications and Networking - A group of friends from Clemson met with us for worship and second hour discussion. We described our experience as a relatively recently formed small meeting.

In addition to an almost-monthly newsletter, we maintain a web page and list serve at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Athens_quaker_list.

Atlanta Friends Meeting

State of the Meeting Report 2001

Declaration to Charles II, 1661: *We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world.*

We continue our journey of seeking as a spiritual community, with even more questions.

The events of September 11th have brought into sharp focus for many of us the importance of our Quaker testimonies in our lives. We are called to renew our commitment to a 'righteous peace' that begins with the examination of ourselves, and the true recognition of equality among all children of the Spirit.

Ministry & Worship

The Ministry & Worship Committee worked to nurture a vibrant, inclusive spiritual community which provides persons with differing and deeply held beliefs with an opportunity to worship together, seek the unity of the Light and a sense of common purpose. The Committee continued its efforts to welcome new members and attenders who find our worship and community a place to begin or continue their spiritual search. We continued to work to assist newcomers to learn more about Quakerism and to become part of our spiritual community. We encouraged vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship as led by the Spirit.

During the year, Ron Nuse and Kathie Klein were welcomed into membership. Tom and Penny Baugh transferred their membership to the Chattanooga Meeting and Lorne and Beth Garretson transferred their membership to Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. Kathy Marth withdrew from membership.

In April, Ministry and Worship sponsored a workshop by Richard Barnes on the topic of Unity among Friends in which he compared the beliefs and practices of Universalist and Christ-Centered Friends. The workshop was well attended and well received. The Committee successfully encouraged increased attendance at SAYMA and at the FGC Gathering since it was close by in Virginia.

Ministry and Worship helped to implement a 9:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship which was an outgrowth of the Meeting's attempt to better address the needs of Meeting children and First Day School teachers. The 9:00 a.m. Meeting has since met routinely. The Committee worked with the Friend's School of Atlanta to bring Deborah Saunders to Atlanta to provide a workshop for Meeting First Day School students and adults. Her talk on creating a diverse spiritual community was especially timely in the wake of the events of September 11th.

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Ministry and Worship sponsored a celebration to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Meetinghouse and the 50th anniversary of the Meeting. The celebration was focused on recommitting ourselves to the Meeting and the work of Quakerism. Several long-term members of the Meeting who have moved away were able to attend and a peace pole donated by Elizabeth Hendrix was set in the grounds.

At several points during the year Ministry and Worship was involved in consideration of ways to accommodate singing as part of worship. The Committee agreed to participate in an Earlham School of Religion study of vitality in Friends Meetings and will be seeking ways to use the resulting information to maintain the vitality of our Meeting.

Oversight Committee

The Oversight Committee has dealt with its usual tasks over the last year, including building and grounds maintenance, lessee and tenant relationships, employee reviews, renewed leases and rental rate structures. The committee continues to strive to incorporate discussions about racism, and white privilege and their effects on the work of our committee, conversations that we began in 2000 at the request of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The committee has begun a database of contractors and service providers of color, primarily African American. We also consulted with the Young Friends Oversight Committee as they developed a position description and began the interview process for hiring a coordinator of Young Friends' activities.

Our reflections on the effects of racism on the work of our committee led us to approve a minute to guide our work on behalf of the Meeting. Our intent was shared at the end of the year 2000 in Meeting for Business and brought back with accurate wording in Third month, 2001. Meeting for Business expressed a desire to approve such a Minute, but was not in unity about the intention or the wording. After laboring over the next several months, the committee decided not to change the wording. Instead, we asked Meeting for Business to approve our work, including continuing discussions on the impact of racism on the work of the committee, and holding a Meeting for Threshing in October, on the wording and intentions expressed in the committee's original Minute. We also issued a written explanation of our thinking and reasoning during the process of reflection. Throughout our discussions this year, which were at times emotional, painful and enlightening, white members of the committee have acknowledged that they have been moved to new understandings of racism and racial insensitivity. The words of the minute are as follows:

The Oversight Committee states its intention to hire African Americans and other persons of color as individuals or businesses, as a way to confront our racism and redress historic economic disenfranchisement.

Religious Education Committee

About 100 students attended the First Day classes and nursery with an average of around 50 students per week. First day students studied Quaker values and practices, the Bible, and current events. The youth practiced our values while participating in service and outreach projects such as the "Souper Bowl", collecting money for UNICEF, and writing a letter to Oakhurst Baptist Church supporting their fair

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

treatment of gays and lesbians. The Religious Education Committee recruited teachers for the 2000 - 2001 school year and bought new curriculum materials.

A 9:00 a.m. worship period proposed by the Committee was implemented in September.

The committee sponsored activities including a forum about the worship schedule, a teacher worship sharing session, Youth Sunday, a book sale fundraiser, and a Holiday Party.

Our Role As Individuals In America's Racial History (ORAIARH)

ORAIARH continued in 2001 as a group working to change Our Roles as Individuals in America's Racial History. White members of the group held themselves accountable for their own racist thoughts and actions, and for the times when they remained silent when racism appeared around them. ORAIARH took on responsibility for changing those patterns, meeting weekly, and sponsoring two workshops on Personal Racism. On a weekly basis, they also staffed a table with handouts about racism weekly and helped make books on racism available in the library, by purchasing and cataloguing them.

Translation of Report on Scholarships for Popular Teachers in El Salvador

In accordance with the agreement of cooperation between CRC and the Atlanta Friends Meeting, we hereby send the first report for the first year of this project. The full name of CRC is Committee for Reconstruction and Economic/Social Development of the Communities of Suchitoto. The word 'communities' is used for small villages near the town of Suchitoto. These villages are within the town government, rather like villages within a county in the US.

Three teachers benefitted from the project with scholarships for university study between July and November in the amount of 900 Colones per month for each teacher. The teachers completed their second year of university studies as well as teaching a total of 75 students in the communities of Las Delicias, La Mora and San Antonio. For greater detail, we have included general information about the teachers as well as documentation regarding the scholarships received.

General Details of Teachers Receiving Scholarships:

Name	Study Location	School	Grade Levels Taught	No. of Students		Total Students
				Girls	Boys	
Elias Alas Alas	Univ Don Bosco	Las Delicias	5th & 6th	14	16	30
Maria Irma Rivera	Univ Luterana	La Mora	2nd	11	10	21
Salvadora Antonia Vasquez	Univ Don Bosco	San Antonio	Kindergarten	11	13	<u>24</u>
						75

The scholarship total amount for two years is \$4,000 (35,000 Colones) of which \$1,543 (13,500 Colones) was used in 2001. The report concludes with copies of the check authorization and the receipt signed by the student for each of the five (5) payments of 900 Colones that each student received. We did not feel it necessary to translate these documents. *Translation and commentary by Frank and Carol Cummings.*

As we walk together, we remember to nurture each other and ourselves. Our journey continues in forgiveness, joy, peace, gratitude and love.

The Quaker testimony concerning war does not set up as its standard of value the attainment of individual or national safety, ... It is based ultimately on the conception of 'that of God in every man' to which the

Christian in the presence of evil is called on to make appeal, following out a line of thought and conduct which, involving suffering as it may do, is, in the long run, the most likely to reach to the inward witness and so change the evil mind into the right mind. This result is not achieved by war. A. Neave Brayshaw (1921)

The State of the Meeting report was approved, May 19, 2002.

On December 31, 2001, Atlanta Friends Meeting had 101 active members in the Atlanta area, 29 members who no longer are in the Atlanta area, and 9 inactive members in the Atlanta area (they are recorded but are not listed in the meeting directory).

Berea Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
April 21, 2002

This has been an eventful year for Berea Friends Meeting as well as for the nation. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has been more active than in recent years. We were planning a community forum on Iraq before September 11. The attacks in New York and Washington made this forum even more relevant. Attendance was good, and many people signed the petition calling for an end to the economic boycott. We donated blankets to Afghanistan. We were also pleased that two of our members could attend the SAYMA peace consultation in February and bring back word of the work other Meetings are doing. At Christmas time, we again packaged cookies for the inmates at our county jail, which were at a record number this year. In recent weeks, we donated retreat space and food to the local student activist group, Patriots for Peace, and helped them with their efforts to send delegates to the April march on Washington.

In internal affairs, the problem of finding better meeting space and the question of whether we should own a meeting house continue to be major concerns. We formed a committee to guide us through the process of resolving these issues and have undertaken a trial giving experiment to see how much additional income could be available for purchasing and maintaining a meeting house. We have continued the practice we started last year of having committees and other ad hoc groups meet once every other month during the hour following meeting for worship. And we have had additional successful Wednesday night discussion series; this year's topics were "Plain Living," "Living with Contradictions," and "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time."

We typically have 20-30 adults in meeting for worship and 6-8 children in First Day School. Two people became members this year. Some parents and other Friends organized a "Summer Quaker School" last summer, which was quite successful. The older children recently interviewed an older Friend about his experiences as a CO in World War II. We have two teens that are active in the Meeting. They have been studying the Bible and meet regularly with other teens in an ecumenical youth group.

Not all our meetings have been easy. There is some frustration over the slow pace of progress on the meetinghouse decision. Following up on ideas from a workshop led by Atlanta Friend Mary Ann Downey here a year ago, we struggled over the idea of adopting guidelines for our conduct in meetings for business and ultimately wrote some "Considerations" that are useful for new as well as experienced participants to think about. In recent weeks, an even more difficult situation has arisen and not yet been resolved: harsh words spoken in meeting for worship have led to hurt feelings and lack of emotional safety for some in the Meeting. Through these difficulties, we have the opportunity to develop conflict-resolution skills and to learn how Ministry and Counsel, meetings for worship and business, and personal encounters can work to heal wounds and help us grow stronger in the Spirit.

Birmingham Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
June, 2002

Much of the reportable news from Birmingham revolves around the Meeting House, as owning and maintaining a Meeting House represents a large undertaking for a small Meeting such as ours. Our mortgage financing has been consolidated and is now held by Philadelphia YM's Meeting House Fund. Our tenant/resident Friend moved out to a private apartment, giving rise to a period when we had no rental income. During this time we found that BFM was able to meet its basic financial obligations - but little else - without the aid of rental income. We have recently welcomed a new tenant - not affiliated with the Meeting - and have budgeted a portion of the anticipated rent due the Meeting toward repairs and maintenance of the Meeting House. Throughout the year, we have held monthly "work days" at the Meeting House, and have accomplished much on those occasions to repair and upgrade the grounds and old structure. During these Work Days, one Friend has begun painting a mural on the hallway wall. Also notable in the life of the Meeting this past year was the occasion of hosting a SAYMA Representatives Meeting early in the 9th month - the first time we have hosted a SAYMA Representatives meeting in our Meetinghouse.

Within the Meeting community, we have had two marriages, though not under the care of the Meeting, and there has been one birth, this potentially "swelling" the ranks of our first-day school from 3 to 4.

We hold a Simple Supper once each month, generally on 6th day evening, and the relaxed fellowship is enjoyed by those who attend. We also hosted a Christmas party and pot-luck dinner at the Meeting House, to excellent attendance and good reviews.

Under the heading of social concerns, the Meeting has donated an amount equivalent to its property tax to the neighborhood public school. Three Friends attended the PTO meeting to make the donation, and we have received a letter of appreciation from the school. Friends' opposition to the death penalty has been made known by letters to the editor of the local newspaper and by our hanging a black banner from the Meeting House on the days of scheduled executions. The banner reads: "Today we mourn the execution of a fellow human being." We conducted, prepared, and hosted a lunch for over 200 homeless through the Church of the Reconciler, and are scheduled to host another such meal in 7th month of this year. The lunch project brought out a very good level of participation from the Meeting, and was deemed a success by all; unfortunately, there were some misunderstandings and hurt feelings resulting from the project.

Our second hour programs have included a series of discussions based on the "Realignment" lecture series which was hosted by Pendle Hill in the early 1990's, and most recently, we have undertaken study of the book, John, the Maverick Gospel by Robert Kysar. One second hour session is devoted to social concerns each month, and we have experimented with music both before and after Meeting for Worship.

As for the Meeting itself, we appear to be at a plateau in attendance: there is a core group who attend very regularly and who support the meeting in many ways. We have a number of individuals who attend less regularly or sporadically, and who demonstrate less commitment to the Meeting. As is likely familiar to a number of Meetings, the "swinging door" seems to be much in evidence in Birmingham: one person leaves and then another arrives, producing no great change in numbers over several years. Issues relating

to growth and outreach have been discussed, and we feel that we are doing a better job in being open and accessible to newcomers, though we have yet to implement a number of suggestions and ideas which would target growth and outreach.

As we have undertaken substantial projects, ranging from the purchase and maintenance of the Meetinghouse, organizing and conducting the lunch for the homeless, and in our second hour discussions, we have identified areas where we are of a common mind and areas of differences. And as misunderstandings and differences have arisen, we have come to recognize the challenge of becoming more open and receptive to each other in our differences.

Paul Franklin, Clerk

**Boone Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
Sixth Month Two Thousand and Two**

Boone Friends Meeting continues to meet each week. During this year we have stayed true to the Spirit as we have shared our testimonies with our community. Blending with the theme of this year's Yearly Meeting, Boone Friends turned round right. Early in the year we were challenged by an attender who questioned our faith and in his challenges to us, made us more firm in knowing who we were. After the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center some members of our Meeting started a weekly prayer vigil which was open to the community. Although attendance was small we did find comfort in our search for peace.

The Meeting has physically moved again. We are currently meeting in the office suites of one of our attenders. This space is very comfortable and centrally located. We are grateful for the generosity of this Friend. We continue with our children's program each week. We have adult First Day once each month. We try to have a "Quaker Forum" once each month as well. This often becomes seasonal. We review a query prior to each Meeting for Business.

Our children's First Day class sponsored a sale for service again this year. We sold hand made crafts and canned goods to raise money which was donated to the American Friends Service Committee and our local food pantry.

We remain affiliated with Piedmont Friends Fellowship as well as SAYMA and have some attenders who frequently attend their gatherings.

We had one new birth in our meeting and at the request of his parents he has been listed as a full member of our Meeting.

We give thanks to the Spirit for leading us through another year and pray for guidance as we turn, turn, turn.

In peace

Michael S. Harless, Clerk
Boone Friends Meeting

BREVARD (NC) FRIENDS MEETING

Report to SAYMA Yearly Meeting

June 20, 2002

Members: 16 Adults

Attenders: 21

Average attendance at Worship: 15

Our meeting was saddened by the death of **Lois French** on Dec. 19, 2001. She had attended our Meeting for 15 years, and was our treasurer for the past 3½ years. She will be greatly missed.

Average attendance at Meeting for Worship has remained steady, but we have had as many as 38 and as few as 7. On occasion we have two or three students from Brevard College and two or three times a year we have a group of high school students from Eagle's Nest Foundation. However, most of our attenders are from the upper reaches of the age spectrum. We have some middle-agers, only one family with teens, and one with a child. We have a number of visitors throughout the year. For our regulars it continues to be a meaningful experience, having a good combination of silence and verbal ministry. We ran two series of ads in our local newspaper about our Meeting with no noticeable effect with regard to new visitors or attenders.

One of our most pleasant activities is our monthly "Meeting for Eating" (potluck) following Meeting for Worship on the First Sunday, a nurturing time in many ways.

We have had no First Day School sessions as no children have attended, but we have several leaders who stand at the ready when needed. Our adult forum, which meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays before Worship, continues to meet the needs of those who want to discuss issues of faith and practice.

More than a year ago we began holding our Meetings for Business every other month, since we usually do not have a great many things to consider, and this has seemed to be sufficient.

We have one group of Friendly Eights which meets monthly, and one which meets occasionally. These groups help to enrich the lives of those attending as well as the life of the Meeting in general.

Our Meeting Newsletter, published by **Jesse Mock**, an occasional e-mail and/or telephone message, and various one-to-one contacts are the ways we stay in contact with each other, especially with those unable to attend regularly.

We continue our participation in Koinonia (11 local faith communities seeking to work and worship together at various times through the year). Several have followed the lead of our member **Dorothy Mock** in working for a Moratorium of the Death Penalty: signing petitions individually and as a group, supporting vigils, and holding a public debate on this issue at Brevard College.

We support with money and volunteers the work of Sharing House (food, clothing, and other assistance) and the Dispute Settlement Center which our Meeting helped to establish. Members and attenders are active in a host of other service activities: literacy, hospice, mental health, camps, tutoring, prison reform, and letter writing about local and national issues.

During this past year, we have not been successful in having any of us attend SAYMA's

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

representative meetings or yearly meeting. We miss this connection and hope this can be remedied.

Peace and Love
[**Approved, Meeting for Business, May 19, 2002**]

Celo Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting – 2002

Celo Meeting has been alive with energy this year. We have 20 members, 16 children who take part in our first day school and 11 regular Attenders. We will continue our connection with our associate members (children of members) until they reach 21 and communicate the possibilities of a letter of introduction to another meeting or a clearness committee for membership. Regular attenders received a letter thanking them for all they do for the meeting and asking them to consider membership. We welcomed with great pleasure two new members this year Christine Fletcher and Marmon Thompson. In the aftermath of 9/11, many new attenders have joined in worship. Barbara Wulff and her family will spend a year in New Zealand. They were given a traveling minute.

We have three active age-groups in First Day School- Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School. Activities have covered many areas including Quaker history and current events, in the aftermath of 9/11. The older group is collecting food for Reconciliation House; all are making clay magnets to raise money for Heifer Project.

The work of the spirit has been alive in the meeting, with deep vocal ministry and committed response to our own community and peace and social concerns. This is expressed through meeting for worship, social concerns committee, meeting for business, called threshing sessions, and email exchange of articles and ideas. We plan to have a threshing session on the use of email: its appropriate utilization and its effect on the quality of our spirit-led decision-making. We will continue to use it for messages, in addition to the phone tree, and for communication of information only. We revisited the construction of a new meetinghouse because of renewed concerns about right use of materials and left with a renewed understanding of the necessity of construction. We have raise \$48,600 toward this project and will continue fundraising as we work on the plans for the building.

We have continued to deepen ongoing spiritual life of all members using queries about vocal ministry and eldering, and workshops on meditation by Geeta McGahey and on Centering Prayer by Chris Ravendal to supplement members' individual reading, prayer and retirement. Members have been encouraged to see distractions in meeting as opportunities to deepen worship and continue holding each other in the light.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has continued promoting the HIP program in which several members participate. Kara Vana, from AFSC_SERO, presented an informative report about her visits with peace groups in Israel and on the West Bank. We had an Indian meal fundraiser, raising \$500 to be shared with RSWR and relief work in Chamoli, Garhwal. We also set up a fund for the Water in the Desert Program, supported an attender in her friendship with a death row inmate (who sadly was executed), and have focused much of our work on the aftermath of 9/11. We held a vigil, are sharing articles, and are focusing on issues of military service. The meeting approved a minute proposing a peace and social concerns committee at the YM level, which has been forwarded. In the fall, we could not come to unity on the minute proposed at YM 01 on Palestine, but were able to draft and have Celo MM on a significant revision, which we called the Middle East minute. It was published in the Yancey Times Journal and has been forwarded to the SAYMA committee that is working on this issue. We are updating our Conscientious Objector materials.

As issues and concerns come up we address them quickly and effectively. We accept and
SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

welcome individual concerns as a basis for deepening our journey together. Celo Friends use good process in listening to each other and remain aware of the call of the Divine in our relations with each other – in worship, in meetings, and in action.

State of the Meeting 2002 Charleston, WV

This has been a year of great joy and deep sorrow for Charleston Friends. We celebrated the marriage of two young Friends, one a member of our meeting since childhood. At the same time, we mourned the loss of life in the September 11 attacks and subsequent U.S. reprisals.

Colette Mininger and Johnny Parker were married under the care of the meeting September 29 on a sunny West Virginia hill, in the presence of God and among Friends and family. Colette is the daughter of Charleston members Marty and Steve Mininger. Johnny and Colette met while students at Guilford College.

We were stunned and saddened by the attacks on the World Trade Center and Washington and by the intensity of the military response. Friends sought a just response to the hurt inflicted on innocent people in this country through prayer and vigils, and struggled with the challenge of living peacefully in a world where war and retribution seemed to drown out peace and reconciliation.

Meeting for worship is still held in offices rented from a community development organization in the middle of bustling, multicultural area of the city. Although our meetings are often completely silent, they are sometimes enriched with ministry from the Bible, other inspired writings, and personal experiences of our members and attenders. Attendance at worship varies between about five and fifteen, influenced by busy travel and work schedules. Friends come from Charleston and surrounding communities up to 50 miles away; some local Friends hike or bike several miles to meeting.

Currently we are only infrequently blessed with small children; First Day School is varied according to the needs of children who attend. Older young Friends have separate discussions and occasionally lead the meeting in intergenerational activities, including games and plays. The increasing median age of meeting has prompted a concern to reach out to younger members.

We continue occasional adult discussions, touching on contemporary Quaker writings, international affairs, and social concerns. Charleston Meeting appreciates the opportunities we have from time to time to participate in the wider Quaker community by responding to queries and minutes from SAYMA and other Friends organizations. A Bible study group meets in Friends homes twice a month, and is currently reading the book of Acts. This year one member visited Zimbabwe and South Africa, and shared his experiences and observations. We also learned of the unhappy social and political situation in Columbia from another visitor. Terrorism and devastation of small farms are partly caused by U.S. militarization of an intractable civil war, and exacerbated by the drug trade.

Charleston continues a modest social ministry by organizing a breakfast in a local women's and children's

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

shelter, and a dinner at a men's shelter in the winter. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee shares our views with state legislators. We participated in several peace vigils in response to the escalating military operations in Afghanistan. This year we celebrated Martin Luther King's birthday by placing an exhibit in the state capitol featuring Reverend King's writings on peace and social justice. We also support the American Friends Service Committee's West Virginia Economic Justice Project. Many of us attended the AFSC regional retreat held in southern West Virginia last fall.

Charleston Friends helped organize the September 2001 West Virginia Friends Gathering, a weekend of worship, fellowship, and outdoor recreation, held at a nearby Ohio camp. We welcome SAYMA Friends to join in this year's gathering, and to visit us as way opens.

STATE OF THE CHATTANOOGA MEETING 2001 Report

Chattanooga Monthly Meeting ended the year with a renewed sense of community and several new members and attenders.

Members and regular attenders at Meeting for Worship now average 25-30 every First Day. Two regular attenders and two new attenders elected to become members of the Meeting, but we lost two of the elder members of our community, Fred Reynolds and Frances Conant, who passed away. Philip Raines asked that his membership be moved to the church where he is now pastor, White Water Monthly Meeting in Eaton, Ohio, and former co-clerk Jeff Crim, who had moved to attend Earlham, is pastor of West River Monthly Meeting in Economy, Indiana.

First Day School has grown, and we have two First Day School rooms, one for children aged 4 and under, and one for all older children. The older group is studying our second set of teaching literature, which examines the life of Jesus.

We celebrated the wedding of Cindy McAfee, our clerk, to Steven Russell, and we held two memorial services for our deceased Friends.

We held a special Meeting for Worship on September 12, 2001, and we continue to hold the victims of the terrible tragedies of September 11, as well as those involved in the resulting world conflict, in the Light. We support AFSC efforts to provide a variety of aid to people living in nations in conflict.

The Meeting dealt openly and fairly quickly with a series of personal disputes during the summer of 2001 that spilled over into Meeting for Business. After significant discussion, the Meeting agreed that we suffered from a lack of cohesion. In an effort not to offend each other by delving too deeply into one another's business, we had drawn so far apart that we no longer felt like a community. The Meeting agreed that it is the responsibility of all members and attenders to nurture each other, and we all started trying harder to openly show our caring for one another. As a result, the Meeting has begun discussing eldering regularly, and we held a full-day eldering seminar in March 2002. We also continue to use clearness committees to discern our way forward in many areas, as we seek light and direction and resolution of individual concerns.

After a decision to withhold our contribution from AFSC until our concerns about the organization's use or non-use of Quaker process were addressed - a decision that lasted three years - the Meeting agreed to support AFSC again after regional office representatives met with us and provided a significant amount of information. We continue to be concerned about the matter, and we seek to work with AFSC as best we can to ensure that Quaker processes are followed.

The Meeting's financial status remains healthy, and we have been able to offer financial assistance to those in need on a regular basis.

We continue our involvement in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, helping Pilgrim Congregational Church once a quarter to provide meals and fellowship for the homeless.

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

The Meeting continues expressing opposition to the death penalty.

The Meeting's Community Garden was a continued success, welcoming several new community gardeners, who had their own organic plots. A new growing season saw the revision of the garden's operating plan, with rows and plots set aside, not for individuals, but for specific vegetables and herbs. The gardeners will share all the work and will harvest from the entire garden.

As the year drew to a close, several members of the Meeting received the shocking news that the bodies of their loved ones had been sent after death to a crematorium in Noble, Georgia, that had not cremated the bodies. Only one of the lost bodies has been found. Also, the ashes of two former attendees that supposedly lay in the Meeting's memorial garden were not ashes at all, but concrete. We continue to hold in the Light not only our members hurt by this tragedy, but also those in our greater community who have to suffer this painful process.

While the Meeting has moved through several painful periods this past year, the year seems to have left us stronger, healthier and more committed to one another. For these blessings, and for one another, we are most thankful.

Cleveland Worship Group

Worship (Stan Spraker) -- We are unable to reach unity on 'advertising' in the local newspaper or with the Welcome Friends directory. We will continue to season this prospect during the coming year. We purchased 50 *Introducing Quakers* flyers from Pendle Hill. Often only two or three are gathered on First Day morning and worship remains largely silent.

Religious Education (Carol Spraker) -- Our Friday evening Torah readings continue, though irregularly attended. *Quakerism 101*, *Companions* and several pamphlets have been purchased from Pendle Hill for Quaker Studies which we hope to begin in the fall.

Ministry and Nurture (Nancy Neves) -- We continue our two-hour meetings each Monday night to nurture and support each other. Nancy encourages our participation in the local ecumenical Emmaus Community, where she and her daughter, Megan, are regular team volunteers. In December we established a small sponsorship fund for Emmaus pilgrims who cannot afford the fees. Ministry and Nurture, in conjunction with Religious Education, is formulating a Spiritual Formation study group. Last year we finished *The Artist's Way* and several smaller studies. Next year is in the planning stage.

Social Concerns (Barbara Tillery) -- Barbara has narrowed both the committee's and her own personal focus in order to pursue her passion, world hunger research. Local concerns include St. James Food Bank, Harbor Safe House and the Senior Center/Nursing Home volunteer program Barbara helps coordinate. John Spraker is interning with the volunteer program this summer. WQO's include RSWR, FCOR and ECN/FCUN.

Interfaith Dialogue (John Spraker, Francesca Nankivell) -- This group continues to work with our Buddhist and Hindu teachers. The library has received book donations on Judaism, Sufism, Universalism, Taoism and Shamanic traditions. Other studies are still in the planning process.

Hospitality -- We joined others in SAYMA to provide hospitality to the Buddhist Peace Walk in the spring. We were blessed in return way beyond the merit of our gifts. We still have a guest room available to SAYMA friends.

School of the Spirit -- This year we lend support and a small scholarship to Nancy Beecher (Chattanooga) as she attends SOS. We also supply three members of her oversight committee.

Minute of Appreciation to our presiding clerk, John Spraker. "Since taking Mary Ann Downey's workshop last year, he has impressed upon all of us the wonder of good orderly Quaker process, and has managed to do so while showing a heart of genuine Quakerly compassion." (Approved 4/02)

Respectfully submitted -- Carol Spraker for the group (approved 4/02 as well)

Sallie I. Prugh, Clerk
Columbia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
C/o 3122 Monroe Street
Columbia, SC 29205

State of the Meeting Report
June 1, 2001- May 31, 2002

Columbia Monthly Meeting continues to thrive, change and to find ways to be more present in the Light. Our major efforts have been finding a Quaker meaning and response to the events of the past year, and in nurturing our spiritual community.

September 11, 2001 shook America and made Quakers look at their beliefs and actions. Like other Meetings, we had individuals from the community join us in trying to make sense of these events. We also lost attenders who found the non violent response inappropriate. Even seasoned Quakers were shaken. The Meeting held several discussions, Meetings for Worship, and worship sharing times. One member of the Meeting was instrumental in arranging a standing room only forum at the University of South Carolina, which included Muslims, Christians, political scientists, ethicists, etc. The First Day School spent several sessions discussing the children's concerns and ideas on what America's response should be.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee had been intermittently active but the events of this year gave it new energy. The Clerk of the Committee wrote an Op Ed article on Afghanistan for the local paper. The Committee wrote an analytic paper on the Quaker response to "War on Terrorism", which continues to be refined and re-edited.

The Meeting invited Steve Olszewsky to come to Columbia. He inspired us as he talked about his struggle to find ways to get the Peace Tax Bill passed and how he has worked to avoid paying taxes which fund war by living simply. The escalation of violence in the Middle East has also occupied the Meeting. We passed a Minute on violence between Israel and the Palestinians. Members of the Meeting participated in a protest against the Israeli incursions into the Palestinian territory.

The Meeting has been active in protesting the recent execution in South Carolina and is supporting the Christian Action Council's efforts in seeking a moratorium against the death penalty. Four members travel once a month to a federal prison in Edge field, SC to visit prisoners.

Members of the Meeting helped arrange a conference on health and other nuclear energy concerns. Other members have been involved in ecological concerns. The theme of Palmetto Gathering, which is an annual gathering of Quakers in South Carolina, was ecology. Earth Mama, Joyce Rouse, came and was a hit. One of the members of the Meeting has been named the director of the Carolina Peace Resource Center. Members of the Meeting have been active in sponsoring HIP projects in local schools.

The grounding for all these activities is the spiritual community, which has changed and deepened. The Meeting has spent much of the past year considering how we view ourselves both spiritually and within the community. We have tried to determine how a building would change us. Would it strengthen us or would it sap our strength? We were prodded along on this inquiry by the offer of an anonymous gift, which we had to match between September and January 1, 2002. It seemed like a lot of money, but we

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

were able to meet our goal and surpass it. The activities around the fund raising were a community building experience that involved all ages. We decorated gourds and made stained glass which we sold at a Holiday Fair. It is fun to walk around Columbia and see our artwork hanging on trees welcoming the birds. The children organized a car wash and participated in sessions where we dreamed of what a Meeting House might be. We are still very tentative about our plans causing some strain in the Meeting, but it has made us look at who we are and what our priorities are. We also realized from these discussions that there was a limited understanding of the process by which Quakers make decisions. This has led to an on going discussion of Quaker Process and the Sense of the Meeting as well as Quaker Testimonies.

A mid week worship group has enriched the life of some members. Our Meeting has been asked to help establish a worship group after the manner of Friends in Aiken, South Carolina. One member of the meeting has been most instrumental in guiding this effort with the support of the entire Meeting.

A long time attender is taking a course in Clinical Pastoral Education. We had two meetings for worship in the evening with the members of this class, all pastors of different denominations and they were awed at the power of unprogramed silent worship.

Members of the Meeting have also been involved in wider Quaker Organizations and have attended conferences (FGC Central Committee, AFSC Corporation, Pendle Hill Conference on Racism, Ecology Conferences, 10 people attended SAYMA Yearly Meeting last year, 2 people attended North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative, Clerk of Palmetto Friends Gathering.)

Our membership is changing. We enjoy having new seekers in our Meeting, but feel lonely without the fellowship of the seasoned Friends who are leaving. The children have become a very closely-knit group, and some of them are leaving soon. We already miss them and their parents.

We struggle to find ways to knit our community closer together and to support our members. We succeed sometimes and fail others, but we try. We continue to enjoy one another, to strive to better experience community, to work for peace, to pray for justice. We continue to love our fellowship, to see our strength in our unique individual selves, to commit ourselves to each other in love. We look for a deeper sense of ourselves of the meeting in the coming year. We give thanks for our wider Quaker associations and for the joy of our contribution to the larger Religious Society of Friends.

**State of the Cookeville Worship Group
5-26-2002**

This year, the Group finally decided to meet in town at a stable, accessible location instead of our rural, mostly Jackson County homes. Starting in October, we met at a restaurant for several months. Since January, we have been meeting in the Wesley Foundation near the TTU campus. The facilities are ideal with a large kitchen and lots of space. We have also listed our meeting in the Cookeville newspaper. The better community exposure has brought us more visitors than heretofore.

Our membership is nearly stable. We have gained one dedicated attender, but lost (hopefully temporarily) another to a kind of burnout, and have not seen several formerly active attenders at Meeting in several months.

In the fall and winter, several of us lent our presence in support of a local congregation (a branch of the Knoxville Metropolitan Community Church) formed to provide Christian service for gays and lesbians who did not feel welcome in traditional churches. Conservative Baptists were picketing the congregation. The Worship Group also drafted a letter to the editor of the Cookeville newspaper stating that freedom of religion applies to all. In April, two of us went to Oak Ridge to participate in a rally sponsored by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance to oppose ongoing bomb production.

We have extended invitations to local Unitarian/Universalists, the Zen and Tibetan Buddhist groups, and the small Jewish community to meet with us quarterly for potluck and discussion. The first of these ecumenical meetings, in March, provided a spirited exchange of ideas (and great food).

Because the Crossville Meeting, which had sponsored our Worship Group, had dwindled and was unable to provide the eldering and support that is traditional, we applied to the Nashville Meeting, which agreed to take over the sponsoring role. In February, Nashville hosted a retreat on community building for the several Worship Groups under its care with Michael Wodja and his wife Allison Levy from Pennsylvania. Several of us attended the retreat and very much enjoyed the fellowship and enrichment. Michael and Allison subsequently visited us at Hector and Susie Black's for potluck and discussion. The questions asked brought forth honest seeking in an atmosphere of worshipful listening. We are grateful for the time and care of Nashville and others.

In an effort to achieve better communication, we have formed a committee to consider ways in which our second hour discussions can reach deeper levels and be more inclusive of all attenders.

Annual report to SAYMA, June 2002, from the Friends Meeting in Crossville.

1. Over the course of the past year the Meeting has been concerned with developments in the Near East and especially the escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestine. In this connection the Meeting had proposed a Minute for the consideration of SAYMA to the effect that termination of funding to both sides by the US would be the only way to bring the warring parties to the conference table. The Meeting had published in the local press in May a short Minute to this effect.
2. To better help the understanding of the problems in the Middle East the Meeting with other local groups sponsored a visit to Pleasant Hill of Ilise Cohen, Program Director, Middle East Education Program, AFSC Southeastern Regional Office in Atlanta, on 30 May, where she spoke very effectively on her more recent trip to the area and her discussions and impressions there. Additionally the Meeting earlier sponsored a visit to Pleasant Hill in November of Marina Riadi, AFSC staff member specializing in fund raising but also very knowledgeable on the conflict in the Middle East.
3. The Meeting in cooperation with 5 other local church groups published a full page ad in our local newspaper at a cost of \$740 of national statements by 8 churches hoping that "...the selections would help bring the voices of the churches into public discussion of our nation's course of action" in Iraq. The statement of the Meeting was a quote from an FCNL issuance on the subject.
4. Again this past year the Meeting cooperated with the Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville to donate another bus to a school program in Nicaragua. It was driven there by Toby and his son Jesse Rogers. Hannah MacDermott accompanied them and acted as their Spanish interpreter.
5. The Meeting house was again the site of the second year of the Obed Headwaters School under the direction of Meeting member Dennis Gregg.
6. Meeting member Elizabeth Gregg completed a year's internship with the FCNL in Washington DC.
7. The facilities of the Meeting House were again shared with the Grace Community Church which conducted their weekly Sunday evening services at the Meeting House.
8. The Meeting continued to actively support the Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice - an interfaith county organization which had been organized by Meeting members in 1982.
9. We were saddened by the death of member Robert Mandel who had been in the Wharton Nursing Home for several years.

Foxfire Friends Meeting of the Holston Valley
State of the Meeting Report
Spring 2002

Foxfire Friends continues to meet at the Catholic Student Center in Johnson City, near East Tennessee State University. However, construction on the new meetinghouse is nearing completion, and we anticipate moving into our new space in early summer. Our new meetinghouse is the result of a cooperative leasing arrangement between the meeting and members, Bob and Beth Keiter. We hope that our experiences over the next few years may serve as a model for other smaller meetings that are not large enough to build or purchase permanent space.

Our meeting remains small; we continue to draw from upper east Tennessee and southwest Virginia. Although our location near ETSU has increased our visibility and brought us more frequent attendees, the weekly size of our meeting has not changed significantly. There are no new members to report this year.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Formation of a meetinghouse committee
- Development of “Procedures for Eldering”
- The meeting reflected for many months on recognizing members or other Friends as ministers and developed a procedure regarding traveling ministry:

It has been said that Quakers abolished the ministry; a more accurate statement is that Quakers abolished the laity. Each Friend is responsible to be open to sudden needs to “be there” or “minister to” a fellow human being in need. Ministry in the Religious Society of Friends is open to all of us just as each one of us has equal access to the leadings of the Inner Light.

In keeping with the Friends’ testimony of equality, it has not been the practice of Foxfire Friends Meeting of the Holston Valley to record ministers. However, the Meeting may recognize gifts of ministry by issuing a traveling or other appropriate minute to a person who has been through a clearness process and has the recommendation of the Ministry and Nurture Committee

- Foxfire Friends decided to support the formation of a SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee.
- Adult religious education has been centered on reading *Quaker Book of Wisdom* by Robert Lawrence Smith.
- Development of a system for accepting donations from Friends to assist in furnishing our new meetinghouse.

We ask the Yearly Meeting to hold Foxfire in the light as we move into our new meeting space. While the new location is a most suitable worship space and may increase the visibility of the meeting, building maintenance and increased expenses are challenges, which might be more easily met by a larger meeting.

**Greenville Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting, June 2002**

Ten members and regular attenders make up the core of the Greenville Friends. While this number is small, it is augmented by others in the community who worship with us less frequently. We see hope in that newcomers continue to arrive in our midst. We did, probably like most Meetings, note a greater degree of interest following the events of Ninth month, 11, 2001.

We continue to meet at the First Christian Church, though we have changed our meeting time to 1:30 in the afternoon. This seems to suit most of our members and attenders well, though we remain flexible in terms of our group's changing needs. Each month we continue with our activities—including a potluck on the first first day of the month. We have laid down our Bible study but may soon take it up again.

We have found that the Meeting serves as a base for individual and corporate action in the community. In the past year, we have established a formal relationship with the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, an interdenominational organization that provides temporary housing for families. One of our attenders has become a member of the Board of Directors for the Network. As a meeting, we have begun a quarterly series of forums with invited speakers to provide education for ourselves and the community. Most recently, we held a forum about Islam with members of the local Islamic Center. As individuals, many of our members and attenders continue to volunteer in a variety of roles to serve the community.

The Greenville Friends Meeting remains a small, yet dedicated core of Seekers that provide a warm environment for members and attenders. The Meeting serves as a base and refuge in the lives of those who attend.

Huntsville Area Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
June 2002

The Huntsville Area Friends Meeting (HAFM) continues as a group of 13 members/attenders, with attendance during this reporting period averaging six persons. HAFM meets in members'/attenders' homes.

As other meetings, we drew upon our individual and collective spiritual resources to deal with September 11 and the ensuing local and national responses. We developed a Minute that we shared in local interfaith meetings, as well as with SAYMA.

Other highlights from our **individual** and **corporate** activities include:

- * Participating in SAYMA gatherings, *e.g.* representatives' meetings, meetings of the Ministry and Nurture Committee; the Peace Consultation;
- * Participating in the annual gathering of Friends General Conference;
- * Presenting to (and leading worship-sharing with) other faith groups (Unitarian Universalist and Episcopalian) about our Peace and Simplicity Testimonies;
- * Participating in other interfaith meetings focusing on promoting understanding of various traditions and/or sharing responses to September 11 (including some meetings organized by the Huntsville Muslim community);
- * Participating in on-going work and periodic community "speak-outs" about family violence;
- * Collecting bicycles that are sent to Alabama prisons for refurbishing and given to needy children;
- * Advocating with/for people with disabilities;
- * Helping Hispanic persons to gain access to community services;
- * Volunteering in support of grant efforts for children's services not-for-profit organizations;
- * Providing a variety of supports to peace activists traveling through our region (and attended a peace rally in solidarity with their work);
- * Singing in a local chorus (Huntsville Feminist Chorus), which lifts up themes of "thinking globally and acting locally," related to environmental, human rights, and other peace/social justice concerns;
- * Convening memorial services/funerals for friends and family members of friends.

Memphis Friends Meeting

State of the Meeting Report

June 2002

This past year has truly challenged us. Some of our responses have been communal; some have been individual, often with the support of the meeting. But as the year unfolded we have felt more and more grounded in our Quaker testimonies.

Last summer we had become concerned about the continuing sanctions against Iraq. The weekend before the terrorist attacks we hosted a group who held a campout and vigil in front of our meetinghouse to bring awareness of the effects of sanctions to passers-by.

In response to the events of September 11, we have spent several First Day mornings learning about and wrestling with the situation in the Middle East: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine/Israel. Collectively and individually, we have also accomplished several projects.

- ✓ We set up an off budget fund for peace projects. So far the Peace Fund has helped send a planeload of surgical supplies to Afghanistan, and supported Debra Johnson's travels to Iraq.
- ✓ The Children's Meeting collected quarters to send to the Friends School in Ramallah along with an illustrated letter of greeting for the students at the school.
- ✓ In January, Debra Johnson participated in the AFSC sponsored conference in Philadelphia. She brought home to share with us the video "Greetings from Missile Street" produced by Voices in the Wilderness. This May she traveled to Iraq with AFSC.
- ✓ Ceylon Mooney, an attender at our meeting, gave us a first-hand report of his travels in Iraq last fall.
- ✓ Susan Penn has worked with an Inter-Faith group here in Memphis on a monthly

series of prayer services for peace. Memphis Friends and the local Baha'i group will co-sponsor the prayer service in July.

- ✓ Blake Burr-McNeal has led the way to reach out to the local Muslim community. She and other Quakers have been visiting mosques and four participated in Ramadan this spring.
- ✓ Sarah Slocum participated in a cross-country bike trip raising funds for Bike-Aid last summer.
- ✓ Mahal Burr-McNeal, 11, was quoted in the University of Memphis student paper saying, "I don't want the United States to bomb other innocent people... <instead> we should keep them in the light."
- ✓ Kristi Estes helped organize a seminar at Memphis Theological Seminary called "Spiritual Leadership: Reflections in a Time of War." Ron McDonald was a presenter at the seminar.

This was also a year in which the faces in our Meeting changed in dramatic ways. We accepted several new members who had been attending for longer or shorter periods: David Dawson, Bethany Harrison, Christina Horan, and Stacey Dixon. Stacey's son, Harper Crockett, 6, was accepted as an associate member. We also have several new attenders, among them Robert Pugh, Richard Bryant and Linda Derieg, Ross Miller, and Emily Walls. Inevitably we had goodbyes to say as well. Kathleen Farrar; Laura, Kate, and David Bowman; and Michael Harrington and his daughter Emily moved to other meetings. Sarah Slocum left us this summer when she graduated from Rhodes College. Elaine and Bobby Meyer-Lee and their three little boys were welcome additions to our Meeting this past year, but they will be moving on to Indiana soon.

Michael Harrington, a member of Memphis

Friends, is attending a new worship group in Oxford, Mississippi, and partly for that reason, partly because we are the closest organized meeting in their vicinity, we are trying to keep in touch and offer what support we can. Debra Johnson has been in email contact with one of their members; David Ciscel visited with the group during a peace conference in January; and on April 21 six Memphis Friends traveled to Oxford to join them for worship. We have also begun talking with them about a visit to Memphis for Worship and potluck.

When we took over the entire first floor of 917 So. Cooper last August, we didn't realize what opportunities it would bring. Now we have much more space for the children's meeting and they have taken advantage of it. They made footstools out of old telephone books for the Meeting room and, with Sandy Benson's help, painted and stained child-sized benches for our meeting room. We are also holding simple meal potlucks at the Meeting House one First Day each quarter in spite of the fact that we still don't have a kitchen. All the other monthly potlucks are held at a Friend's house, but this schedule gives those who can't make an evening potluck an opportunity to participate.

Our annual spring retreat was held at Gunnar Pool campground just north of Mountain View, Arkansas on April 27. For ten years the youth group has made the ten-mile hike from Allyson to Gunnar Pool and this year for the first time nine adult members and attenders joined them for the picnic and camp-out afterwards.

Both this year and last, we had a wedding in the spring. Last year Steve and Shiloh Barnet were

married under the care of the Meeting on May 26; this year it was Emily Walls and Ross Miller on May 11, 2002. Both couples have become active attenders.

Jonah McDonald has been appointed to the AFSC Board of Directors. Carolyn Jordan reports that at the meetings in Philadelphia every delegate wants to sit next to their enthusiastic youngest member.

Ashleigh Phelps, who has attended SAYF a number of times, has just completed her first year at Guilford College.

Our newsletter now comes to us in both email and print versions, thanks to our newsletter editor, David Dawson.

We are ending this amazing year feeling robust and energetic. Although some of our faces continue to change from year to year, the Meeting rolls on, healthy as ever, facing the challenges that the new century has brought.

Respectfully submitted to
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting &
Association
June 21, 2002

By
Carol Ciscel
Recording Clerk
Memphis Friends Meeting

Nashville Friends Meeting

State of the Meeting 2001-2002

Several themes have been prominent in the life of the Meeting this year. The attacks of September 11 have shaped much discussion as well as brought us a number of visitors, some of whom have stayed and continue to worship with us. Several Second Hour discussions have centered around the Middle East conflicts. The other main theme is that of physical space. The Meeting House has always been crowded when we have “full attendance,” but recently has seemed cramped for our vision of the future. One particular problem is the layout of the present facility. Inquiries into codes requirements have shown we cannot expand the current building without unreasonable expense.

Several threshing meetings were held and information shared. At this time, the Meeting has decided to move forward with plans to sell our current building. No decision has been made regarding purchasing a building versus building a new one. We are currently examining our possibilities and finances.

Numerous Friends have remained or become active in social and political issues. One Friend served six months in a Federal prison related to civil disobedience at the School of the Americas. While some are visibly active in issues, others are active in less visible ways such as letter writing.

Another theme is community building. The Bowling Green KY worship group requested to be laid down after the two attenders had not met in more than a year. This has resulted in a renewed effort to have more interaction with the worship groups under the care of the Meeting. A community-building weekend in February facilitated by Michael Wada and Allison Levy had approximately two dozen in attendance. One resulting request was for more joint activities and consequently, worship and potluck was held at a Nashville area park with worship groups encouraged to attend. More interaction is currently taking place with the Murfreesboro worship group which has officially requested to be taken under the care of the Nashville Meeting.

We continue to worship at 10 am with a period of singing prior. At the rise of Meeting on second and fourth First Days, we have Adult Education. Potluck is held on the first First Day of the month, and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the third First Day. We have changed the form of Family Worship. A full hour worship period is held on the third First Day. The young Friends spend the first half of the hour in preparation for joining the adults the last half hour. Sunday evening worship has changed to Wednesday evening.

As with most years, some Friends have come and gone.

2001-2002 census: members 48 attenders 52

Babies born: Isaac Mellon-Houghton

Transferred members: Dick and Maaret Houghton

Memorials: Bonnie Favrot

Respectfully submitted, Thais Carr and Pam Beziat, co-clerks

New Moon Worship Group

We continue to meet on a monthly basis on Sunday afternoons in the Barnardsville United Methodist Church. We are pleased to report that we enjoy such a good relationship with the church that they have decided not to charge us for the use of their space. We have advertised in two local publications, but have not had any visitors as a result. We are a small group of 3 to 5 people at the moment, but we enjoy the worship time together.

Submitted by Susan Carlyle

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report June 2, 2002

For SVFM, 2001/02 has been a year of continuity and the solidifying of our identity as a Monthly Meeting in our fourth year of existence. For the second year we are meeting in the upstairs activity room of the Black Mountain Center for the Arts in the center of the town of Black Mountain.

Our attendance has been stable at about 30, and our membership at 20. The most significant new development in the area of attendance is that several students from Warren Wilson College have begun attending regularly. Our First Day School group has continued to consist of 6 children, ages 3 to 11.

In the area of social concerns there has been continuity in our local involvement and change in our international commitments. Locally, several more of our attenders have come forward to volunteer as tutors at the nearby youth correctional facility; and one attender has taken a job there as the English teacher in the public school which serves the teenage “inmates”. We also assisted one of our attenders in getting trained to start a local Montessori school; she hopes to relate Montessori education to our Meeting's local social outreach in the future. We also enjoyed two Meeting work days at Manna Food Bank.

A major feature of our social concerns work this year has been our response to the war on terrorism undertaken by the U. S. after 9/11/01, and the Arab-Israeli violence in Palestine. In the fall of 2001 we sponsored a four-week lecture series at the local public library on understanding the roots of terror in the Middle East. In February we participated in and helped to lead SAYMA's gathering on bringing our peace testimony to life in these times. In the spring of 2002 we made a contribution to the rebuilding of the Ramallah Friends School; and at the same time joined the Campaign of Conscience to rescue the people of Iraq from the devastating effects of the longstanding U.S.-led embargo.

Two joyous weddings have taken place under our care, the marriages of Kathy LaMotte and Eric Jackson in October, and of Megan Keiser and Holly Fairbairn in April. In the winter we lost one of our most beloved members when Alice Hanke died.

At our May Meeting for Business we decided to resume (from two years ago) holding regular worship-sharing sessions in small groups after Meeting, to help us know each other better as spiritual friends. Monthly potluck suppers on Thursday evenings and two rounds of Friendly 8's dinners in the homes of Friends have also strengthened our sense of community. A midweek Meeting for Worship held once a month at Highland Farms Retirement Center extends our sense of community to the elderly who cannot come to our regular Meetings in Black Mountain.

In the face of the heavy events of the past year, our First Day Meetings for Worship have been a source of comfort and strength for those who attend. Several younger attenders have spoken of their growth in both giving to and drawing from the worship. We are grateful for having a quiet, light-filled place to meet, for the depth of our shared silence, for regular vocal ministry that seems to draw us even closer together in worship, and for each other.

State of the Meeting
West Knoxville Friends Meeting
June 2002

We have certainly felt joy and tragedy this year! Our major concern has been with events and reverberations of September 11. It has caused an ongoing search for our individual and corporate responses. We've devoted several sessions to worship, worship sharing and discussion around that issue, striving to define values and responsibilities. The meeting united in adopting two minutes urging non-violent responses to addressing international terrorism. These were sent to local newspapers and legislators.

Concern over the Israel/Palestine war has also deeply affected us. Two AFSC representatives visited to speak of their experiences and perspectives on the conflict. So far, our response has been to write letters to influential sources. We continue to seek how and where we can best put our energies to work for peace.

Partly due to these crises, we are more involved as individuals with peace and justice groups in our community. F(f)riends

- have been joining in weekly vigils
- traveled to Central America at Christmas to deliver toys, clothing, and a bus
- participated in annual protests at the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Ga. and at the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge.
- provided food and lodging to groups of Buddhist peacemakers and Earlham College peace workers as they traveled through
- been discussing ways to change our lifestyles to reduce the causes of war
- participated in the protest rally when President Bush came to town.

We gladly welcomed three new members and one associate member into our meeting this year!

We are most grateful to and appreciative of F(f)riends who faithfully share their energies to tend the life and spirit of the meeting. Their support and commitment are inspiring!

Our various interest groups continue to flourish and meet regularly:

- meeting for healing,
- a Course in Miracles book discussion group
- a meditation group based on the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh
- discussions of our spiritual journeys

Likewise, committees remain attentive and busy. "Second hours" are scheduled as meaningful topics arise.

In spite of difficulties finding consistent baby-sitters for our youngest children, the vitality of the First-day school program continues to amaze and delight us. The SAYF-ers are as enthusiastic as ever about being together at retreats and on Sundays!

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Not counting adults and children busy in First-day school, we usually number about 20 in meeting for worship.

It's difficult to describe our spiritual health. In worship, messages reflect our struggles to understand and find ways to respond to world violence. We are still being sustained and supported by the Divine Presence, our community of Friends, and meeting for worship.

We hope to keep growing in community together and in the Light.

Appendix C: General

Minutes of Concern

- Minute Regarding Population Sustainability
- Minute Regarding Israel and Palestine
- Minute Regarding the Peace Tax Fund

Quakers and Racial Justice Conference, October 2001

- Report
- Epistle

Quaker/AFSC Delegation to Iraq, May 2002

- Report
- Epistle

Ecological Concerns Network

- ECN Report
- Report on Energy Use Survey
- Results of Energy Use Survey

Southern Appalachian Young Friends Program Report

Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Faith and Practice Revisions Committee Report

Financial

- SAYMA End of Year Account Balances
- SAYMA Fiscal Year 2003 Budget
- Notes to Budget

Personnel Committee Report

Registrar's Report

Positions of Responsibility

Minute Regarding Population Sustainability

In accordance with Friends' testimonies of equality, simplicity and harmony, we recognize the sacredness of all life, the interconnection of all living things, and the balance required to sustain an acceptable quality of life for all inhabitants of our planet. We are committed to providing all children with a safe, loving, nourishing, and habitable world in which to live.

We offer this minute in a spirit of concern that while population stabilization may be less of an issue in our country, other countries, religions and cultures encourage large families. Historically, the large family is the primary caregiver to the elderly and infirm, and the protector of the poor, especially when no social security or government assistance is available. Yet, large families tend to place an even greater burden on the available resources. Special emphasis must be given to measures to reduce poverty, provide security for people as they age and empower women. Literacy, equal social status and the general education of women to broaden their life choices tend to delay childbirth, limit family size and improve the quality of life for them and their families.

Definition of sustainable population

Just as a lifestyle is sustainable only when one spends less than one earns, a population is sustainable only when that population consumes an amount of resources that is less than what is replaceable.

Population growth

In October 1999, world human population surpassed six billion, having doubled since 1960. At the present rate of growth, it is likely to double again within the new century. As the population increases, resource consumption and environmental impact increase.

Impact on environment

The total requirements of the current human population place an ever-increasing demand on earth's resources and intensify environmental degradation, which threatens all the creatures of the earth. All consumption affects the earth's environment. However, those of us living in the most prosperous circumstances have used earth's resources in disproportionate amounts. Our over-consumption contributes to environmental degradation in excess of our numbers.

Recommendations

While remaining sensitive to the needs and values of all cultures, we acknowledge our responsibility to become informed about world population growth and the concerns it raises.

- Through our leadings and sharing, we will seek knowledgeable, loving, and creative ways of encouraging responsible reproductive activities. These include endorsement of adoption and foster care as an alternative to having children and open support for those who choose not to procreate.
- We recognize that the more prosperous countries have a larger rate of per-capita resource consumption. Our responsibility is to strive toward a simpler and more equitable lifestyle.
- We will work towards a more equitable sharing of the world's resources and towards systems that provide a social safety net for those in need so that large families are not perceived as vital to the well-being of the group.
- We urge meetings to consider using queries such as those adopted by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as an aid to the clearness for the marriage process, specifically addressing the issue of family size and the consideration of adoption or foster care.
- Finally, we urge our government to renew contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, a family planning lifeline for couples in poor countries.

Friends Queries and Actions Applicable to Population Sustainability

- How do we as Friends work towards a more equitable sharing of the world's resources?
- What can we do to provide a global social system that will aid those in need?

- When Friends couples marry under the care of the meeting, are the following queries considered in the clearness process, asking couples to discuss them with each other:
 - Have you discerned with each other whether you want to have children? If so, how many?
 - Have you considered a plan to take responsibility for your family's growth in size?
 - Would you consider adoption or foster care for family growth?
 - What are the available resources from family, meeting and community for family development?
 - How will your family reflect Friends' testimonies of simplicity, concern for the environment and world population?
- Has your meeting expressed to our government a desire to support the United Nations Fund for Population Activities?

*Approved by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting 2002, Minute 8*

Minute Regarding Israel and Palestine

We, the members of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends, are deeply concerned by events in Palestine and Israel. The Middle East is being dragged to the brink of war by the acts of extremists on all sides. As Friends, we grieve the bloodshed and suffering. We fear the legacy of violence which seems likely to result. We pray for the strength to resist taking sides in this conflict, and to remain focused on being peacemakers. We understand that neither we, nor our government, nor, indeed, the leaders in this conflict, are able to see this situation as clearly as we would wish, or to control it completely, and we hope for patience and compassion on every side until resolution becomes possible. We reject terrorism in all its forms, especially the killing and maiming of people on both sides. We strongly oppose the destruction of the social and economic infrastructure of the Palestinian Territory, the confiscation of Palestinian land and property, the extreme curtailment of freedom of movement for all Palestinians, and the denial of such fundamental human rights as food and medical care to noncombatants.

As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in all people. We cherish the peoples of Israel and Palestine and the lands in which they live. We believe that violence does nothing but create more violence and will never allow the people of this region to live next to each other in peace and the fullness of human joy. We acknowledge that centuries of conflict, oppression, discrimination, poverty and segregation have led to this violence. Both sides of the conflict as well as many outside interests have caused or increased the violence. With such a weighty history, stopping the fighting and creating peace will be a long and arduous task, but it is imperative that we find ways to do so.

We call upon our government to use all its influence to seek:

An immediate end to all violence and assassinations,

An immediate cessation of all settlement activity,

An end to the occupation,

A return to permanent status negotiations leading to two states living side by side based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with mutually agreed-upon land swaps.

Even in the current climate of mistrust and mutual hostility, we believe that the above goals can be reached in the near future, ending the occupation and the conflict.

We implore our United States government to take a different kind of role in the region: to take the lead in providing international protection for the people in the region, to encourage dialogue, to stop our support of the Israeli occupation and to put pressure on the Israeli government to return land to the Palestinians. We ask our government to take the lead as a signatory of a treaty creating a Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Zone Free of all Weapons of Mass Destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Beyond the political responses that we as individuals may choose to make, as Quakers, we will continue to hold all of the people in the area in the Light. We will find ways to support the Quaker Meeting in Ramallah and Ramallah Friends School and all individuals and groups in the region who are seeking peaceful solutions. We will talk with our Jewish, Muslim and Christian friends, relatives and neighbors about this crisis and about our belief that there is a peaceful solution, which, although difficult to achieve, will be better than violence. We will search for "ways that open" which will help lead the world to a time of peace.

*Approved by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting 2002, Minute 31*

Minute Regarding the Peace Tax Fund

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association expresses its support of those who are conscientiously opposed to war taxes, in keeping with our more than 350 year religious witness for peace and our historical peace testimony that: "We do utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever." We ask that our elected officials support and work for the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (currently HR 1186) as a way of recognizing our deep commitment to peace and social justice. We thank Representative John Lewis for introducing this legislation and ask all U.S. Congressional Representatives to join in co-sponsorship of the bill.

HR 1186 will allow legally defined conscientious objectors to pay 100 percent of their taxes into a separate fund that will be used only for government spending that is not for a military purpose. The level of contribution to this fund will be annually entered into the Congressional Record, and information about the fund will be published in both the tax return form and the instruction booklet. The apportionment powers of Congress will not be restricted while relief of suffering will be granted to tens of thousands otherwise not able to earn above the taxable level of income or otherwise forced to refuse payment of taxes.

*Approved by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting 2002, Minute 34*

**Report from *Quakers and Racial Justice Conference in October 12-14, 2001*
to SAYMA Meeting for Business June 22, 2002**

This is my personal report. At the end I will read the Epistle from the conference. Friends that gathered were all people who were personally led to be there, 10 Friends of “color” and 40 Friends of “pallor”, primarily from the northeast USA. There were times for large group worship and sharing as well as smaller groups. Some of the topics were: reports from UN Conference Against Racism, looking at racism affecting the RSF, issue of reparations; what can we do to end racism individually, in our Monthly Meetings and in the larger Quaker organizations and institutions. Emotions were often high and a lot of deep honest sharing occurred.

Many people expressed frustration with the lack of awareness and interest in the topic of Racial Justice at most Monthly Meetings. It was expressed often that the essence of RSF at its core is one of “God’s Light in everyone,” so why don’t we treat everyone as if this is true? Some people met to discuss if the “traditions” of RSF culture and language, etc., might set us up like a clique. Some questioned if we are more committed to Peace than to Justice, when things get hard do we choose the more comfortable path that feels peaceful to the majority?

Friends testimonies on Equality and Nonviolence very key to this work. Equality doesn’t mean doing things the way it’s always been done (in our “white” way never realizing it.) Violence can be to people’s spirits not just their bodies in the form of ignoring, criticizing, dismissing, not hearing someone’s need, not responding to their need, etc. We need to be forgiving of each other for our mistakes while being responsible for correcting them.

There were lots of ideas of things to do, with always a focus on seeking God. Some of these are: sharing the power by giving Friends of color important roles and by listening to and respecting their ideas, create standing committees that have diverse membership to focus on this work within Yearly Meetings, contact Friends organizations about what they are doing to promote racial justice before donating to them, learn history of RSF around racism, study from list of general resources on topic, get rid of what is not core to RSF so will be more appealing to all kinds of people (younger, poor, etc., also), have Monthly Meetings connect with non-profit organizations run by people of color and support their work with money and volunteers, have people of pallor make real lifelong relationships with people of color not just token friendships, support Friends of color financially to attend Pendle Hill’s annual *Friends of Color Weekend* (usually in February,) support people of color business by hiring them for work done at Meetings Houses, use resources of Traveling Ministry on this issue, affirm every person’s path by not creating competition or hierarchy, stay in touch with others doing this work, remembering that only a few committed people can make a difference.

Near the end of the conference a Friend of pallor asked the Friends of color why they stayed with the RSF when it is obviously full of racism. They all responded that they were called by God to come and keep coming and wanted to know why Friends of pallor came to RSF. I thought about this on my way home and my answer was because this is where I feel accepted as I am, a seeker. My prayer is for the RSF to become this for all people.

Respectfully submitted by Joan MacKenzie

EPISTLE FROM THE *QUAKERS AND RACIAL JUSTICE*
CONFERENCE

PENDLE HILL, OCTOBER 12-14, 2001

Fifty Friends gathered October 12-13, 2001 for the Quakers and Racial Justice Conference at Pendle Hill. We heard reports from five Friends who had participated in the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and then moved into prayerful work on our own and our Society's racism. This process moved us to write you with the hope, desire and expectation that you will join us in our next steps forward.

As Friends we are deeply concerned about the lack of attention to racism and white privilege within the Religious Society of Friends. There is no time to delay. The call is urgent. We must step forward as Friends to work together to challenge practices, actions and institutions that reinforce patterns of privilege and racism.

We have been called as Friends to act out of our consciences and in response to the voices we hear within. We have not listened deeply enough. Our world has cried out to us and as a group we have not heeded those voices from without.

We cannot continue to participate in the spiritual diminishment of ourselves and those around us. We are called to meet each other as equals. We must take up this testimony with the willingness to follow it to its conclusion. We are called forward now to act as one Society in challenging white privilege and the constant, generations-old diminishment that is the result of racism. To do anything less is, in essence, to disavow our membership in the Society of Friends.

We invite you from our hearts to join us from your hearts.

**Report to the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
on a trip to Iraq by Debra Johnson
30 May – 13 June 2002**

A group of seven individuals from the United States traveled to Iraq on 30 May under the auspice of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This trip was the direct result of a work group recommendation from the *Quaker Summit on Iraq* that took place in Philadelphia in February 2002. Four Quakers, two AFSC staff members, and a member of the anti-sanctions group, Voices in the Wilderness made up the delegation. The delegation departed from Chicago fully aware that a \$10,000 fine had been levied by the Department of Treasury against a United States citizen who had previously traveled to Iraq.

The delegation spent a total of 10 days in Iraq. During this time the delegation had the opportunity to meet with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations officials, Iraqi government officials, as well as doctors, teachers, artists, and cab drivers.

One of the programs sponsored by the AFSC is the Campaign of Conscience (CoC). The CoC works to provide clean drinking water to the people of Iraq. The delegation toured one of the possible water treatment facilities to be rehabilitated by LIFE, the AFSC partner NGO in Iraq. The village of Bodijah has 4,000 residences, one primary school and one mosque. They have not had clean drinking water since 1992. The sanctions have prohibited replacement parts being brought into the country to repair the facility. One of the village residents reported to us that the drinking water makes them sick, but that they were tired, physically tired of being sick and emotionally tired of life under the sanctions. This was a recurring theme that heard by the delegation from the people of Iraq.

The delegation toured two pediatric hospitals in Baghdad. During the tour all in the delegation witnessed the devastation of the sanctions on the youngest Iraqis. According to UNICEF, one in eight Iraqi children don't live to see their first birthday. Seventy percent of child deaths are attributed to the treatable conditions of acute respiratory infection and gastrointestinal illnesses. Treatment rooms had no medical supplies or instruments, just a table, chair, and sink. Many of the beds had no sheet to cover the mattress, urine puddle on the floor and the toilet facilities did not function. The elevator at the Baghdad Pediatric Hospital had not worked for eight years. One physician reported that the lack of proper equipment affected every level of care the children received. Equipment needs specifically mentioned were early diagnostic equipment for cancers, x-ray equipment, and incubators with current technology. Currently there is only one machine in Baghdad that can separate plasma from whole blood. Plasma is one of the few supportive services that the physicians can offer their cancer patients. Chemotherapy protocols are often not completed for cancer patients due to the lack of availability of all stages of the necessary drugs. Prior to 1990 the cure rate for childhood cancer in Iraq was 70% today it is 0%.

Malnutrition was another serious health problem that the physicians and UN workers continue to observe. In 1999, 51% of the children under 5 suffered from some degree of malnutrition. While in the pediatric hospitals in Baghdad, the delegation observed a number of very malnourished children. The physicians reported that there were two types of malnutrition, total calorie malnutrition and kwashiorkor (protein malnutrition). The protein malnutrition is a result of mothers cooking rice and feeding their babies the rice water. This carbohydrate rich diet causes bloated stomach and edema in the legs and arms. The total calorie malnutrition has several underlying causes. Poor nutrition of the mother often makes it impossible for her to produce breast milk. The cost difference of formula often forces the mother to buy whatever is cheapest. This often leads to the child receiving different types of formula on a regular basis. The contaminated water with which the milk is mixed often leads to gastrointestinal and diarrheal disease. These types of malnutrition are best treated with a lactose free formula. Soy based formulas are difficult to keep in consistent supply and distribute to the rural population that is often underserved in other critical areas as well. During the Gulf War, most of the formula

production facilities were destroyed by US/UN bombing raids.

Water and sanitation was another major crisis observed by the delegation. In Basrah, the third largest city in Iraq, there were piles of garbage along every major city street. All the canals in the city were choked with refuse that has nowhere to go. Open sewage runs through the same streets where children played barefooted. The United Nations estimates that 500,000 tons of raw sewage is dumped in fresh water bodies in Iraq on a daily basis. In addition to the illnesses bore from the poor water, the presence of standing sewage has also increased the incidence of malaria and cholera in the southern part of the country. The water quality in the Sheraton Hotel in Basrah was so poor that the delegation considered not even bathing in it.

An additional crisis brought to the attention of the delegation was the presence of Depleted Uranium (DU) in the southern part of the country. The head oncology at the Basrah General Hospital reported to the delegation the four-fold increase in childhood leukemias, a four-fold increase in miscarriages, and three-fold increase in birth defects in the past 10 years at the general hospital. He personally is studying the occurrences of multiple family members with cancer. Between 1968 and 1990, he had treated eight families who had multiple cancers patients at the same time. He is presently treating 38 such families. He also reported the occurrences of cancer types generally found in the older population presenting in the very young. An example he gave us was a patient he had just lost who was 8 years old and died of ovarian cancer.

The education system has broken down as a result of the sanctions. UNICEF estimates there are 8,000 schools in need of rehabilitation and 5,000 new schools need to make up for the lack of construction and the increase in population that has occurred over the past 12 years. Teachers reported to the delegation that they were teaching with no supplies such as chalk, pencils, and paper. Textbooks dated from the late 1980's and schools had to run two and three shifts in order to accommodate the student population. This is leading to a decrease in the amount of curriculum that is being presented and a strain on the infrastructure as well as the teaching staff. Children were often sent home to use toilet facilities. Windows were broken out in classroom windows and leading to birds often getting into the classrooms as well. The number of children attending school has dropped dramatically. Prior to 1990, 92% of Iraqi children attended school. By 2000, that number had dropped to 76%. A more disturbing statistic is that there are 13% more boys than girls attending school. This has serious long-term implications for the status of womyn in Iraqi society.

The delegation formulated a number of recommendations. They are:

- The continued support of humanitarian efforts of the AFSC Campaign of Conscience;
- Utilizing the Peace Pledge as a means of speaking out against any plans for expanded military operations in Iraq. Continuing to lobby Congressional representatives about the effects of possible war on the civilian population, especially the effect on the food distribution through the Oil for Food Program;
- A continued call for the lifting of economic sanctions against the citizens of Iraq. All agreed that humanitarian efforts are just a "band aid" and only the resumption of normal economic activity will bring an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people;
- A call for an international investigation to study the effects of depleted uranium;
- And finally a call for dialogue between the governments of the United States and Iraq and a discontinuation of the continued demonization Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people by the United States government.

I want to thank SAYMA and the Memphis Monthly Friends Meeting for their support, financial, emotional, and spiritual. It was only through this support that I was able to be part of this delegation. It was a life altering

experience. It is my hope that the monthly meetings and worship groups of SAYMA will allow me to come and speak with them about this very important issue.

-Submitted 15 June 2002

June 2002

To All Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from the members of the 2002 Quaker/AFSC Delegation to Iraq. We return filled with the spirit of hospitality and generosity that we received from the People of Iraq. But we are deeply troubled by the living conditions they face.

Seven of us have traveled to Iraq in violation of US law and UN sanctions under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee's Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People. We have made this journey as an act of conscience. We are returning to the US to share our experience and to challenge Friends and others to expand efforts to lift the US-led sanctions and to speak out against further military action in Iraq.

Our delegation included Quakers from four Yearly Meetings, two AFSC staff, and a guide from Voices in the Wilderness, an organization that has facilitated more than 40 delegations to Iraq in the last 6 years. We traveled with minutes of support from monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings.

Prior to our departure from Chicago on May 30, we learned that an American who had just returned from Iraq received a \$10,000 fine from the US Treasury Department for a prior visit. The knowledge that our government has, for the first time, imposed such a fine on a US citizen who was carrying humanitarian supplies to suffering people strengthened our commitment to this public witness against the impact of the sanctions policy and the US government's open preparations for expanded military operations in Iraq.

We traveled overland from Amman, Jordan, to Baghdad on June 2. During the following eight days, we met with an amazing variety of experts from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, Iraqi government ministries, as well as technicians, doctors, artists, and teachers. Our official visits included UN Humanitarian Coordinator Tun Myat, UNICEF Representative in Iraq Carel de Rooy, former Iraqi Ambassador to the UN Sayeed Al-Masawi, and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

Many of our most insightful and memorable interactions, however, were with taxi drivers, shop owners, fellow airline passengers and other informal acquaintances. We endeavored to be ambassadors of good will and peace, and we gathered their stories to share with you.

While most of our time was spent in Baghdad, we traveled to Basrah (the country's third largest city) on an Iraqi Airlines flight, flying through the US-imposed "no-fly zone". We also traveled to the rural village of Bodija, where AFSC will be funding the rehabilitation of a small water treatment plant as the next phase of the Campaign of Conscience.

As we waited for tea in the home of one of the villagers, an elderly man repeated what we heard often during our stay. "We do not hate the American people." The Iraqi people, who live under a military dictatorship, have no experience of being able to influence their government's policies or actions. While they universally express anger and frustration with President Bush and the US policies, they apparently do not hold the American people responsible for the actions of our government. However, they pleaded with us to do whatever we can to have the sanctions lifted.

Our chief concerns for the people of Iraq center on the deteriorating situation in the sectors of education, health, and water and sanitation.

The Iraqi education system continues a steep decline. Prior to 1990, education was completely free, and 92% of Iraqi children attended primary school. Iraq had one of the highest literacy rates in the Middle East. Today 23.7% of the children no longer attend school due to economic reasons, while those who do attend suffer from a limited curriculum, increased class size and an almost total lack of books and supplies.

Each day, UNICEF estimates that 500,000 tons of raw sewage is dumped into Iraq's fresh water systems, due to the unavailability of replacement equipment. Seventy percent of childhood deaths are attributed to

preventable illnesses, including diarrhea and gastroenteritis brought on by dirty water.

While the UN's Oil for Food Program (OFFP) is providing sufficient food to reduce rates of malnutrition and some much-needed equipment, it suffers from a number of serious flaws. For example, it does not provide any influx of cash, hampering the Iraqi government's ability to pay its civil servants a sustainable wage. Teachers, engineers and doctors all report having to work two or three jobs just to survive.

As we return to our Meetings and our communities, the task before us seems overwhelming. The US government is thwarting international law and undermining the authority of international institutions that were designed to uphold the power of law rather than the law of power. The government of Saddam Hussein is oppressive and undemocratic, but our government's policies have further concentrated control over resources and made the population even more dependent on government programs (including food distribution) for survival. It is the people of Iraq who are suffering and who will face certain tragedy in an expanded war.

As Quakers, we must seek to be faithful and rise to the enormity of the task. We call upon Friends to exercise leadership in the struggle to protect the Iraqi people and liberate them from the burden of US-imposed policies. We encourage the following actions:

1. ***Campaign of Conscience*** – continue to support the humanitarian efforts of the Campaign as a small gesture of support and hope for the people;
2. ***Peace Pledge*** – speak out boldly against any plans for expanded military operations in Iraq by signing the Peace Pledge and sending letters to Congressional representatives; war will disrupt the distribution of the OFFP food basket and cause increased malnutrition and at least pockets of famine;
3. ***Lift the economic sanctions*** – everyone we spoke to emphasized that all humanitarian efforts are only a “band-aid”; Iraq is a rich country that can take care of its own needs if allowed to resume normal economic activity;
4. ***Demand an international investigation of the effects of depleted uranium (DU)*** – doctors report dramatic increases in the incidence of cancer, especially in the south, where the US military used more than 300 tons of DU; the sanctions are denying them the resources for adequate research and documentation, as well as the medical supplies for appropriate treatment;
5. ***Dialogue*** – above all, we must demand that the US government engage in open and meaningful dialogue with the government of Iraq; even during the Vietnam War there were ongoing diplomatic efforts, but the US has continued to demonize Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people and refuses direct dialogue while undermining UN negotiations.

We are committed to sharing our experience among Friends and other groups in the US. We must seek to break the isolation of the Iraqi people and work to bring Iraq back into the community of nations. These goals can be accomplished only by changing US policy and averting an expansion of military action. Even as we resist the demonization of Saddam Hussein, we must also resist the demonization of President Bush and other US government officials. The way of Truth requires us to recognize our own complicity in policies carried out in our name if we do not speak and act boldly to oppose them.

In the Light,

Joanne Comerford, Western Massachussetts AFSC

Michael Cooper, Birmingham Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

John Humphries, Hartford Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting

Debra Johnson, Memphis Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachia Yearly Meeting Association

Peter Lems, National AFSC

Richard McDowell, Voices in the Wilderness

Wendy Vasquez, Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

YM Report for Ecological Concerns Network - 2002

The Ecological Concerns Network has continued its momentum during the last year. We're pleased to report on successes, new projects, and increased participation.

ECN was successful, along with help from our SAYMA representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation, in conveying to FCNL the concerns about the national energy policy that our yearly meeting expressed in last year's minute on global warming. FCNL's proposed legislative priorities—with the theme, "Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict"—include the energy policy among its five major issues.

Another success has been the good response by SAYMA individuals to the energy audit questionnaire that Bill Reynolds (Chattanooga MM) developed and distributed. This project has raised awareness among SAYMA Friends of our individual responsibilities and we are hopeful will result in some energy saving measures. If you haven't yet responded, contact Bill for a copy of the form.

Another project has been "the Greening of Yearly Meeting." ECN has been active in suggesting ways that Friends at our annual gathering can be more mindful of resource use, especially paper, food, and energy. We're hopeful that this raised awareness will carry over as Friends return home from this gathering.

Maaret Houghton (Nashville MM) has taken over as editor of the ECN monthly newsletter. She welcomes all contributors and subscribers. This (mostly) e-mail publication contains original articles, book reviews, news, and action alerts.

While our network is represented by Friends in 18 SAYMA monthly meetings and worship groups, we still lack representation in about ten. We're hopeful that we'll soon have at least one contact person in every SAYMA community. Please contact Kathy Johnson or me to be included in SAYMA ECN.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Carlyle and Kathy Johnson, ECN co-clerks

AN ABUNDANCE OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT
Report on the Results of the SAYMA Ecological Concerns Network Survey of Sustainable Energy Practices - 6th month, 2002

SAYMA's Minute on Global Warming (2001) begins with a summary of the disastrous impacts from global climate change. The Minute goes on to say, "Friends' concerns for Simplicity, Right Sharing of Resources and Equality, and our recognition that the effects of global warming desecrate God's creation, lead us to issue an urgent call for Friends to make substantive changes in their lifestyles. . . ."

Here is expressed a clear concern that we avoid achieving only a well crafted Minute and satisfy ourselves with that alone. We want to take concrete, substantive actions toward the solution of the real problem. Toward that end, ECN elected to do an assessment to see what specific substantive actions may be needed. The results from 130 completed surveys received in time to enter into the report data base show that, although many of us are doing a lot of good things, there is an "abundance of room for improvement."

The following are brief statements about a few of the highlights and "dim lights" in the report of the survey results.

A. Compact Fluorescent Lights (cfl's):

CFL's consume only about 25% of the amount of electricity consumed by incandescent bulbs while producing the same amount of actual light. It's not too bad that the survey showed a little more than half of respondents are using at least one cfl in their homes. But it shows that 40% do not have even one. Should not all of us have cfl's installed in every appropriate light fixture in our homes to save 70-75% consumption of electricity for lighting? (Appropriate light fixtures are ones where the lights will be in use without being switched off for at least two hours at a stretch. Switching cfl's off and on wears out the ballasts before their time.) Bear in mind when you purchase cfl's, your much higher purchase cost, compared to that of incandescent bulbs, will be recovered in your saved electricity costs – plus you only buy one cfl bulb for about ten incandescent bulbs because cfl's last around ten or more times longer.

B. Home Heating: The responses report a pretty good overall profile of types of heating sources: 88 natural gas, 35 heat pumps, plus six supremely ecological safe geothermal systems. However, only about nine (9) of the natural gas units were reported as rated excellent in efficiency and three(3) of the others. Further, it appears we are wasting a lot of the heat energy lost through inadequately insulated attics, leaking seals around window and door frames, and through single-pane window glass.

D. Home Appliances: Out of a total 857 appliances reported, only 15% (126) were rated at the high efficiency level. For those of us who feel we must have some of the standard home appliances, let us at least purchase those with "Energy Star" ratings. In an appliance store look at the large yellow and black energy rating stickers on every sales floor appliance and select appliances with stickers that say "Energy Star."

Now regarding how to dry clothes, only 52 (40%) reported outside solar clothes lines. The single-pole umbrella type of clothes line is very convenient and readily available now. You can even install this type on a post on a deck. And, just 57 (43%) report using inside drying racks. (Shower curtain rods also count.)

E. Yard and Garden

Praises be. We shine brightly in this category. Among the seven yard and garden tasks sampled, respondents reported between 30% and 50% have situations in which they do not have to do the tasks; about 45% report no mowing for example. The vast majority of all tasks, other than grass mowing, are powered by human muscle. Twenty-two (22) report mowing with human muscle power alone. We hope more lawn caretakers will switch to the human powered mowers for significant reduction of air pollution and global warming gases.

In closing, we want to acknowledge that the Religious Society of Friends is neither a dogmatic religion nor a legalistic religion. SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network has no interest in trying to impose, or even to suggest, conformity to a uniform code of energy-use practices. Rather, out of the belief that the divine spirit has come to teach his/her people her/himself, we simply want to assist Friends in acquiring awareness and knowledge about what they can do to answer the urgent call to make substantive changes in our lifestyles that will promote the healing of Planet Earth's ecology.

Submitted by Bill Reynolds for the Ecological Concerns Network of SAYMA

SAYMA FRIEND'S ENERGY USE SURVEY -- RETURNS REPORT, JUNE, 2002
-- Focused on Alternative Sustainable Energy Technologies and Practices --

Introduction: 130 households (referred to below as “respondents”) returned completed surveys by the end of May, 2002, and are represented in the numbers reported below.

Comments are in italics. Though there are several areas in which the sample is doing ‘pretty good’ with more sustainable practices, there appears to be plenty of room for significant improvement in almost every one. Please bear in mind the room for improvement (rfi) as you review the item by item information below. There is notably a lot of room for improvement in the home appliances department. If we must have a standard type of electric home appliance, let us purchase those that have the national Energy Star ratings. Regarding the choices between electric appliances and natural gas burning ones, natural gas is the much more sustainable choice. Plants that generate electricity severely pollute the air we breathe and contribute heavily to global warming gases. .

Home Size:

A. 7.6 = average number of rooms per house that are used in daily living with the average of B. 1,513 square feet per house. -- *This information is included in consideration of the relationship between the size of homes and their energy consumption. The larger they are, the more energy they consume.*

Home lighting:

1. compact fluorescent light bulbs (cfl’s): 61.5% of respondents report using cfl’s; 44 have 1 to 3 in use; 22 have 4 to 6; 14 respondents report 7 or more. – *Not too bad.*
2. 93% of all respondents light an average of 5.2 rooms with the sun’s day lighting. – *Pretty good.*

Interior Climate Control:

3. 28 respondents report having Passive Solar heating. *Good Sustainable method.*
4. 67 report not heating between 1 and 7 rooms during winter. *Good but rfi.*
5. 88 report heating with natural gas. Item 23.11 reports only 8 of the natural gas furnaces are rated as highly efficient. *If you get to choose between natural gas and electric resistant heating, ECN encourages the natural gas choice while adding encouragement for creating as much passive solar heating as is feasible and insulate the shell of the home real well. (See items 9 and 10)*
6. 35 respondents report having heat pumps which are very significantly more efficient than electric resistant heaters.
7. Many respondents are turning down thermostat settings for cold weather heating. 68 degrees Fahrenheit is the broadly recommended winter time setting but this survey’s respondents report an average setting of 66.7 degrees. *Pretty Good.* And 57 respondents report no thermostat which hopefully means they are using more sustainable heating systems. Actually 6 reported having geothermal heating in item 23.11. *Very Sustainable.*
8. *Perhaps we need to use more room fans for cooling when it’s hot because the average thermostat setting for the 90 respondents reporting thermostat operated cooling systems was 75.7 degrees F., cooler than the generally recommended setting of 78 degrees. Many of these 90 respondents report settings at or above 78 degrees; it was others’ lower settings that brought the average down. A good portion of respondents (40) reported having no central air conditioning system. Hats off to them. Fans are great for cooling and use less electricity than a/c units.*
9. & 10. A very big majority of respondents do not know the insulation ratings (“R factor”) in their walls and top ceilings. 23 out of the 26 who reported R- ratings in their walls reported R-10 or better. *Not too bad.* But only 17 of the 35 reporting ceiling insulation have R-30 or better. *R-30 is the recommended rating for the top ceiling/attic insulation.*
11. Only 64 out of the 130 reported insulated windows. *Recognizing the significant costs of installing insulated windows, we should also think how it is not only an investment in stabilizing climate and in cleaner air but also an investment that saves us home heating and cooling costs for the long run. Eventually we recover the installation costs in the money we do not spend to pay for larger amounts of unsustainable man-made electricity generator plants.*
- 12, 13, 14. Respondents report a high rate in use of the three types of exterior door insulating methods.
15. 69 report the frames around windows and doors thoroughly sealed? *That leaves almost half who could add this relatively simple, inexpensive energy conservation method.*

Transportation:

16. *The report on gas mileage is disappointing. Only 8 out of the 135 vehicles reported in this survey rated 40 miles per gallon (mpg) or better; only 57 rated above 30 mpg, while 130 get under 30 mpg. Lots of room for improvement in this major energy-consuming technology when we purchase our next vehicles.*

17. *We recognize that not everyone's situation offers a real opportunity to ride public transportation but one wonders if we are missing many opportunities when only 20 respondents report riding public transport.*
18. *Considering the fact of individuals' physical limitations that restrict their ability to ride bicycles perhaps we do well with 16 respondents reporting their combined average of 5.1 bike trips per week.*
19. *110 respondents report an average of 4 combined errands per week significantly reducing their gasoline usage. Good.*
20. *8 respondents reported an average of 4.2 out of town bike trips during the past two years. Hats off to them.*
21. *22 report traveling by bus for a total of 59 trips over the past two years. Maybe even more of us can take the bus for traveling.*
22. *Individual comments to be compiled in another file soon.*

Home Appliances:

23. Cook stoves: *Only 8 reported very high efficiency ratings. Clearly this is an area we can improve in as we replace or purchase new stoves;*

Refrigerators: *A fair representation of highly efficient refrigerators at 27 but a clear opportunity for improvement here also;*

Freezers: *Just 5 out of 38 freezer owners report very high efficiency ratings;*

Washing Machines: *Most respondents (100) report owning washing machines but only 13 of those reported very high efficiency ratings;*

Dryers: *Only 12 high efficiency ratings reported out of 90 owners. Lots of room for improvement;* Outside clotheslines: *Just reported using these;*

Inside clothes drying racks: *57. Think we can improve on that number?;*

Dishwashers: *Out of 78 dishwasher owners only 13 have high energy efficiency ratings;*

Hot water Heaters: *113 report owning hot water heaters but only 17 of them are highly efficient;*

Air Conditioners: *93 owned, only 13 highly efficient;*

Furnaces: *A total of only 11 rated high energy efficiency. (See item 5 also)*

Alternative Sustainable Sources of Energy

24. *14 report purchasing power from sustainable ("green") generation sources such as wind and solar. ECN requests that at least one person in every MM or WG find out if a "Green Power" program is available in their area and, if yes, inform the Meeting or Worship Group how to sign up.*

25. *On-site photovoltaic electricity generation: 5 report using this very advance sustainable source. Each one may represent an investment of \$1,000 to \$4,000 but remember photovoltaics replace electricity you would normally have to buy. After a while photovoltaic owners usually recover their original investment costs in the savings accrued by not paying for central plant generated electricity.*

Hot water Usage

26. *60 household report an average of 2.4 flow restrictors each on faucets and shower heads; 70 did not.*

27. *Timer operated hot water heaters are rare among us, only 5.*

28. *32 people report turning off the water while soaping up in the shower.*

Yard and Garden: -- Looking good in this category

29. (Codes: "hm" for human muscle; "s" for solar-charged batteries, or "n/a" for don't use or need)

grass mowing: *59 report no grass mowing, 22 report mowing with hm only;*

Tilling: *An impressive 47 till by hm (70 do no tilling);*

Hedge clipping: *65 hm; 57 n/a;*

Weeding: *85 by hm; 40 n/a;*

Edge trimming: *53 hm; 64 n/a;*

Pruning: *93 hm; 35 n/a;*

Raking: *87 hm; 37 n/a.*

SAYF Report to SAYMA June, 2002

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) had seven meetings scheduled during the 2001-2002 year, six retreats and this Yearly Meeting. We've been able to hold six of them. In the aftermath of September 11th tragedy, the retreat scheduled for September 14-16 in Chapel Hill was postponed until October and our Penn Center retreat, usually held in October, was canceled.

At the five completed retreats, we averaged 29 SAYFers per retreat. Sixty-two teens attended at least one retreat during the past year; some came to all five retreats and a few attended only one. Details of each retreat are described below. [FAPs are Friendly Adult Presences and FAPITs are FAPs in Training (young adults 18-25).]

1. Chapel Hill Retreat October 12 - 14, 2001

Theme: Community Building

SAYFers 28

FAPs 11 (2 FAPITs)

Activities included a lakeside sunset worship with floating candles, a dance, a cookout, a meditation walk, and various community building games. A FAP training workshop was held.

2. Asheville Retreat November 9 - 11, 2001

Theme: Spirituality and Sexuality

SAYFers 32

FAPs 9 (2 FAPITs)

Activities included a panel with Quakers sharing their stories and a silent walk.

3. Knoxville Retreat January 18 - 20, 2002

Theme: Service Project with young people from The Muslim Community of Knoxville

SAYFers 36

FAPs 11 (1 FAPIT)

Activities included an opening circle with a query about dreams, a trip to a Mosque, and a choice of service projects: some SAYFers painted woodwork at the YWCA and other SAYFers picked up litter in the neighborhood of the Mosque.

4. Asheville Retreat March 22 - 24, 2002

Theme: Aspects of Quakerism within our Community

SAYFers 28

FAPs 7 (1 FAPIT)

Retreat activities were planned by the Nurturing Committee and included a Healing Circle, a dance, and a workshop about conscientious objector status.

5. Hard Labor Creek Retreat (Atlanta) April 19 - 21, 2002

Theme: Simplicity

SAYFers 23

FAPs 9 (1 FAPIT)

Activities included a candle circle, worship sharing, a silent hour, a guided mediation, swimming and boating, and a talent show.

Total expenses for the five SAYF retreats held in 2001-2002 were \$3298.20 and total income from registrations for the retreats and from contributions was \$3235.00. Expenses exceeded income by \$63.20.

In addition to our retreats we hosted two joint Nurturing Committee and Steering Committee and Oversight Committee meetings and those are outlined below.

Berea August 24 - 26, 2001
Nurturing Committee Members 17
Steering Committee Members 7
Oversight Committee members 2

Tasks included planning for the upcoming year and revisiting some SAYF policies. Nurturing Committee worked on ways to nurture old time SAYFers as well as newbies, Steering and Oversight Committees worked on policies for night FAPPING and on communication with parents.

Atlanta February 22 - 24, 2002
Nurturing Committee Members 17
Steering Committee Members 8
Oversight Committee members 2
Overnight FAPs 3

Nurturing Committee planned the March SAYF retreat, which was entirely led by the Nurturing Committee. They also had a workshop led by Mary Ann Downey on Eldering and Clearness. All three committees together planned the retreat schedule for next year and approved a mission statement for SAYF. Steering Committee and Oversight Committee, meeting jointly, considered FAPIT policy, planned additional training for FAPs and FAPITs, and approved a budget proposal for 2002-2003 to submit to the SAYMA Finance Committee. Membership on the two committees for the upcoming year was also discussed.

This is the first year that SAYF has had an Administrative Assistant to handle mailings and record keeping. Retreat planning, printing and distribution of the SAYF Worship Journals, and the work of the SAYF Steering Committee have been greatly facilitated by this development. An archive of retreat reports, FAP approval letters and training, and committee meetings is being created out of the several boxes of paper that have been passed from hand to hand since the inception of SAYF.

Expenses for the committee meetings and for the salary of the administrative assistant are paid by the SAYMA treasurer and are covered in the Yearly Meeting Financial Report. The SAYF meeting at Yearly Meeting is similarly included in the figures for Yearly Meeting. SAYF provides an epistle to SAYMA, reporting on their Yearly Meeting activities, at the end of each Yearly Meeting.

A subcommittee of the SAYF Steering Committee has undertaken to organize and revise the plethora of written material about SAYF accumulated over the years. The subcommittee has met several times and considerable progress has been made. Drafts of several major sections are ready for review this summer and should be available in the fall. We expect that the first phase, a SAYF Handbook consisting of Introduction and Mission Statement and sections on Structure and Governance of the Young Friends' Community, Roles of Adult Volunteers, and Procedures and Training, will be completed by the next Yearly Meeting. The final section, the Retreat Planning Manual, already exists as a separate document that will be reviewed, revised, and incorporated into the Handbook during the 2003-2004 year.

SAYF also developed its own website during the past year. It is reachable from the SAYMA website and contains information useful to the SAYF community like schedules, guidelines, and resources on CO Status and Draft Resistance. More information, including completed sections of the SAYF Handbook, will be added in the coming year.

Attendance data for SAYF at Yearly Meeting will be appended to this report when it is presented at Yearly Meeting.

Ministry and Nurture Committee report: June, 2002

The SAYMA Committee for Ministry and Nurture, as a representative body of this Yearly Meeting, has been well attended and active this year.

We have noted that SAYMA's Faith and Practice contains no mention of our Ministry and Nurture Committee.

We plan to offer a draft for consideration as part of Faith and Practice.

Items we have looked at this year which could be part of this section include:

Functions of Ministry and Nurture

Guidelines for traveling in the ministry

Our responsibilities for use of funds

We have begun work on enhancing communications among meetings and worship groups of SAYMA.

We share news of our meetings at each representative meeting.

M & N members maintain contact with local worship groups and smaller meetings.

We encourage intervisitation and participation in Yearly Meeting.

In response to a concern raised after last year's Yearly Meeting, we have implemented measures for a more visible and supportive Ministry and Nurture presence at the SAYMA Yearly Meeting.

We have undertaken a focus on eldering.

At their request, we have provided 2 workshops for SAYF on eldering and clearness committees.

We have planned an annotated list of resources on eldering, to be made available to the wider SAYMA community.

We plan to continue work on all of these issues in the coming year.

Nancy Beecher, Turtle MacDermott, Kit Potter (Recording Clerk)

Faith and Practice Revisions Committee Annual Report - 2002

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee has met three times, October, February, and June, with six friends involved Free Polazzo – Anneewakee Creek WG, Larry Ingle - Chattanooga, Penelope Wright – Nashville, Missy Ivie – West Knoxville, Steve Livingston – Asheville, and Geeta McGahey – Celo. When Free Polazzo asked to be released as clerk, Geeta McGahey then took this responsibility. Penelope Wright is our Recording clerk. We are seeking two to four more gentle and enthusiastic members. We are proceeding with care for each other and with due deliberation, believing process is more important than deadlines. Our next meeting will be August 31 and we expect to continue meeting 3-4 times/year.

We are in agreement with the current F&P that SAYMA should have two separate documents, the Guide to Our Faith & Practice and a Handbook Of Procedures. The Guide will remain in bound format.

At the April representative meeting it was approved that a link to the SAYMA website be created for posting the proposed changes to, The Guide to the F&P as a work in progress made visible to all. Friends can then reflect on these before formal presentation. Proposed changes received from Monthly Meetings will be seasoned and addressed either as they appear in the order of the text or as Spirit leads. We will not wait until the end of our discernment to seek approval for changes. Following the process outlined in the Guide, *“At least three months prior to Yearly Meeting, we will distribute recommendations to monthly meetings to allow for a process of seasoning. In light of responses from monthly meetings we will present our reports at Yearly Meeting. Any committee recommendations for changing the Guide that are approved by Yearly Meeting shall immediately become a part of the Guide, even before reprinting.”*

We will first submit sections that have needed only editing changes; then we will present discrete paragraphs/sections for purposes of clarification for conducting the business of Yearly Meeting. Concerns that the Spirit reveals as being of immediate nature will be submitted as they occur. The Reading list and queries will be submitted as separate sections as they are completed. Last to be submitted will be complex-linked items and the final document. In The 3rd Edition Guide, we will try to reflect all of the historical changes that have happened since the last revision, i.e. the names and dates of new Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups should be included, changes in practice that have evolved since 1990 should be noted, etc. We have asked the archivist for the historical information. The index needs to be reviewed and expanded.

The members of this committee feel that we are growing to know more about our Yearly Meeting and are thankful for the opportunity to spend time together for this ongoing process of discernment. We welcome any seasoned input from monthly meetings, we also welcome comments about suggested changes prior to their being formally proposed to Monthly Meetings.

We have the following recommendations:

Recommend: Until the 3rd edition is completed there should be a specified page on the SAYMA web site for approved amendments and changes to the Guide, arranged in chronological order and that the next printing should “integrate” these changes.

Recommend: Name a separate committee to work on the Handbook. There needs to be careful collaboration between the handbook and Revision committee (possibly through one member sitting on both).

We seek affirmation of our understanding that we are in good order when we discern details about procedures found in the F&P that need to be shifted to the Handbook, for instance the listing of the WQOs to which we appoint representatives. It is our understanding that this is an example of situations that change more frequently than revisions of F&P can accurately reflect our practice. We use the

following definition of Procedure – “description of a set of steps or course of action; set of established forms (structural and documents) or methods for conducting business-the ‘how-tos’”. **The revision committee is keeping an ongoing list of items that we believe belong in the Handbook which we will pass on to the Handbook Committee along with additional culled items, as they are identified, without submitting the list to YM or Rep Meeting for approval.**

Submitted by,
Geeta Jyothi McGahey, clerk

SAYMA End of Fiscal Year Account Balances Report

	6/30/97	6/30/98	6/30/99	6/30/00	6/30/01	6/22/02
ASSETS						
Bank Accounts						
Checking	\$2,063	\$16,358	\$14,651	\$16,316	\$17,963	\$9,494
Money Market					\$13,173	\$11,142
Savings		\$362	\$1,426	\$2,700		
SAYF Checking				\$1,444	\$1,884	\$1,874
Total Available Funds	\$2,063	\$16,720	\$16,077	\$20,460	\$33,020	\$22,510
Set Aside Funds						
FWCC Third World Delegate		\$650	\$1,950		\$650	\$1,300
FWCC Triennial Delegates			\$1,000	\$879	\$905	\$1,905
Released Friend			\$1,350	\$1,750	\$1,950	\$1,850
Spiritual Development			\$332	\$582	\$782	\$1,282
YM Scholarship					\$328	\$328
Youth Quake			\$695	\$945	\$845	\$1,095
Total Set Aside Funds	\$0	\$650	\$5,327	\$4,156	\$5,460	\$7,760
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,063	\$17,370	\$21,404	\$24,616	\$38,480	\$30,270
LIABILITIES						
Payroll Liabilities			\$318			\$3,629
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$318	\$0	\$0	\$3,629
OVERALL TOTAL	\$2,063	\$17,370	\$21,086	\$24,616	\$38,480	\$26,641

Prepared by W.E. Kendall Ivie, SAYMA Treasurer

SAYMA Fiscal Year 2003 Budget - Approved 6/22/02

	Budget FY2000	Actual FY2000	Budget FY2001	Actual FY2001	Budget FY2002	YTD \$37,429	Budget FY2003
Income							
Assessments	\$28,510	\$25,379	\$32,500	\$34,186	\$32,500	\$26,536	\$32,500
Bank Interest	\$50	\$77	\$400	\$645	\$400	\$269	\$200
Contributions	\$500	\$6	\$100	\$604	\$100	\$570	\$100
F&P Sales	\$100	\$194	\$100	\$271	\$100	\$196	\$100
Newsletter	\$2,800	\$1,572				\$3	
SAYF Retreats	\$0	\$250	TBD	\$4,870	\$5,250	\$3,235	\$5,100
YM Receipts	\$20,000	\$20,361	\$25,550	\$24,296	\$25,000	\$22,750	\$25,000
YM Scholarship Donations		\$741		\$995		\$954	\$600
YM Book Sales	\$1,500	\$2,806	\$1,500	\$1,686	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
Peace Conference						\$420	
Total Income	\$53,460	\$51,386	\$60,150	\$67,552	\$64,850	\$54,932	\$65,100
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES							
Yearly Meeting					\$25,000	\$21,483	\$25,000
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$17,600	\$19,385	\$21,000	\$15,799			
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$350	\$2,078	\$1,400	\$3,463			
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$3,300	\$2,432	\$2,800	\$2,393			
Coordinator	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700			
Ass't Coordinator	\$600	\$600	\$600				
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	\$1,000	\$132	\$500	\$693			
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$150	\$0	\$350	\$0			
YM Bookstore	\$1,500	\$2,861	\$1,500	\$2,994	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
SAYF Operation & Administration	\$3,760	\$2,295	\$4,725	\$953	\$5,000	\$1,850	\$4,650
SAYF Retreats			TBD	\$4,464	\$5,250	\$3,720	\$5,100
Delegate Expenses	\$4,150	\$3,993	\$4,650	\$4,472	\$5,650	\$2,857	\$5,650
Rep Mtgs	\$300	\$316	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300
Del to WQOs	\$3,850	\$3,677	\$4,350	\$4,472	\$5,350	\$2,857	\$5,350
Committees							
Ministry and Nurture	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300
Ecological Concerns			\$100	\$13	\$200	\$30	\$200
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$250	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$400
SAYMA Personnel	\$6,100	\$6,052	\$15,000	\$7,596	\$15,000	\$16,021	\$15,260
SAYMA Staff Training			\$1,000	\$235	\$1,000	\$249	\$1,000
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,200	\$4,046	\$3,000	\$2,300	\$3,000	\$2,193	\$3,000
Phone & Office Expenses	\$2,000		\$2,000				
Postage	\$500		\$500				
Penalties	\$200		\$0				
Misc. Office	\$500		\$500				
SAYMA Newsletter	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,195	\$2,000	\$1,532	\$2,000
SAYMA Directory	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$517	\$600
SAYMA F&P	\$100	\$0	\$500	\$336	\$0	\$239	\$500
Total Operational Disbursements	\$43,060	\$43,142	\$59,025	\$46,212	\$64,600	\$50,690	\$65,160
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS							
Transfers To Funds							
Spiritual Development Fund	\$250	\$250	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Released Friend Fund	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
YouthQuake	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$4,750	\$4,750	\$4,850	\$4,850	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$6,250
AFSC	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
FCNL	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
FGC	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$800
FWCC	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Right Sharing of Wrlld Res	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$800	\$800	\$800
Quaker House	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
FLGC	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
FCUN	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$400	\$400	\$400
Friends Peace Teams	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
Wm Penn House			\$100	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$200
Quaker Eco-Witness					\$400	\$400	\$400
Guilford College Archiving					\$100	\$100	\$100
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Other	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$1,900	\$2,375	\$100
Total Projects	\$7,400	\$7,300	\$8,550	\$8,450	\$12,750	\$13,225	\$9,950
Total Disbursements	\$50,460	\$50,442	\$67,575	\$54,662	\$77,350	\$63,915	\$75,110
Surplus (Deficit)	\$3,000	\$944	(\$7,425)	\$12,890	(\$12,500)	(\$8,983)	(\$10,010)

Prepared by W.E.Kendall Ivie, SAYMA Treasurer

Notes to Budget:

- a) Expect over \$8000 more in assessments by end of year or early next year.
- b) Includes \$1000 extra for FGC Campaign for Growing Quakerism
- c) Increases approved Spring Rep Meeting
- d) Includes \$574.50 Peace Conference approved Winter Rep Meeting and \$1800 travel for delegate with AFSC Iraq mission approved Spring Rep Meeting.
- e) Will be near \$1000 when outstanding assessments come in.
- f) Based on \$55 assessment.
- g) Interest rate now about 1%.
- h) Explicitly showing Donations in budget.

SAYMA Personnel Committee

The SAYMA Personnel Committee met in Nashville at the Spring Representative Meeting, 4/1/2002, 8:30 pm. Present: John Geary, Clerk; Sharon Annis, Kathleen Mavournin and Kendall Ivie. Absent: Lee Ann Swarm, Judy Prince.

A 2% cost of living adjustment was decided upon for 2002-2003 for the SAYMA Administrative Assistant and SAYF Assistant. Some type of evaluation procedure will have to be developed for merit increases. The committee will work to develop a procedure. The job description for the SAYMA Administrative Assistant needs to be revised and updated.

The problem of health insurance was discussed and because of the difficulty of two part time individuals qualifying for group coverage, it was decided to give \$600 per year to each position for a health benefit. It was pointed out that each of the positions is now one quarter time.

The committee will continue to work on refining job descriptions and time sheets, develop an evaluation procedure for merit increases, develop a step process for merit pay and continue to monitor health care coverage.

John Geary, Personnel Clerk

Registrar's Report
6/23/02
Carol Gray/Co-Registrar

	2002	2001
Total in attendance	233	248
Junior Yearly Meeting participants	13	18
SAYF participants	33	45
Friendly Adult Presences (full-time)	5	
FAPs (night)	8	
FAP (part-time, day)	1	
Young Adult Friends	10	5
Meetings and Worship Groups represented	36	33
Meetings and Worship Groups outside SAYMA region	6	

Thanks to Peggy Burke, Kay Parke, Chris Duke, Joe Taylor, Hannah MacDermott, Missy & Kendall Ivie, Rich Klima, Bettina Wolff and Susan Carlyle.

SAYMA Positions of Responsibility as of 6/23/02						
COMMITTEE	POSITION	LENGTH OF TERM	FROM	TO	NAME	MEETING
CLERK'S	Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Sharon Annis	West Knoxville
ADVISORY	Asst. Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	John Geary	Boone
	Treasurer					
	Recording Clerk	2+1	Jun-00	Jun-03	Carol Lamm	Berea
	Personnel Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	John Geary	Boone
	Finance Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Chris Berg	Greenville
	Nominating Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Penelope Wright	Nashville
	SAYF Steering Co-Clerk					
	SAYF Oversight contact					
	YM Planning Clerk	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Tim Lamm	Berea
	Ministry & Nurture Clerk	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Kathy Burke	Atlanta
FINANCE	Clerk (usually Past Treasurer)	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Chris Berg	Greenville
	Present Treasurer					
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Peter Reilly	Berea
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Dick Houghton	Nashville
	Member	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Charles Schade	Charleston
	SAYF Treasurer(ex-officio)					
NOMINATING	Clerk (Past SAYMA Clerk)	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Penelope Wright	Nashville
	YAF Rep	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Jess Purvis	Chapel Hill
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Perry Treadwell	Atlanta
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Jane Goldthwait	Celo
	Other MM SAYMA reps					
YEARLY	Clerk	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Tim Lamm	Berea
MEETING	Adult Program Coord.	2	Jun-02	Jun-04		
PLANNING	Workshop Coordinator	2	Jun-02	Jun-04		
	Worship Sharing	coordinated by Ministry & Nurture Committee; Bob McGahey, contact				
	Liaison/Local Arrangements	1	Jun-02	Jun-03	Bob Welch	Swannanoa Valley
	Liaison/Local Arrangements					
	Liaison/Local Arrangements					
	Co-Registrar	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Carol Gray	Atlanta
	Co-Registrar	2+2	Jun-00	Jun-04	Missy Ivie	West Knoxville
	Bookstore					
	JYM Coordinator					
	YAF rep	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Priscilla Ewen	Atlanta
	Site Sel Co-Clks, ex officio					
	SAYF Steerg Clk, ex officio					
	Finance Clerk, ex officio	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Chris Berg	Greenville
	SAYMA Treas, ex officio					
	SAYMA Clerk, ex officio	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Sharon Annis	West Knoxville

SITE	Co-Clerk					
SELECTION	Co-Clerk					
	Member					
FAITH	Member		Jun-01	~~	Free Polazzo	Anneewakee WG
AND	Member		Jun-01	~~	Missy Ivie	West Knoxville
PRACTICE	Member		Jun-01	~~	Nancy Whitt	Birmingham
REVISION	Recording Clerk		Jun-01	~~	Penelope Wright	Nashville
	Member		Jun-01	~~	Larry Ingle	Chattanooga
	Clerk		Jun-01	~~	Geeta McGahey	Celo
	Member		Sep-01	~~	Steve Livingston	Asheville
	Member		Jun-02	~~	Kristi Estes	Memphis
SAYF	Co-Clerk	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Dick Houghton	Nashville
STEERING	Co-Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Kathleen Mavournin	West Knoxville
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	John Rennie	Atlanta
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Bill O'Connell	Birmingham
	Member	2+2	Jun-00	Jun-04	Sig Christensen	West Knoxville
	Member					
	Member					
	Member					
SAYF	clerk/contact					
OVERSIGHT	Member	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Margaret Farmer	Asheville
	Member	2+2	Jun-00	Jun-04	John Potter	Nashville
	Member	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Dolph Goldenberg	Atlanta
ECOLOGICAL	Co-Clerk	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Susan Carlyle	New Moon
CONCERNS	Co-Clerk	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Kathy Johnson	Atlanta
NETWORK						
MINISTRY	Clerk	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Kathy Burke	Atlanta
AND	Recording Clerk	Appointed by M&N Committee.			Kit Potter	Nashville
NURTURE	Other MM/WG reps					
PEACE AND	Clerk					
SOCIAL	Assistant Clerk					
CONCERNS	Volunteer members					
PERSONNEL	Clerk (Asst. Clerk)	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	John Geary	Boone
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Judy Prince	Birmingham
	Member	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Lee Ann Swarm	West Knoxville
	Supervisor AA (Clerk)	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Sharon Annis	West Knoxville
	Supervisor SAYF AA					
ARCHIVIST						

SAF	Editors		ongoing		Susan & Kim Carlyle	New Moon
NEWSLETTER						
HANDBOOK	Clerk					
(AD HOC)	Member		Jun-02	~~	Jim Hamill	West Knoxville
	Member		Jun-02	~~	Missy Ivie	West Knoxville
	Member					
JUNIOR	Clerk					
YEARLY	Member		Jun-02	~~	Robin Wells	Asheville
MEETING	Member					
(AD HOC)	Member					
SAYMA	AFSC Corp	3.5	Jan-00	Jun-03	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
REPS	AFSC Corp	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Free Polazzo	Anneewakee
TO	AFSC Corp Alternate	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Colin Sugioka	Celo
WIDER	AFSC Corp Alternate	2	Jun-01	Jun-03	Priscilla Ewen	Atlanta
QUAKER	AFSC/SERO Exec Comm	1	Jun-02	Jun-03	Debra Johnson	Memphis
ORGS	AFSC/SERO Exec Comm	1	Jun-02	Jun-03	Pam Beziat	Nashville
	(FCNL	3+3	Jun-98	Jun-04	Joe Taylor	Atlanta
	(FCNL	3	Jun-02	Jun-05	Joyce Johnson	Celo
	(FCNL	3	Jun-01	Jun-04	Carol Nickle	West Knoxville
	FCUN	2+2	Jun-00	Jun-04	Kim Carlyle	New Moon
	{ FGC	3	Jun-01	Jun-04	Penelope Wright	Nashville
	{ FGC	3	Jun-02	Jun-05	Julia Sibley-Jones	Columbia
	FLGC	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Annie Black of Cookeville and Dolph Goldenburg of Atlanta, shared position	
	[FWCC	3	Jun-01	Jun-04	Lauren Mitchell	Asheville
	[FWCC	3+3	Jun-99	Jun-05	Rachel Weir	Celo
	[FWCC	3	Jun-00	Jun-03	Bill Holland	Atlanta
	Friends Peace Team	2	Jun-02	Jun-04	Bob Welch	Swannanoa
	RSWR (volunteer)		Jul-99	Jun-04	Geeta McGahey	Celo
	Quaker House	3	Jun-02	Jun-05	Geoffrey Pratt	Nashville

Appendix D: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

American Friends Service Committee

American Friends Service Committee Southeast Regional Office

Friendly Woman

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature

Friends General Conference

Friends Peace Team

Right Sharing of World Resources

Representative Report
American Friends Service Committee
June 2001-2002

The past year the American Friends Service Committee has been dominated by the events of September 11, 2001. At the Corporation Meeting in November 2001 the members shared the actions and events in which Quakers across the country had been involved. The actions included relief work, peace walks, worship-sharing, reaching out to Islamic communities, symposiums, etc. The agency as a whole developed the No More Victims Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to develop non-violent responses to September 11th. The campaign is working in five areas: material assistance, communication, public policy, grassroots organizing and conscientious objection.

Before September 11th AFSC had undergone a Visioning Process which included 4 regional gatherings and several Board Meetings in an attempt to establish overarching goals for the work of the AFSC. The goals approved by the Board on November 4, 2001 include: rethinking borders, exploring healing justice, creating economic opportunity and dismantling structural inequality, empowering youth leadership, building commitment to non-violent resolution of conflict and providing humanitarian assistance and education. The Board and the program areas of AFSC continue to clarify and to work toward these goals.

Donald Gann, left the clerkship after 7 years of service. He was honored, although absent due to illness, at the Corporation Meeting. The Minute of Appreciation included: "I don't know how many different regions Don has served, nor how many committees he has worked with or chaired, but clearly the Service Committee has been a part of his religious and activist life all through his adulthood...Let us thank him for what he has done with and for us and for the devotion he will continue to show."

Paul A. Lacy is the new Clerk of AFSC. He is Professor Emeritus of English at Earlham College and has been active in many areas of AFSC. He is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. He has worked local, regionally and nationally with several wider Quaker organizations. He clearly brings faith and skills to this new endeavor.

SAYMA has two of its own on the Board of AFSC. Daryl Berquist has been a member for several years and Jonah McDonald was approved by the Corporation to be a Board member in November.

AFSC sent more than 60 people to the UN Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa in the fall. Half of the delegation was young people, who were involved in the Youth Summit. Many Quaker groups from other countries were present and a Meeting for Worship was held hosted by Friends in Durban.

The Board has approved a policy for screening staff and volunteers who are working with children and youth. The Board has asked the Human Resources Committee to continue working on guidelines and procedures that will protect the children and youth and not stigmatize groups who are especially vulnerable to the criminal justice system (communities of color, immigrants, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities).

The Friends Center in which AFSC is housed is in need of major renovations. AFSC, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are the 3 partners in the building. There are financial and strategic planning groups, which are developing a vision for the future of Friends Center.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent SAYMA on the Corporation of AFSC. I continue to be proud of the way AFSC brings Quaker values into the world.

Sallie I. Prugh
Columbia Friends Meeting

**Report to SAYMA June 2002
from SAYMA Representative to the
Southeastern Regional Office (SERO) Executive Committee (EC)
of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Daryl Bergquist**

This is near the end of my sixth and final year as SAYMA Representative to the Southeastern Regional Office (SERO) Executive Committee (EC) of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). With the added responsibilities I accepted as Co-clerk of Executive Committee serving on the AFSC Board of Directors, the past 4 years have been like a 1/2 time volunteer job. The experiences resulting from this appointment to SERO have been transforming for me. I have been challenged to the core, have been brought to the place of reliance on the Spirit knowing that my understanding and power was not sufficient, and have been led to understand myself and others in new ways. The experience of diverse community has opened a yearning to find/create such in other parts of my life.

AFSC is in flux both nationally and in SERO. I expect that this will always be the case to a varying degree. AFSC is an amazing attempt to live Friends testimonies in the world and as such, merges the conflicts and peculiarities of Friends together with those of the larger society. AFSC is an opportunity and an attempt of seeking Divine guidance and of modeling a vision of a just society in a Friends service and social change organization. It is an exciting and challenging experiment.

AFSC in general, and SERO in particular, continues with high quality programs. In the Southeastern Region, these programs are:

- In Miami, Florida -
 - ✓ The Central American Political Asylum Program provides legal assistance and information to Central American and Haitian refugees.
- In High Point, North Carolina -
 - ✓ The Emergency and Material Assistance Program collects and distributes materials both regionally and internationally.
 - ✓ The Orita Program empowers youth and the community.
- In Atlanta, Georgia -
 - ✓ The Middle East Peace Education Program educates people in the Southeast about the Middle East.
 - ✓ The African Peace Education Program educates people in the Southeast about Africa.
 - ✓ The Help Increase the Peace Program trains youth in conflict resolution.
- Also in Atlanta is a short-term general peace education position which is part of AFSC's No More Victims campaign.

Valerie Barlow began the work of Regional Director for SERO in October. Valerie is from SAYMA and has served as clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting. Valerie has the challenge and

opportunity of building a new leadership team for SERO, since there has been a turnover in staff in the SERO office. Yolanda Burwell and I will be ending our terms as co-clerks of the Executive Committee in December, so there will also be new leadership and membership in the Executive Committee. Please support SERO by recommending capable people to apply for the positions in SERO. Applications are currently being accepted for the position of Associate Regional Director and the position of Program Director for the Help Increase the Peace Program, and will soon be solicited for Program Director for the Middle East Peace Education Program. SAYMA will be appointing new Representatives to the SERO Executive Committee during this yearly meeting session. The SERO Executive Committee functions as a board, providing guidance and governance for the region. SAYMA has the opportunity and responsibility of appointing Friends to these positions capable of providing leadership during this defining time.

AFSC is in the process of organizing around 6 goals:

- Providing Humanitarian Assistance and Education
- Migration and Mobility
- Empowering Youth Leadership
- Building Commitment to Non Violence
- Exploring Healing Justice
- Creating Economic Opportunity and Dismantling Structural Inequality

These goals will become the basis for AFSC programs nationally and regionally. I encourage talking with Valerie if you have suggestions or questions in this regard.

Working in the diverse community at AFSC has provided me the opportunity to perceive my place of privilege and isolation, and to develop the tools and commitment to change it. This has been the greatest gift among many which also includes an increased understanding of power and leadership, and the dynamics of organizations. I wish to thank SAYMA for providing me with this opportunity.

Daryl Bergquist

***Friendly Woman* Production Team Final Report
SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2002**

**Penelope Wright for the group
Penelope Wright for the group
Penelope Wright for the group**

We began our gestation at yearly meeting sessions of 2000 when several interested women signed up. Subsequently, a few of us met with the outgoing group at Gathering, but although we were clear we wanted to take up this effort, we had no idea how we would do it. Clarity came during the first (of only two) face to face meetings we had. We decided we would be modern women and use electronic technology, despite the fact that several of us didn't even know how to open or attach files. We surmounted all those barriers, learning to download the files posted from Belize by Judy Lumb who was our layout wizard.

Usually the tenure for a group to produce *Friendly Woman* is 2 years or 8 issues, but a new group did not come forth to take up the work until January 2002 and we put out 10 issues. We like to think that we were able to capture some of the original spirit of *Friendly Woman*, born 25 years ago at an FGC Gathering Women's Center. Indeed several of our team were present at the birth. We struggled with the economics of publishing, but managed to increase the circulation and sustain the quality of the product without having to use emergency funds.

We learned that Quaker discernment can be accomplished, in a worshipful manner via email. We found that strong personalities were the fire of our work and that tender listening, deep affection and grounded spirituality were the glue that kept us together. At our celebratory slumber party in January, held at Cloudlands Park, we determined that our connections were so important to us, as women of SAYMA, that we pray these connections will expand to more women of SAYMA.

We are most grateful to those who were so generous of their money, time and spiritual support.

The SAYMA PLUS Friendly Women:

Nancy Beecher, Peggy Bonnington, Hannelore Devlin, Becky Ingle, Ellen Johnson, Judy Lumb, Kathleen Mavournin, Janet Minshall, Susan Phelan, Kit Potter, Janice Pulliam, Nancy Shaw, Nancy Whitt, Penelope Wright, Haven Hawley (our printing facilitator) and June Etta Chenard and Pashta Marymoon, our Canadian contingent.

Friendly Woman's new address is: Deborah Haines
2794 Fort Scott Drive
Arlington, VA 22202
ddrhr@msn.com

War Is Not the Answer

The annual meeting of the General Committee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) met from 11/8 - 11/11/2001. It was uplifting to be in a room full of over 200 Quakers and hear all of the outreach that people were doing in local communities to work towards peace. It was inspiring to see the FCNL national office with the message "War Is Not the Answer" on the side of the building facing the closed Hart Senate Office Building. It was also inspiring to hear about staff being in the middle of the confusion, evacuations, and concerns about friends and relatives on 9/11 and the next day putting out a statement urging non-violent responses to the terror attacks.

If I needed a reminder of the importance of FCNL it was given this fall. When the banner went up, 2-3 people a day who were not connected to FCNL dropped by to offer help. The people visiting the web site at www.fcnl.org and using it to write letters to elected officials went from 150-200 per week to over 4,000. And Congress people were saying that FCNL was the only organization urging a non-violent response.

Our time together was packed because FCNL's response to 9/11 was not the major focus. The theme of this annual meeting was "On Being Faithful Stewards." We heard about the dangers of our advanced technology (including nuclear weapons still on hair trigger alert), the dangers to the environment posed by cold war weapons left in stockpiles and how the degradation of the environment may lead to future wars. Kim Carlyle from SAYMA was on a panel with Eric Sabelman from Pacific Yearly Meeting talking about the intersection between ecology and peace and justice. In addition the major item of business was revising the part of the FCNL policy statement that is summarized by - "We seek an earth restored...." The meeting spent time in small groups and a majority of the business sessions dealing with this work. The results brought this part of the policy statement up to equal status with the other three parts (summarized by - "We seek a world free of war and the threat of war. We seek a society with equity and justice for all. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled...") That still leaves a ways to go for FCNL to become a voice in environmental policy in Washington. Currently, the priorities for staff, which were set by Quakers from all across the country in 11/2000, stress the first two parts of the policy summary. Also, because reserves are decreasing, we must have more donations to continue current work. So more Friends from across the country must become activists in their local communities, help to set FCNL's priorities, and help FCNL grow.

Your representatives to FCNL were asked by the co-clerks of SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network, Kathy Johnson and Kim Carlyle, to take SAYMA's minutes on population control and global climate change to the annual meeting of FCNL. We were also asked to find out "How SAYMA could help make way open for environmental work at FCNL. Because FCNL sets priorities in even numbered years, I did not feel moved to share the concern in the general business meeting. However, I did meet with Arthur Meyer-Boyd, Associate Executive Director of FCNL and with Jonathan Fisch, Clerk of the General Committee to share the concern. We

agreed that it would be brought to the next Executive Committee meeting. During the General Committee's meeting for business a representative from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting raised a concern that FCNL put a higher priority on environmental work. At that time Jonathan Fisch related that our yearly meeting had sent a letter expressing a similar concern.

There is no official response but I want to share my own thoughts. A little work is being done now on issues that intersect the current priorities (support for destroying chemical weapons stockpiles for example). My hope (and I think this is shared by many others in FCNL) is that resources can be found to expand the work of FCNL to include work on other major environmental issues. I believe that requires two things, that Friends from many areas of the country be led to have environmental issues as a major concern and that in turn resources for FCNL increase. FCNL is well respected in Washington, DC, and has good relationships with Congresspeople and their staffs. This is because it does extensive research on issues, follows items in committees in Congress, and works with local activists to get its message out. To do the same quality of work on environmental issues requires a full time legislative staff person and the support for that person. I believe that "a way opening" will involve additional resources.

Finally, I want to share how FCNL decides about issues on which to focus. Every two years all of the monthly meetings and Friends churches in the United States are invited to participate in setting priorities for FCNL staff. This process which results in a "Statement of Priorities" will go on throughout the coming year (2002). Your meeting contact should get mailings about this. The first phase will take place in early 2002 with responses due by 7/1/02. When the Policy Committee (14 Quakers from around the United States including Nancy Lee-Riffe from Berea) collates and processes these suggestions, they usually mail out a second request for comments. Meetings are asked to worshipfully rank these priorities. This input is usually due by early ninth month. The Policy Committee meets again to draft a Priorities Statement that is considered in small groups and in meeting for business at FCNL's annual meeting in 11/2002. The current Policy Statement and Statement of Priorities are available on FCNL's web site, www.fcnl.org, or from FCNL, 245 Second St., NE, Washington, DC 20002. I hope you'll get involved.

Joe Taylor
December 2001

FCUN Representative Report to Yearly Meeting – 2002

At its annual meeting last October, Friends Committee on Unity with Nature approved bylaw changes to expand its steering committee and to become more representative of the diverse community of Friends. All Yearly Meeting representatives are now automatically members of the steering committee. These changes have already provided for some new energy and fresh ideas.

A long range planning effort is underway to help FCUN better serve the North American community of Friends. Monthly meetings have been asked to fill out and return questionnaires to inform the process. We are hopeful that all SAYMA monthly meeting and worship groups will respond with comments and suggestions.

In continuing support and outreach efforts, FCUN Friends gave more than 50 presentations and workshops last year for monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and various Friends organizations and provided excellent educational materials, especially for First Day Schools.

FCUN has not only been reaching out to monthly meetings, but to other Friends organizations and even to the world. We were invited to address the annual meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation and took that opportunity to explain the link between energy policy and peace efforts. Apparently the message was well received since the newly proposed FCNL legislative priorities—with the theme, “Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict”—include the energy policy among its five major issues. And going beyond our shores, FCUN is sending delegates to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

At Friends General Conference Gathering last July, FCUN clerk Stan Becker (who spoke to SAYMA two years ago) raised awareness among Friends’ for the concern of rapid population growth. The success of his message was measured by the sales of 100 copies of the FCUN book, “Population is People,” at the conclusion of his talk.

FCUN’s Quaker Eco-Witness has two projects underway. One is a young adult Friend in Washington. Guilford graduate, Lissa Carter, will serve as an intern with the National Environmental Trust and informally attend meetings with FCNL interns. The second is a consultation on economics and ecology to be held at Pendle Hill next Spring.

FCUN responded to the events following the attacks of last September with a “Statement on the U.S. ‘War on Terrorism.’” In part it states:

We must examine the root causes of the escalating violence against humanity, and against our planet. We need to take this opportunity to reflect on and to nurture the interconnectedness of all of God's creation. . . . We ask our leaders to cooperate with other nations to work toward security, not through military and corporate might, but through equality, justice and ecological sustainability for all God's creation, now and for generations to come.”

And due to events of last year, financial contributions to FCUN (and many other organizations) were down. We ask Friends to continue to support of FCUN and to consider increasing their level of giving. It is becoming increasingly clear that today's threats to world peace are also threats to the God's Creation. We need a Friends Earth Care witness today more than ever.

Our yearly meeting is represented at FCUN by Susan Carlyle (clerk of Finance and Program committees) and by Kim Carlyle (alternate clerk of FCUN, and clerk of Nominating Committee and the Quaker Eco-Witness Project). But we would greatly welcome more involvement by other SAYMA Friends. Please visit the FCUN web site at www.FCUN.org and please consider becoming more active with FCUN.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Carlyle, SAYMA Representative to FCUN

**Report of SAYMA Representative to Friends General Conference
June 2002
Penelope Wright**

I am one of several SAYMA Friends who represent us at FGC's Central Committee. Sharon Annis and John Geary are rotating off, I shall continue and Julia Sibley-Jones will be our new representative. Other SAYMA Friends serve as invited members to various committees. I continue to be deeply grateful that SAYMA has seen fit to send me as one of their representatives.

In keeping with its mission of serving those in the unprogrammed tradition of the Religious Society of Friends, FGC has several outstanding activities taking place. Each one has direct implications for its affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

The first activity is the completion of the modest but successful Capital Campaign. This was undertaken to raise funds to implement new programs and initiatives that provide resources and services for us. One of the most visible new programs is the Traveling Ministries Program which has touched several monthly meetings and worship groups here in SAYAM through consultation, retreats and visitation. Monies realized from the Campaign are not expected to be able to sustain these initiatives, rather that will come from the Operating Budget once the Campaign is closed. So when you receive a request from FGC to financially support the annual budget, remember that FGC offers much more than the Gathering and the bookstore (now known as the Quaker Bookstore at FGC) and give as generously as you can.

Recognizing that the practicalities and cost of the Gathering is beyond the means of many Friends, FGC has begun offering smaller, regional conferences. These are usually sponsored by one of the program committees, most often Religious Education and Ministry & Nurture. Perhaps some of you attended the RE Institute held in Virginia or the Nurturing the Nurturer Small Conference on St Helena's Island, South Carolina a couple of years ago. A repeat RE Institute is planned in the coming year and our own Robin Wells is deeply involved with that. Coming up in September in Rosholt Wisconsin, the Ministry & Nurture Committee is offering another small conference, Nurturing the Meeting Community. Registration flyers are available from me, the FGC display table or by going to the FGC website at www.fgcquaker.org.

A seemingly more internal activity undertaken this year is that of evaluating the Long Range Plan approved in 1995. I find this to be quite remarkable for an organization that has gone through a visioning process. All too often visions are put into place with an assumption that they will be magically actualize. However because Friends believe in continuing revelation, evaluation provides us an opportunity test our original leadings and modify them as indicated. There are only four goals, but since they are meant to serve you, you might like to know them.

Provide and help yearly and monthly meetings offer opportunities for worship and spiritual nurture to the most seasoned Friend and the newest seekers.

Nurture the small and isolated monthly meetings and worship groups.

Build and sustain an extended, loving community of Friends based on the experience of unity in God's spirit while embracing and respecting great diversity.

Articulate, communicate and model core experiences, values and principles of Friends.

One of the newest initiatives stemming from these goals is developing named contacts within monthly

meetings that would provide two-way communication between the meetings and FGC. This new mechanism would give each of you an avenue of expressing how you think FGC might address your meeting's needs. There will be an opportunity to hear about this new program at the Gathering.

Finally, I'd like to share with you about the birth of the newest committee at FGC, the Committee for Ministry on Racism. This committee is still discerning how best to carry out its purpose, but is already planning a special intensive training on racism within the Religious Society of Friends for our affiliated yearly meetings and FGC program committee clerks. It will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania January 16 through January 20, 2003. Each yearly meeting is asked to select two members to attend. Should you have a leading to do so, please let our clerk, Sharon Annis know as soon as possible so that financial arrangements can be made. I would be happy to share with those who are interested the epistle of this committee that describes its understanding of its calling, grounded in the understanding that at the center of their work is God's love.

We are blessed with the presence of several FGC visitors:

Peg & Nils Pearson of North Central Wisconsin Worship Group, under the care of Madison MM.

They come to FGC from the Couple Enrichment Program and serve on Ministry & Nurture and Traveling Ministries Program Committees. They are our FGC Yearly Meeting Visitors for this year.

Deborah Haines of Alexandria MM. Serves as clerk of Advancement and Outreach Committee and has brought to fruition the Inreach/Outreach Packet which so many of us have used.

Ellen Helmuth sojourning at Central Philadelphia MM serves FGC in a staff capacity.

Please take advantage of their being in our midst to become more connected to Friends General Conference.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO SAYMA
Kathleen N. Hardie, SAYMA representative to FPT-CC
823 Summerly Dr. / Nashville, TN 37209

June 17, 2002

Dear Friends,

This is the third year I have served as the SAYMA representative to the fledgling Friends Peace Teams - Coordinating Committee (FPT - CC). The growth in the work of this new Quaker effort has truly been an unfolding of the leading of the Spirit over the past year and a half. I will report on the active works of peace making around the globe, ideas of interface among Friends' groups, and the growth of the organization.

Active Peace Projects:

There have been three international teams supported over the past year. AGLI has initiated the work at the Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) with Burundi Yearly Meeting in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The team began as 2 Burundian members, and 2 International members. Over the year it has been reconstituted to include 1 international member, and 3 or 4 Burundian members. In the year and a quarter they have been in operation the team has offered a three fold approach to rebuilding the people and communities of Burundi. The work of the team begins with "developing awareness." This is grief education & trauma healing in small groups or individual formats. The work as I understand combines active listening (much along the lines of Herb Walters efforts in the Listening Project), and group story telling out of the African tribal community traditions. The next part of their effort teaches non-violent conflict resolution out of the AVP model. Then there are efforts to explore positive community building through sport, song, and shared refreshments. Sometimes this is as humble as a pick-up soccer game with Tutsi and Hutu players assigned to the same team, and sharing a drink of water together afterward. The work of this team has spent a good portion of the first year of operation in dealing with "the ministry of translation." Burundi uses 4 languages (English, French, Swahili, and Kirundi). The team works with all four languages, directly or through translation. One of their first tasks was to find a way to use the process of translation as a way to help the story all the people of Burundi have experienced to be heard and understood. After struggling to translate the word "trauma" into Kirundi, they team was through the process of translation workshops able to identify the word "ihahamuka" which means "to have your heart turned upside down."

The efforts to establish a project in Columbia continue. Another team is being developed for the early summer. This effort is progressing in collaboration with the P.B.I., and C.P.T.'s on the ground in Columbia at this time. The work done by P.B.I., and C.P.T. in Columbia focuses primarily on accompaniment work. The work being considered by the Friends Peace Team is more along the lines of teaching conflict resolution skills.

Mary Lord (former FPT-CC representative from Baltimore Yearly Meeting) has taken the concern of "Every Meeting or Friends Church a Center for Peace Making" on to work she is doing with AFSC. Mary is working with the "No More Victims Campaign" of AFSC's Philadelphia office.

Interface among other peace groups:

Friends Peace Teams continues to seek participation from a broad spectrum of Friends Meetings and Friends Churches. Primarily there are representatives from Yearly Meetings, but there are also Friends involved with the growing work of committees support to the range of

active projects, and the growth of support for emerging projects. Further the partner organizations of Peace Brigades International (PBI), and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) continues to grow. Notably the work of Bill and Genie Durland, FPT-CC representatives from Intermountain Yearly Meeting, have worked with CPT efforts in the south Hebron Hills of the West Bank (described in a Friends Journal article of March 2002).

Growth of the Organization:

It had been my intention to continue as the SAYMA representative to Friends Peace Teams - Coordinating Counsel for another year. However, the work that is currently being done requires some components which are beyond my skills, and current resources. There is a need for the yearly meeting representative to have access to internet communication, and the capacity to manage regular telephone bridge meetings at least once per month, sometimes more. While I hope to continue as a participant in the work of one FPT committee, I have asked the SAYMA nominating committee to consider identification of a replacement. The FPT-CC will gather for their next meeting in Nashville in October 2002, and this should be a good opportunity for the new SAYMA representative to begin their tenure with the FPT-CC. I look forward to a new representative being able to better communicate the good energy of peace making concerns among SAYMA friends, with the exciting efforts of the Friends Peace Teams.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served three years with this extraordinary emerging Friends organization. I have grown in my personal experience of the Peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends. I regret the lack of effectiveness I have felt, and the limited time I was able to devote to communicating between the yearly meeting, and the FPT-CC. I hope Friends will take time to visit the display provided to gain more detailed information on the work of the FPT, and partner organizations around the world.

Cordially Submitted,

Kathleen N. Hardie,
Nashville Friends Meeting

Right Sharing for World Resources Report -2002

RSWR had another good year. Our project partners keep us well informed; reports can be found in the newsletters, as can information about new projects. Our project support for 2002 is \$160,000. We have 21 new projects and 18 continuing ones, including the project I have worked with in the Himalayas, which I visited in January. I was excited to see the enthusiasm of the women and the commitment of the organizers both to their empowerment, and also to encouraging reflection on the important things in life, looking at the issues of sustainability and Spirit-based living. Celso Friends did a benefit Indian meal, netting \$500 to support RSWR and landslide relief in the neighborhood of this project. I went to Nashville as a resource person for their retreat; we saw slides, had deep discussions and enjoyed the Right Sharing Game. I am willing to travel to any meetings

We received many notes of sympathy and prayers for the departed souls from our present and past project partners after September 11. One said, "We express our heartfelt sympathies/condolences to those who are affected in the bomb blast, and pray God to shower his blessings to strengthen America for a more equitable world. However we will be failing in our commitment to end this mail without thanking you for your noble assistance and concern towards our people to promote our Socio-economical development. We love America and shall remain very sincere to their kind heart towards our nation as well as our people."

The letter from the Himalayan partners went on to some analysis, "We are very sorry for what happened in New York and Washington . . . a most shocking event. We are . . . praying for the people affected by this attack and extend our heartfelt sorrow to those who have lost their . . . dear ones. We hope and pray that these events will lead us all to introspect and examine our world and join hands to work towards a more peaceful and safer existence--one which is free of violence and war. A world of compassion and love."

We greeted a new board member, Ted Hawkins, an economist who worked for the World bank most of his pre-retirement life and believes that one of his "lessons of the past fifty years is that "eliminating poverty is a difficult, complex business, and that tackling it in small ways, as Right Sharing has been, is the way it has to be done."

The board approved making it our short-term priority to expand our grant-making into Kenya and Sierra Leone. Roland Kreager, our executive director will be going to Kenya in the fall and has made contact with potential site visitors. Bob Barns, trustee, is planning to attend an Alternatives to Violence Program international conference in Lagos, Nigeria at the end of the summer. The Board approved Bob's travel to Sierra Leone before or after this meeting to seek God's leading for our work in that country.

Sally Miller, our part-time education coordinator has updated www.rswr.org to provide the tools necessary for individual Friends to become animators in their meetings. The Indian term "Animator" means persons who give support and encouragement, who give life to projects, who move others to action. There are descriptions of and pictures from projects, an annotated bibliography of books, adult and child-oriented Sunday School lessons, films, answers to questions, curriculum materials from a Quaker point of view, and suggestions and plans for adult discussion groups.

Our ongoing discussions include: evaluation (what is success for our projects and the participants in them), the possible development of new tools for investment, how we meet the need for more office space as we increase both our program outreach, and the best location for RSWR to be housed (would it be better to be affiliated or close by a Quaker college).

The RSWR video is now available for use. Thank you for allowing me to continue to represent the concerns of Right Sharing to our Yearly Meeting and be sharing concerns that you want me to take to our board meetings. Please speak with me about ideas or feedback.