

**MINUTES OF BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**April 16, 1994**

The Meeting for Business of the Blue River Quarterly Meeting began with a period of silence at 2:00 p.m. in the midst of the woods of the DuBois Center, near DuBois, Illinois. About 13 Friends gathered for the meeting, opened by Bobbi Trist, clerk. Friends present included: Ruth and Roger Sherman, Nary Phillips, Eldora Spiegleberg, Laura Kaupas, Randy Cates and Tom Short from St. Louis, Chris Starbuck from Columbia, Bobbie Trist from Urbana/Champaign and George and Beth Kidder from Bloomington/Normal.

It was noted that the proposed procedure for recognition of Worship Groups may not have been received by the IYM Faith and Practice committee. A copy of this proposed procedure will be given directly to Randy Cates who is a member that committee.

Verbal States of Society reports were given for St. Louis and Friends Hill/Quincy. Written reports were read for Urbana/Champaign, Bloomington/Normal and Columbia.

One Friend commented that the State of Society reports presented showed a great timidity and lack of outreach to attract new people.. AFSC was cited as a good example of outreach efforts which inform others about Quakers. Several Friends gave examples of how new attenders were greeted in their meetings.

The Treasurer's report was given by Roger Sherman. The current balance is \$2,083.00. Income has been sufficient to cover Quarterly expenses.

The 1995 Spring Quarterly will be held the 5th weekend of April and the 1996 Spring Quarterly will be held the 4th weekend of April.

Laura Kaupas will investigate the possibility of holding the Spring 1996 Quarterly at Lake Williamson near Carlinville, Illinois.

Gwen Klassen will be asked if she is interested in cooking for the Fall Quarterly at Camp Cilca.

The Fall topic will be "Outreach." The FGC manual on outreach should be helpful.

Roger Sherman presented information about the Friends Insurance Group which insures many Friends organizations. This information will be enclosed with copies of these minutes to meeting clerks.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.

Tom Short

Recording Clerk (Attachment: Information re: Insurance Co.)

## **Urbana-Champaign Meeting State of the Society Report**

Urbana Friends have been enjoying the children in our presence, after many years without many kids in meeting. We celebrated Christmas with a potluck and talent show. The Sunday School children presented a skit, *The Stubborn Turnip*. People taking part were: Carl, Naomi and Emma Wells; Lisa Sabato and Ariella Wiener; Mark, Meghan and Rachel Johns; Robert Wiener in a cameo role as a tomato; and Mariellen Gilpin as the turnip. Jeanie Sabato directed the cast in an all-star performance, with Friends in the audience cheering and clapping in all the right places.

Other Sunday School activities included a lesson on sand painting, planned and presented by seven-year-old Ariella Wiener, and a lesson on Christian art in classical Rome, presented by Christina Dengate. The children also collected money for Unicef on Halloween. Our teen Friends have asked us to host the Quake for Christmas 1994, and we are looking forward to having teen Friends in our meetinghouse.

On February 5 Friends gathered at the meeting house for a mini-retreat. *Nurturing Our Spirits: Drawing from the Well of Experience* was facilitated by Mariellen Gilpin. Friends were invited to be their favorite plant, and then to share memories about experiences with rain and light. Friends expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear one another's thoughts.

Several Urbana Friends attended the Arts weekend at Evanston meeting, and expressed a lot of appreciation to Evanston for arranging it.

After IYM Continuing Committee asked Friends to discuss the issue of Wiccan rituals held at IYM in 1993, Urbana Friends met three times in order to thresh out the issues. Enclosed is Joe Seeley's report of those discussions. In the fall, we plan to undertake fallout discussions concerning the direction of Quakerism for the 21st century.

Sunday morning discussion group has been reading Thich Nhat Hanh's *Being Peace*. An innovation seems to be working very well; each week someone agrees to read the next chapter and summarize it for the next Sunday. We find that we are more likely to concentrate discussion on the big issues and less likely to bog down in quibbles over semantics. The group has agreed to read John Woolman's Journal next.

February *Friends Journal* had an article about Paula Rogge, who came to Urbana Meeting to learn about Friends when she was in high school. She went on to become a doctor and work among the poor people on the Texas-Mexico border. She is now an emergency room doctor in Austin and works with the Alternatives to Violence project there. Because of her refusal to pay war taxes, the IRS seized her car. Another doctor bought the car back and gave it to Paula for her practice in a poverty-ridden area of Austin...the friend fixed up the car so that it was in better shape after its sojourn with the IRS than before. Paula came to us to learn about Friends, and she has taught us.

Fran Weeks died October 30 and while we are happy that his suffering is past we miss him

dearly.

Dodie Weeks and Joan Nelshoppen are recovering well after surgery.

Meg Miller and Scott Dosset have asked for clearness to be married under the care of the meeting.

Frankie Day, after recovering from a heart attack in the fall, is going to China in June. Ken and Janet Sauthwood are selling their house and going to Beijing, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia soon. They intend to spend several months visiting family in England before returning to us. The third time was the charm for Gene and Virginia Gilmore; after twice being unable to go to Costa Rica because of illness, this winter they were able to make the trip.

Mariellen Gilpin for Ministry and Oversight

### **Discussions about Quakers, ritual, and more**

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting

February 20, 1994

We have met three times in the last two months to share thoughts, concerns, and feelings related to the holding of Wiccan rituals at the 1993 IYM. The first meeting was a mixture of question-and-answer and worship sharing. The second and third were informal discussions. The following issues have been raised:

Is too much diversity within a meeting harmful?

Is Quakerism in danger of being adulterated?

If Quaker practice is defined by what Quakers do, what do we want Quaker practice to be?

Is programmed worship appropriate in a non-programmed meeting?

What is the inward-spiritual condition that produces outward ritual behavior?

Are we concerned about Wiccan ritual in particular or ritual in general?

What does *ritual* mean?

Why don't all of our members feel nurtured in the meeting?

How do we meet the diverse spiritual needs of our members?

What are the similarities between the experiences of "witches" and Christo-centric Quakers in our meeting (and other meetings?)

What is the difference between informative sessions and activities at IYM?

What do we want our children to experience while attending Quaker meetings?

Should IYM have a body that is responsible for oversight?

The Ministry and Oversight Committee will write a letter to IYM Continuing Committee summarizing our concerns and the steps our meeting is taking to explore the issues above.

Joseph Seeley

Bloomington-Normal Monthly Meeting  
of the  
Religious Society of Friends

State of the Meeting Report  
March 27, 1994

Bloomington-Normal Friends Meeting is more whole than it was a year ago. We would like to thank members of the yearly and quarterly meetings for their labors on our behalf. Some of those who had left the Meeting are attending again on a regular basis. We are pleased to have a family who have recently moved to this area meeting with us. We rejoice in the attendance of a group of teenagers, at least one of whom came to Friends through attendance at Illinois Yearly Meeting and a couple of the quakes sponsored by the yearly.

We continue to meet at the Campus Religious Center. We share this space with another group. We've had a couple of joint potlucks with them – good food and good company. Meeting for worship refreshes and gives us an occasion for centering.

In addition to meeting for worship, we meet together one evening every other week. In order to discuss a variety of Quaker issues. We've talked about healing, prayer, Quaker journals, and conflict.

We feel we still need to work on rebuilding a sense of community in the meeting.

**State of the Meeting  
Columbia Monthly Meeting  
Spring, 1994**

Overall, 1993 was a good year for Columbia meeting. Our new meeting house has proven to be a good home base for us from which to expand our horizons. It allowed us to host, for the first time, an IYM youth Quake, attended by about 30 young friends. This was an exciting event and served to unite our own membership and to make us all feel more connected with a wider circle of friends. At least 30 attended a recent pot luck to welcome representatives from the regional and national AFSC offices. The meeting house has also been used for Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) meetings, a wedding (of non Friends who just liked the place) as a temporary home for Sandy Matsuda, a member of St. Louis Meeting, who rents space here while pursuing graduate studies and as a site for many committee meetings. The children in the meeting are beginning to feel very much at home in the meeting house and the teens have claimed a room converted from a garage for their own. The installation of a high efficiency gas furnace has made the house much more comfortable and has reduced our heating bills and problems with mildew as well.

We were saddened last fall by the loss of Eunice Searles. Eunice is, however, an inspiration to us all in the radiance she showed as she drew nearer the presence of the Heavenly Father.

Meeting for worship at Locust Grove is consistently attended by 20 to 25 worshipers. We have been pleased by the number of new attenders and by the participation of two high school students who are studying us for an “ethnography” project. We are overjoyed that Katy Hurley and Torn Ireland have moved to Columbia from Carbondale and attend regularly. Their energy, enthusiasm and Friendly spirit add a great deal to the life of Columbia Meeting. While attendance is good at meeting for worship, business meeting attendance could stand considerable improvement.

Several members feel strongly that the Locust Grove location is too far removed from the campus and downtown areas of Columbia to meet the needs of many students and Columbians without automobiles. Scott Searles was instrumental in starting an allowed “Campus” meeting to serve these needs. While this meeting was temporarily laid down during Eunice’s illness, a small group continues to meet in Friends’ homes and may serve as the nucleus for a new campus meeting.

In general, the quality of worship has been good. There is a good balance between silence and speaking in meeting. We are encouraging members and attenders to heed leadings to verbal ministry and overcome their hesitance to speak in meeting. We are also striving to attain more openness to the Spirit during meetings for worship with concern for business.

Some members and attenders work hard at planning activities to encourage fellowship within the meeting. We set aside time on the fourth first day of each month for an informal pot luck after meeting, affectionately called “meeting and eating”. During months when there is a fifth first day, we have an program before meeting. Activities such as skating, hikes and outings are generally lightly attended. Most of us lead extremely busy lives and it is not easy to get us together at times other than meeting for worship.

Some members are active in wider Friends groups. One attended the recent FWCC meeting in St. Louis, several attended the FGC meeting last summer in Oklahoma and one member serves on the steering committee of the Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN). Several members are quite active in IYM affairs and others keep close track of FCNL activities.

Some members consistently give witness to their beliefs by actions. One member has traveled to Cuba and El Salvador taking food and medicine as well as teaching a Peace Studies course at the University. Several are active in the development of a steadily growing AVP program. Others are faithful in vigiling against military intervention, and the death penalty. One member works extensively with students, faculty and staff on the campus on environmental affairs. Still others volunteer to help at the food kitchen and in collecting food for the local food bank. Some members are faithful in corresponding with prisoners and others in need of comfort. We have many good examples to follow of individuals who give witness to their beliefs in both large and small ways.

The work of members an meeting affairs is also greatly appreciated. One of us expends a great deal of effort on her work as recording clerk and newsletter editor. Another provides great service to the meeting by her able work as treasurer. Several give freely of themselves to provide religious education and child care for younger members. One member has spent many hours working on remodeling and maintenance of the meeting house. Most of us serve on committees and each contributes in his or her own way.

We have decided to apportion our resources to budgeted items in a more direct way. Rather than withdrawing whatever is left in the cookie jar periodically and deciding which items to fund, we will disperse 1/12 of our budgeted contributions each month. We feel that this approach will encourage us to take the responsibility to meet our budget.

We feel positive about the direction Columbia Meeting is heading and we are optimistic that we will continue growing toward a unity of Spirit that will lead us to witness more effectively as a meeting to our Quaker beliefs.

### Not for Always

When you put on a pair of new socks,  
 thick –  
     and soft –  
         and warm –  
 on a dead-of the-winter day,  
  
 You must stop to notice the feel,  
     and enjoy it –  
         and remember it -  
             and savor it –  
 for it doesn't last for always

4/15/94

### BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Treasurer's Report: 1992 & 1993

Enter	Date	Transaction	Deposit	Charge	Balance	Note
0.0	8/10/92	-				-
1.0	8/11/92	a Initial deposit -StLouis \$59				1
1.1	8/11/92	b Initial deposit - donation GH \$41				1
1.2	8/11/92	c Initial deposit - lent by R&R S \$100	200.00		200.00	1
1.3		d				
2.0	10/14/92	Quarterly Registration	139.50		339.50	
3.0	10/19/92	Quarterly Registration	234.00		573.50	
4.0	10/26/92	Quarterly Registration	5.00		578.50	
4.1	10/26/92	-				-
5.0	10/30/92	Camp Cilca: check Nr 89		357.25	221.25	
5.1	10/30/92	Postage: 20x29 stamps [B Trist] Nr 90		5.80	215.45	

5.2	10/30/92	200 single checks: check Nr 91	5.95	209.50	
5.3					
5.0	1/04/93	- Bank Statement year-end 1992		209.50	
6.0	6/21/93	Friends Hill donation	50.00	259.50	
7.0	7/19/93	Urbana-Champaign - donation = \$100			2
7.1	7/19/93	quarterly proceeds = \$54.18 C-H	154.18	413.68	2
9.1	8/02/93	Quarterly proceeds Columbia	135.05	548.73	
10.0	10/01/93	a Decatur donation \$25			3
10.1	10/01/93	b StLouis donation \$100			3
10.2	10/01/93	c Columbia donation \$100	225.00	773.73	3
10.3	10/01/93	-			
12.0	10/16/93	Quarterly registration	403.00	1,176.73	
12.1	10/16/93	Gwen Klassen; food check nr 92	400.00	776.73	
12.2	10/16/93	Caroline deMauriac; art/children Nr 93	24.00	752.73	4
12.3	10/16/93	-			
13.0	10/21/93	Quarterly registration	306.00	1,058.73	
14.0	10/24/93	Camp Cilca Nr 94	733.00	325.73	
15.0	10/26/93	a Quarterly Registration	809.00	1,134.73	5
15.1	10/27/93	b Clear Creek donation	100.00	1,234.73	
15.2	10/27/93	-			
16.0	11/06/93	a Roger Sherman repay't see enter 1.3			
16.1	11/06/93	b check Nr 95	100.00	1,134.73	
17.0	11/09/93	Quarterly registration	27.00	1,161.73	
18.0	12/24/93	a Gwen Klassen; food at Fall Quarter			
18.1	12/24/93	b check Nr 96	126.64	1,035.09	
19.0	12/28/93	Bobbi Trist; Postage	5.00	1,030.09	
20.0	12/31/93	Bank Statement, end of year		1,030.09	

4/15/94

#### BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING

##### Treasurer's Report

LINE	DATE	TRANSACTION	DEPOSIT	CHECKS	BALANCE
A	1/01/94	Beginning balance			1,030.09
B	3/07/94	Donation, Friends Hill	50.00		1,080.09
C	3/31/94	Bank Statement			1,080.09
D	4/04/94	Donation, StLouis Friends Meeting	300.00		1,380.09
E	4/09/94	Donation, Columbia Friends Meeting [written 2/29/94]	100.00		1,480.09
F	4/11/94	Quarterly Registration	603.00		2,083.09
	4/15/94	by Roger Sherman			

### FRIENDS INSURANCE GROUP

The Friends Insurance Group Is an organization of over 150 Friends Meetings, Churches. Schools and other organizations who have joined together to provide themselves with the best insurance program possible. By using the advantages of group purchasing members of Friends Insurance Group is able to maintain a high quality of coverage at a reasonable cost.

1974 was one of the cyclical crisis periods in the Insurance industry. At this time some Friends organizations were having a difficult time finding a company that would insure them. By coming

together these meetings hoped to use the larger group to obtain coverage. The Philadelphia office of Marsh & McLennan was selected as the broker for the program and Employers of Wausau was selected as the original insurance carrier.

The program was initiated July 1, 1975 with \$220,000 of premiums. Most of the coverages provided for (and still provide) dividends when the group experience is good as well as a relatively low general premium. Employers of Wausau withdrew from the program in 1979 and was replaced by Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company.

In 1985, due to some unfortunate large losses, Preferred Risk indicated a desire to abandon the program. Through careful negotiations, Marsh & McLennan was able to convince them that those losses were unusual and not representative of the total experience. Preferred Risk agreed to continue, following a general rate increase that compared favorably with what was occurring in the rest of the insurance industry at the time.

An Executive Committee, consisting of nine members appointed by the participating organizations meets 4 times a year to review the coverages and the relationships with the broker and carrier. There is an annual meeting in April of each year for all participating organizations to meet and review the progress of the program.

Current coverages provided by Preferred Risk to the Friends Insurance Group include Workers Compensation, Automobile Liability, basic Property, Liability and Crime coverages as well as some Umbrella Liability and Boiler and Machinery policies. The Friends Insurance Group continues to attract new members who benefit by the levels of coverage provided, the premiums charged and the potential for dividends. The current total premium is over \$1,500,000 per year.

A list of current members of the group is attached. If you would like further information, please contact

Steve Russell  
Marsh and McLennan  
Three Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

or

Alan Crosman,  
Clerk of the Executive Comm  
Haverford College  
Haverford, PA 19041  
(215) 896 1250