

Friends United Meeting Update

by Penny Sitler, co-presiding clerk

Last summer, I was able to attend the FUM Triennial in Wilmington, Ohio. I love to attend Triennial gatherings. It is always a joy to come together with F/friends from around the world and learn firsthand about the work they do and the challenges they face.

I was particularly touched by Becky Barber's message at the USFW banquet, and I can't resist repeating a little of what I remember. Becky brought many bits of colored glass, which she called "sea glass." She had collected them at the beach. Green, brown...just bits of broken bottles. Trash, by almost anyone's definition.

But this glass was different from a freshly shattered bottle. There were no sharp edges. It had been worn to smooth, rounded shapes by the sea. Just as our sharp edges--the pains that we feel, and that we inflict on others--can be worn away by the patient hands of God. We work to bring God's hands to those who need them, whether in Belize, Ramallah, Kaimosi, or our home town.

As the holidays are upon us, let us remember our blessings and seek opportunities to share. If you would like more information about the work being done in FUM missions, I have two recommendations.

First, subscribe to the weekly devotion. You can do that by sending a blank email message to this address: fum_devotions-subscribe@lists.fum.org. Besides the mission and FUM updates that come each week, you'll receive an excellent message from Carl Williams, who compiles the message each week.

Second, you can request a DVD from the FUM office with photos, stories, and video clips. Sylvia Graves used this disk for her presentation at our Fall Gathering, and I can tell you that it is worth seeing. This DVD is available for meetings to use at no charge--just ask.

A Note to Treasurers

Good morning Treasurers,

December 15 is my deadline for sending the 2011 budget funds to USFW International. That means I need you to get your last monies to me soon, or they will have to be passed forward to the 2012 budget. Please remember to send your donation directly to the organization if it is not a budgeted line item for an IN-USFW or USFW Intl project. Many times your gift is delayed if I have to redirect it. If you have questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Remember to check the back page of the newest 2012 Advocate for the current budgeted line items. I know this may seem confusing and I try to direct your gifts to the correct areas during the early months of the year. Keep up the good job of supporting our field staff during these difficult economic times. They really depend on all of us.

Tish Dain, Treasurer - 190 EMS D17 Ln, Syracuse, IN 46567-8091

Spring Gathering

We have had conversations with TWO local organizations who may be willing to host an upcoming Gathering! We hope to have an announcement soon for spring, and perhaps also for Fall 2012! Thanks to everyone!

Fall Retreat 2011

Thirty-five Friends women and guests from both Western and Indiana Yearly Meetings gathered at Quaker Haven Camp and Conference Center September 12 and 13, 2011. Florence Emma Peery served as leader and Marilyn Bell and Judy Taylor assisted in planning. Brandon Dennis and staff were helpful in meeting our needs. Housing was available at Oak Haven, Hunt and Friendship Lodges.

Della Stanley Green was our leader and speaker. She drew on the theme, Cycle of Faith from two years of the two themes, "See I am Doing a New Thing" and Be Still and Know," with the scripture verses from Psalms 46 and Isaiah 43. At the end of the three sessions, Friends realized they had indeed experienced a "Cycle of Faith."

Libby Henshaw added much to our music and hymns with her lively beat. Linda Brock had a goodly number of Friends along on the "early bird walk." Cathy Harris was called home to serve her meeting in a time of grief and was unable to attend.

Judy Taylor shared helpful suggestions about ways to prevent strain and injury in hands and wrists based on instructions and therapy she has received.

Friends indicated they will look forward to the 2012 Women's Retreat at the same place and on a similar schedule.

Judy Taylor
Assistant Treasurer

Note from your co-clerk: We have discussed the possibility of scheduling a weekend retreat to allow working Friends to attend. The ladies who attend the current retreat prefer to continue with a weekday retreat. If there is interest in restarting a weekend retreat in any form, we would be glad to know about it. We do still schedule our Gatherings on the weekend, as well as our Indiana Yearly Meeting luncheon, so these events are available for our working members. -- Penny Sitler

Report on the Indiana USFW Fall Gathering

Oct. 29, 2011

The Fall Gathering met at Marion First Friends with 30 women, representing 9 meetings, present. After signing in, the women were treated to treats, beverages, and conversation. Soon they entered the sanctuary to music provided by Joan Reece and Marsha Andrew.

Joan Reece, president of Marion First USFW, gave a short history of the meeting and introduced Penny Sitler, co-presiding clerk of the Indiana USFW board. After thanking Marion First for hosting the gathering, Penny welcomed the group and introduced the other board members present. She

also recognized Peggy Hollingsworth, president of WYM USFW, and Sylvia Graves, retiring Secretary of FUM. Marsha Andrew then led the group in singing.

The devotions, chosen by both Chris Nicholson and Penny separately, were based on the FUM Weekly 'on-line' Devotional. Penny quoted "We have often wondered whether there is anything Quakers today can say as one." The answer was "...there is a living God at the center of all." The devotion continued to explain how God would have us lay down our differences and live in His love. To subscribe to these devotionals, send a blank e-mail to (fum_devotions-subscribe@lists.fum.org)

Chris introduced Sylvia Graves, General Secretary of FUM. Sylvia showed a video as she talked about Missions supported by FUM. They included Cuba, Jamaica, Belize, Ramallah Boys and Girls schools, Amari Play Center in Ramallah, Friends Peace Team, African Ministries Office, secondary peace curriculum, Samburu, Kaimosi Hospital, Lugulu Hospital, Turkana Friends Mission, Lindi Friends Primary School in Nairobi, and Friends Theological College. If you contact FUM, you can have a disk with the videos to show at your meeting. Sylvia ended her talk by saying how much the support and work of all the women in the USFW is needed and appreciated by the mission workers and people in the field.

The offering, which came to \$455, will go toward a computer for Miss Candi Young, teacher at Belize Friends School.

Please continue to save your Pennies for Peace. Mowa Choctaw Center is asking for labels and boxtops. Peggy Hollingsworth talked about the USFWI Triennial, which will be hosted by Western Yearly Meeting July 3-6, 2013. Judy Taylor gave a brief report on the retreat. Following the announcements, we were served a delicious luncheon.