

Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

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newsletter

2004 FWCC Triennial

FWCC representatives worldwide gather every three years to worship and do business. This year the Asia and West Pacific Section hosted the meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. Here are a few of the many messages of appreciation we received from Friends in this Section:

We were inspired by the beautiful singing of the Friends from Kenya, the passion for Christ and for Quakerism of the Latin Americans, the dedication of the Japanese in a land with few Quakers, and the perseverance of the Friend from Moscow and those from Hong Kong. We heard of the peacemaking work of the Quakers from the Congo, where war has continued for years, and the struggle of the Kenyans in the fight against AIDS and poverty. Despite many differences, Quakers throughout the world came together in their embrace of reconciliation and non-violence as a way to confront conflict and wrongdoing. The Religious Society of Friends continues to make a great impact throughout the world.

Ray Treadway, North Carolina YM (Conservative)

I thought of my worship group as my "family." We came from Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Britain, Kenya and Indiana, New York, and Michigan in the United States. The

sharing of our range of worship experiences as Friends varied widely, but we could not have been more loving, open, and supportive of one another.

Margaret Kanost, Lake Erie YM

My worship sharing group was a high point of the Triennial. Dwelling in the Light each day with Friends from across the world is a source of joy!

Jim Morgan, New York YM

For me the Triennial was terribly exciting: meeting new Friends from all over the globe, seeking God's guidance together for our business, being welcomed by the Maori people, learning about activities of other yearly meetings. But the part I remember the most is being in a worship and sharing group in which we shared some deep feelings beginning with day one.

Sheila Bach, Baltimore YM

It is always wonderful to see Quakers from everywhere together. This time the "upside down" map of the logo



l-r: Vanessa Juley, Philadelphia YM; Duduzile Mtshazo, Central & South Africa YM & incoming clerk of FWCC (world); Loida Fernández, General Meeting of Friends in Mexico (RGM) and Executive Secretary of COAL.

symbolized the need for all of us to take time to view things from a radically different perspective.

Janice Clevenger, Western YM

It is inspiring that Friends from all over the world still feel that it is important to meet together and encourage each other in the Lord's service and be a light in these dark times.

Eugenia Perkins, North Carolina YM (FUM)

I appreciate the enormous amount of planning and effort that the New Zealand Friends did for us—before, during and after the Triennial. It was such a lot of work, and it made our visit so much more meaningful and contributed to the depth of the association among Friends.

Dona Boyce Manoukian, Baltimore YM

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2004 FWCC Triennial

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My fondest memory is sharing the joy of worship with Friends who worship in differing ways.

Ben Frisch, New York YM

Interestingly enough, I truly enjoyed the long wait in line for meals. It gave me a chance to talk to people I wouldn't have connected with otherwise.

Deborah Wood, New York YM

To be with so many Friends from so many places—geographic and spiritual places—was to experience the Society of Friends whole.

Liz Gates, Philadelphia YM

It is always wonderful to see old friends and meet new ones from all parts of the world. Worshiping together gives us opportunities both to savor our similarities and appreciate our differences.

Rosemary Coffey, Lake Erie YM

The Triennial was simply the most amazing experience of my life, and I've had a very interesting life (so far)! I'm not the same person I was before. My appreciation of what it means to be a Friend, and what we all can mean to one another, has grown remarkably. I don't know how to make it "come alive" for those who weren't there, as I never could have imagined it myself before I went. I will try, however, for the rest of my life, to share the joy, the peace, and the knowledge that I gained those ten days with as many people as I can.

David Male, Ohio YM

I was very touched at the warm welcome the representatives of Northwest Yearly Meeting received (our first event as reps since the recent affiliation with

FWCC). I sensed that FWCC truly values and honors all "flavors" of Friends, and that it considers itself incomplete if not all are represented.

Patty Federighi, Northwest YM of Friends Church

I was very impressed with the reverence at the worship services. The respect everyone showed for others throughout the entire triennial. It was an experience I wish all Quakers could know about. A song taught in our interest group by Jaime Tabingo, Philippines YM, expressed the desire we would do well to keep in our minds, especially since the world seems to be in need of guidance from a higher power than man right now:

*Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with cords that
cannot be broken,
Bind us together with Love.*

Melva Greene, North Carolina YM (FUM)

I feel humbled, yet revived and renewed as I hear stories of faith from Friends throughout the world.

Cindi Goslee, Ohio Valley YM

My heart was touched at the 7 a.m. worship when all the Friends from Kenya and the other African countries were all with us because they sang with such joy. I didn't need to understand the words—it was beyond words.

Elizabeth Mertic, Illinois YM

I was much impressed when a Friend pointed out that FWCC undertakes that which seems impossible—the miracle of getting divergent peoples together across great cultural divisions. We learn to see each individual we meet with a broader acceptance of individual human foibles. We no

longer think of "Those Friends" and "These Friends." We are all Friends. Creating this subtle miracle is not as flashy as war relief work, or speaking out on political topics, and thus has not drawn the support we need to carry on and increase those miracles. We believe that FWCC models the healing that our world needs.

I liked the Maori saying, "God the mooring post of all of our canoes."

Gloria Kershner, Pacific YM

Our gathering was incomplete. Due to regulations implemented by Australia, our African and South Asian Friends had to obtain the new "transit visas" allowing them to change planes. This new hurdle appeared after our New Zealand Friends has surmounted numerous obstacles in receiving New Zealand visas. Our East African Friends arrived tired but excited several days late, but Friends from India were unable to attend at all. With our theme of being a witness, I felt the missing pieces as part of our witness to the gathering and to Quaker faith around the world.

Christopher Viavant, Intermountain YM

As the Triennial closed several Friends commented that this gathering demonstrated a mission of FWCC to be a model of possibilities to the world for collectively working on problems in peace and love. The final worship culminated the Triennial with scripture, song, and spirit-filled silence. There was a sense of regret at leaving the fellowship of Friends, but the need to return re-energized to the activities calling Friends' witness.

Flossie Fullerton, Baltimore YM

Workshop in the Andes

Quakers are called to be peacemakers, and ... we as Friends should not undertake compulsory military service, for reasons of conscience. We resolved to petition our government for tolerance for those Friends who are spiritually led to look for alternatives to such service, so they can be conscientious objectors and still be granted the necessary documents required of those that have obeyed the call to military training. Without those documents, many opportunities are denied to our youth.

These are the words of one of the workshop coordinators in the South American sub-region of COAL (Committee of Latin American Friends), where 126 Friends from Bolivia (8 different groups) and Peru got together this past January 5-7 to consider the book *Why Friends are Friends* (*¿Por qué los Amigos somos Amigos?*) by Jack Willcuts, recently translated by FWCC. The workshop facilitators were Manuel Guzmán M. from Mexico and Bernabé Sánchez from Honduras.

These workshops are a major part of the activities FWCC/COAL plans in Latin America to support the work and ministries that our member yearly meetings and others are doing in their own countries. The workshop included Friends from several different Bolivian yearly meetings as well as some from Peru. The workshop provided an opportunity for those Friends to consider their beliefs in depth, and to find ways to support each other in areas of common concern. In recent years, other workshops have taken place in Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. We hope to continue these opportunities for face-to-face and heart-to-heart encounter, to help Friends discover how God works



Louise Salinas, Philadelphia YM & Associate Secretary of Section, and Silver Ramos, Superintendent of Bolivia INELA YM. Silver is the Coordinator of the Southern Sub-region of COAL and helped organize the workshop.

among us and through us, wherever we as a faith community are trying to discern God's will in our lives.

One of the facilitators writes: "I thank God for the opportunity provided for me to be with Bolivian and Peruvian Friends. I extend my gratitude to the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas and to the Committee of Latin American Friends for inviting me to share and be with Friends from other latitudes. I think that the experience for me and for those Bolivian and Peruvian Friends will be enriching and memorable."

Loida Fernández G.



l-r: Emma Espinoza de Vichez, El Salvador YM; Bernabé Sánchez (facing camera), Superintendent of Honduras YM; Silver Ramos, Superintendent of Bolivia INELA YM & Coordinator of COAL Southern Sub-region; Loida Fernández, RGM & COAL; David Male, Ohio YM.



Loida Fernández G., Executive Secretary of COAL, and Margaret Fraser, Philadelphia YM & Executive Secretary of Section.



Kenya Casanova S., Cuba YM & clerk of COAL at the time.

MEMBER YEARLY MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Alaska
Alaska Friends Conference
Baltimore
Bolivia—Central
Bolivia—INELA
Canadian
Colombia—Bogotá MM
Costa Rica—Monteverde MM
Cuba
El Salvador
Evangelical Friends Church Mid-America
Great Plains
Guatemala—Embajadores Amigos MM
Guatemala—Santidad
Honduras
Iowa (Conservative)
Iowa (FUM)
Illinois
Intermountain
Indiana
Jamaica
Lake Erie
México—Reunión General
New England
New York
North Carolina (Conservative)
North Carolina (FUM)
Northern
North Pacific
Northwest
Ohio
Ohio Valley
Pacific
Perú—INELA
Philadelphia
South Central
Southeastern
Southern Appalachian
Western
Western Association of Friends
Wilmington

Annual Meeting 2004 **Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

Though the temperature was frigid, Ottawa Friends provided a most warming welcome to those attending the Section's Annual Meeting this past March. Lon Fendall, clerk of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church, spoke on this year's theme "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..." (Isaiah 55).

Workshops on several timely topics provided Friends with a break from business. Members of the Peace Issues Working Group, together with a representative from the Canadian Friends Service Committee, led an engaging dialogue on the Peace Testimony, Lon Fendall offered a report on Haiti entitled *Using the Poor for Political Gain* and several Latin American Friends shared their concerns on draft requirements, military service and conscientious objection in their countries. "This workshop was FWCC at its best!" commented one Friend in their evaluation of the meeting. "Latin American Friends teaching us about their experience and the group sharing from their own..."

One of the benefits of moving Annual Meeting from region to region each year is that it provides an opportunity for local Friends to be more visible in their community. Canadian Friends set up a welcoming table in the lobby designed for Friends arriving at the hotel. Local guests that week (it was spring break for many families) had the opportunity to see the displays of Canadian Yearly Meeting and the Canadian Friends Service Committee.

In business meetings, the Section reviewed the past year's work to move towards a fundraising campaign that will allow FWCC to continue its

vision with solid financial backing. Members of the Youth Committee spoke passionately for support of the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends, and about their concern for Latin American youth facing military service. Joe Haughton of Ireland Yearly Meeting brought news that Friends there are celebrating 350 years of Quakerism this year. The Irish government has issued a postage stamp in honor of the occasion. The Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) Executive Committee conveyed a need to explore more Spanish-language publications and expressed the need for a consultation on this topic.

Elizabeth Duke, outgoing General Secretary from the FWCC World Office in London, shared some of her treasured experiences with Friends in the Americas through her ministry of work with FWCC. Nancy Irving, the newly appointed General Secretary, offered her vision of things to come.

This was the first time since 1987 that the Section of the Americas Annual Meeting took place in Canada. Those attending this year in Ottawa appreciated the opportunity to learn about Canadian Friends' history and some of their work through the Canadian Friends Service Committee.



Lon Fendall is clerk of Northwest YM of Friends Church and dean at George Fox University

To state the obvious, Friends today hold dramatically different views of the place of the Bible in their spiritual development. But it seems to me that Woolman is a person with whom Friends of many theological views can connect. So my message to Friends of all types is the very theme of this conference, ‘Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters.’ Some evangelical Friends are thirsty for a more complete gospel, a gospel that integrates social action with piety. Some liberal Friends are thirsty for the deep devotional life and the close reading of the Bible that gave Woolman the spiritual strength for his courageous efforts to revolutionize the eighteenth century treatment of people of color. This is why we have much to offer one another as Friends with different experiences and convictions.

Lon Fendall, Keynote Speaker, Annual Meeting 2004



Joan Browne, Jamaica YM, and Gordon Thompson, Canadian YM, at Annual Meeting.



Josh Medlin (left) and Kent Craig, both Indiana YM, at Annual Meeting.

Midwestern Young Friends Gathering

Young Friends in the Midwest met for a weekend gathering sponsored by the FWCC Midwest Field Office. Held March 12-14, 2004 in Plainfield, Indiana, the meeting brought 14 high-school aged youth from five yearly meetings—Indiana, Northern, Ohio Valley, Western and Wilmington—together for worship, workshops and work.

Josh Medlin (Indiana YM), a student at Earlham College and volunteer with the FWCC Midwest Office, felt a leading to organize the event, developed the idea, and carried out most of the work to make it happen. Josh was assisted by a planning committee of Friends from all the Midwest yearly meetings and by Susan Lee Barton, FWCC Midwest Field Staff.

There were three workshops: Quakers and the Bible, Community Building and Consumerism, and Conscientious Objection. The rich worship sessions began with singing, followed by brief Biblical reflections, and a period of worship “longer than typical in most

programmed meetings but much shorter than in unprogrammed meetings or churches” says Josh. Although participation was less than hoped for, “everyone was challenged. There was much interest in similar, future events and some in planning and organizing them.” This gathering was unique, not modeled after any other gathering. In retrospect, Josh feels that the experience gained from organizing this first event will help create a future gathering with even more geographical and theological diversity. “Please consider how God calls you to contribute to bringing young—and older—Friends together.”

Worshipping with Hispanic Evangelical Friends in the US

Imagine this setting: a large group of Friends has gathered for worship on Sunday. Everyone greets each other warmly before the start. The room begins to fill mostly with young couples or families with children. A thriving first day school ('escuela dominical') will soon draw the youth into their classrooms...

In tandem with increasing immigration from Latin America, Evangelical Friends churches for Spanish-speaking Friends continue to grow. Margaret Fraser, Louise Salinas and Vicki Hain Poorman, FWCC staff in Philadelphia, have recently visited several Hispanic churches to meet new Friends and worship together.

All three churches—in Baltimore, MD, Philadelphia, PA and Wichita, KS—received the staff warmly. The pastors invited the staff to introduce themselves and speak briefly about the work of Friends World Committee. They shared the new, bilingual brochure and other publications with church members.

The pastors from each of the churches are originally from Guatemala. While most of those attending also come from Guatemala, other Latin American nationalities were also represented. Many, though not all, were Friends before they came to the US. The Baltimore and Philadelphia churches are affiliated to Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region, and the Wichita church to Evangelical Friends Church Mid-America YM.

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2004

On July 15th, 14 high school juniors and seniors from the US and Canada embarked on a month-long journey to strengthen their faith and friendships, meet new people and discover their Quaker roots.

These pilgrims joined 14 others from the FWCC Europe and Middle East Section in Birmingham, England, for home stays with local Friends and sessions on Quaker history at Woodbrooke. Both groups traveled together to Yealand Conyers in the north of England, visiting historic locations including Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell and Lancaster, and then spent a six-night retreat at Barmoor on the North York Moors before catching a ferry from Hull to Europoort in the Netherlands.

The pilgrims visited Quaker House and the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam. They then traveled to Ter Apel

in the eastern Netherlands, their base for the rest of the pilgrimage, visiting towns in the Netherlands and northern Germany to learn about World War II history. They followed George Fox's journeys in Friesland, visited a synagogue and refugee centre and engaged in work projects.

The pilgrims from the Section of the Americas come from Canadian, Illinois, Iowa (Conservative), Northern, Ohio, Ohio Valley, Pacific, Philadelphia, South Central and Western YMs. Ken and Pat Thames, Pastors from North Carolina YM (FUM) are the leaders from this Section.



Ken and Pat Thames, North Carolina YM (FUM), North American leaders on the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage.

ATTENTION QYP ALUMNI

Reminisce about your Quaker Youth Pilgrimage experience with others! We would love to keep in touch with you and, if you like, connect you with other QYP alumni.

Just send your contact information to the office, or email us at <americas@fwccamericas.org>

Fundraising Campaign to Strengthen the Work of FWCC

Why does the world need FWCC? What are the needs in the world that FWCC intends to meet? What is the work that FWCC is uniquely placed to do? What work is best done by FWCC, rather than by another Friends organization?

These questions have been at the core of the Section's discussions for the past year and a half. The Executive, Finance and Development committees have deeply considered the mission and vision for FWCC Section of the Americas in meetings that have taken place since the fall of 2002. These three committees met jointly in March and agreed that: "After thorough and prayerful contemplation, this body recommends that we move forward with the planning for a campaign."

Recognizing that the work of Friends World Committee is still as much needed in today's world as it was when it began in 1937, Friends attending the 2004 Annual Meeting in Ottawa then minuted: "We approve the direction being explored and ask the Executive Committee to move forward with their discernment of the rightness of proceeding with a comprehensive campaign." All Friends attending this meeting were invited to share their vision for the future of FWCC by completing

a survey of proposed priorities and activities. The results will provide guidance on where the Section will focus its resources and energy. The next step towards the goal of securing the future work of FWCC financially is to conduct a feasibility study.

At Annual Meeting we agreed that "at its core, a development campaign is not about raising money, it is about communicating the vision of the work of the organization in such a way that people become so excited about and engaged in that work that they will want to give of their time, talents and resources to help the work move forward."

Peace Seminar at Guilford College

Over 30 participants—Assemblies of God, Baptists, Brethren, Catholics, Mennonites, Methodists, Pentecostals, Unitarians, and Friends came together at Guilford College, North Carolina, June 6-8 to discuss peacemaking in their faith traditions.

The seminar began with the questions "What IS Peace?," and "What is peacework?" led by panelists from the Baptist and Pentecostal Peace Fellowships. Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity School and Ann Riggs of the National Council of Churches (and Baltimore Yearly meeting) introduced sessions on Telling My Story. Prayer

and small sharing groups interspersed the presentations.

Organizations also represented included the Africa Great Lakes Initiative, the Catholic Worker movement, Christian Peacemaker Teams, the Consistent Life Network, the Diocese of Charlotte and the North

Carolina Council of Churches. The event, originally planned by Chuck Fager to mark the 30th anniversary of Friends House Fayetteville, was jointly sponsored by FWCC and Friends Center at Guilford College. FWCC's Peace Issues Working Group saw support as a tangible way of implementing part of the minute of the 2002 Annual Meeting to 'collaborate with traditional peace churches and peace branches of other faiths on common action.'

An Old Quaker Burial Ground in Barbados

An Open Letter to Friends from Maris Corbin

We want you to know about a project to restore a seventeenth century Quaker burial ground in Barbados. We hope that we may be able to obtain support.

There has been no Quaker Meeting in Barbados for many years. There is much interest on the part of Barbados National Trust members, local historians, some government officials and visitors to the island in saving early historical sites.

During the second half of the seventeenth century and early part of the eighteenth there was a sizable Quaker community in Barbados, some of whom were already Quakers when they settled. There was much travel back and forth to England and to the American colonies. George Fox, Thomas Chalkley, Ann Dyer and Thomas Story were among those who visited the island.

Quakers were mistrusted by the Governors and by the Anglican clergy and the plantocracy, who saw in them a threat to the established order. A strong militia had been established for defence of the island and to prevent slave insurrections. The pacifist convictions of Friends meant that many of them were unwilling to serve in the militia or to pay taxes which were used for that purpose. Although Friends owned slaves, who were considered vital for the running of plantations, they felt that slaves should be educated and should be able to attend Meetings for Worship. This was against the view of the political and church leadership. Some Quakers also disrupted Anglican

services in their zeal to persuade church-goers to change their ways. Laws were passed specifically against Quakers in the seventeenth century, which led to imprisonment and fines for many of those who came to the attention of the authorities.

There were periods, however, in which Friends were able to live peaceably and to a certain extent to prosper. There were six established Meetings, the sites of some of which are known. All of the Meeting Houses eventually fell into disrepair or were finally destroyed by the hurricane of 1780. By the mid-eighteenth century there were few Quakers remaining; some had emigrated because of the punitive conditions, some had succumbed to epidemics, and the descendants of the remainder gradually ceased membership.

We had several reasons to become involved. Monica Newlands is a Barbadian who is interested in history and genealogy, and owns a house beside the site. Maris Corbin was brought up as a Quaker in England and has done volunteer work with the AFSC; she is now a volunteer researcher at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society. Rob Holland is with the British High Commission in Barbados, and attends a Meeting in England. We have the support of two advisors: Dr. Karl Watson of the University of the West Indies History Department, and William Gollop of the Barbados National Trust.

This unique burial ground, with its family vaults carved out of solid rock, was on land possibly owned by the Rous family, one of whose members married Margaret Fell's daughter. It will

have to be cleared of vegetation and debris. Large wall stones have fallen in. The vaults will have to be mended and re-sealed, and the walls and gate must be reconstructed. We hope that Barbadians and overseas visitors, especially those with Quaker connections, would enjoy visiting it, and having an opportunity for quiet reflection on the lives of the many Friends in seventeenth-century Barbados.

Some volunteer work has begun on the site. A small amount of money has been raised locally. Our consultants, a historian and an archaeological historian, are preparing a report on the burial ground, which will be distributed soon. We are writing to other Friends' groups and organisations so that as many people as possible will know about the project.

If you have any suggestions of people or groups we could approach for fundraising, we would be most grateful. The projected budget is approximately \$12,000.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Maris Corbin, Secretary/Treasurer

Committee for the Preservation of the Quaker Burial Ground

Email: <corbin@caribnet.net>

Phone/Fax: (246) 432-9667

Northern YM— El Salvador YM Sister Relationship Flourishes

FWCC representatives from Northern Yearly Meeting report that a sister relationship between Northern and El Salvador Yearly Meetings has blossomed over the past four years.

Two adults from Northern have attended yearly meeting sessions in El Salvador, and two Salvadoran Friends have been to Northern Yearly Meeting each year since 2000. The long-awaited opportunity for the youth of the two yearly meetings to interact is underway.

From July 31st to August 11th, 2004, six youth and three adults from Northern planned to travel to El Salvador to meet and work with Salvadoran youth. Their program included planting trees where El Salvador YM will build a retreat center, attending a yearly meeting youth retreat, and helping with English lessons at Soyapango and San Ignacio Friends Schools. They also planned to worship, travel and play with Salvadoran youth and adults. The Northern YM participants went through a clearness process to prepare them for the cultural differences they will encounter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2005 Annual Meeting date change!

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas will take place **April 14–17, 2005 in Tempe, Arizona.**

This is the main decision-making body of FWCC Section of the Americas. Affiliated yearly meetings in the Americas send representatives. Open to all Friends.

22nd FWCC Triennial

Ireland, July 2007

“We look forward very much to welcoming Friends from around the world to the FWCC Triennial to be held in Ireland in 2007”—Ireland YM

FWCC Regional Gatherings

MIDWEST

Illinois YM, Western YM, Indiana YM, Ohio Valley YM, Central YM

September 25, 2004

Lynn, Indiana

For more information contact:

Susan Lee Barton, Midwest Field Staff
(765) 939-1449

<SusanLeeB@fwccamericas.org>

NORTHEAST

Philadelphia YM, New England YM, New York YM, (Eastern) Canadian YM

October 1–3, 2004

Burlington Conference Center
Burlington, NJ

Living Peace: The Spiritual Basis of our Peace Testimony

For more information call: (610) 388-6725

LOWER GREAT LAKES

Lake Erie YM, Wilmington YM, (Central) Canadian YM, Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region

October 1-3, 2004

Friends School, Detroit, MI
Focus on education

Home hospitality available.

For more information contact:

Susan Lee Barton, Midwest Field Staff
(765) 939-1449

<SusanLeeB@fwccamericas.org>

NORTHWEST

(Western) Canadian YM, North Pacific YM, Northwest YM, Alaska Friends Conference, Alaska YM

Feb 25-27, 2005

North Seattle Friends Church
Seattle, WA

For more information contact:
Nancy Yarnall or Ann Stever

Nancy Yarnall, Western Field Staff
(541) 752-1737

<NancyY@fwccamericas.org>

Ann Stever

(206) 323-7185

<acstever@aol.com>

2006 Annual Meeting in Latin America

¡Prepárense! Prepare yourselves! Now is a good time to take that Spanish class if you haven't already. Plans are underway for one of our Latin American Yearly Meetings to host the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas. The last time the annual meeting was held in Latin America was in 1993 in Ciudad Victoria,

México. Representatives of COAL (Committee of Latin American Friends) have recently reiterated their desire to host the meeting in one of their countries. Section staff is currently exploring site options, and we expect to confirm the location before Annual Meeting 2005.

World Gathering of Young Friends

The 21st FWCC Triennial in New Zealand provided a forum for Young Adult Friends from a number of different countries to connect and participate in the preparation of the World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF).

Planned for August 16th – 24th, 2005 at the University of Lancaster, UK, with pre- and post gathering events, Young Adult Friends are seeking their heritage as they look forward to envision the future. Its theme will be:

“Let us then see what love will do,” and “I am the vine and you are the branches. Now, what fruit shall we bear?”

Many current leaders among Friends were at the last WGYF in 1985 and, while not an FWCC event, its network and guidance is invaluable. FWCC has assisted in connecting Young Adult Friends from around the world, and we have benefited from FWCC's experience with conference organizing, visa issues, fundraising,

and incredible encouragement and support.

We invite all yearly meetings, monthly meetings and Friends' churches to support our Young Adult Friends in any way we can through funds, encouragement, creativity, clearness committees, committees of care, study groups (using the WGYF theme) and prayer. Please hold in the Light our Young Friends from around the world as the Quaker community prepares a few young Friends to make the Pilgrimage to our birthplace. For up to date information, visit the WGYF website at www.wgyf.org

The World Gathering needs your support to make this a truly representative gathering of Friends from all continents. Please send a contribution.

Checks can be sent to:

World Gathering of Young Friends
P.O.Box 85884, Seattle, WA, 98145
Payable to WGYF

For a tax deductible receipt, a donation can be sent to one of three meetings currently accepting contributions:

Fallsington Friends Meeting

Earmarked for WGYF
Mailed to Rosalind Anderson
2921 21 Avenue #A-2, Astoria, NY 11105

West Richmond Friends Meeting

609 W. Main Street, Richmond, IN 47374

University Friends Meeting

4001 9th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105

Checks should be payable to the meeting to which you are sending a contribution. Several other Meetings are planning to take the WGYF under their care. Information will be posted on the WGYF website.

Shauna Curry, Canadian YM

Susan Bax Bequest

Susan Bax, a Canadian Friend, left a bequest to FWCC Section of the Americas when she died in 2002. She asked that it be used for women to travel in the ministry. The Section has set up a fund for this purpose.

Susan Bax was born in England to an English father and a Canadian mother. She completed a degree in sociology in London in 1956, and soon moved to New York for graduate work. She worked there for two years for the American Friends Service Committee and joined New York Monthly Meeting in 1968. She was involved in work for women's rights, particularly in Canada, after moving there in 1969. She contributed to

the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that was included in the Canadian Constitution of 1982.

The meeting for worship was at the center of Susan's devotional life, and she developed a deep appreciation for Biblical knowledge and Quaker writings. She brought all her personal and spiritual gifts to her vocal ministry and to the many committees on which she served, including FWCC

from 1982 to 1984. She attended FWCC Triennials in Kenya and New Hampshire, enjoying fellowship with Quakers from around the world.

FWCC is mindful that Susan wished, first of all, to help women with a particular calling from God to travel in the ministry, and second, to assist women in serving the Religious Society of Friends through the work of FWCC Section of the Americas. The Susan Bax Memorial Fund is now available for use according to the guidelines, which can be found on the FWCC website, www.fwccamericas.org, or from the FWCC office.

New Faith and Practice for Jamaica

Frances Wolfley, co-pastor of Worthington Friends Meeting, Kingston, Jamaica, writes:

We plan to have our Faith and Practice ready to present (at Yearly Meeting sessions) in its finished form.

We are working night and day to get everything finalized, and the couple we stay with will help me on that end. We will have it printed and will put it together in loose-leaf style small notebooks. It will be sufficient for us

for our first time. We know there will be changes coming up in the next few years, but we hope not many. I am very proud of what has been accomplished and of those who have been helping.

MISSION

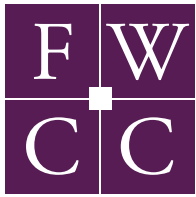
In bringing Friends together face-to-face and heart-to-heart across traditions and national borders, FWCC Section of the Americas seeks to promote exchanges that advance spiritual renewal and vitality within the Religious Society of Friends.

Annual Meeting, March 2000



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