

IMYM Continuing Committee
January 28-30, 2005
Pima Meeting, Tucson, AZ

Friday, January 28

Continuing Committee members present: Hal Wright (Mountain View), Cynthia Smith (Moab), Mary Burton Riseley (Las Cruces), Leslie Stephens (Boulder), Barbara Stephens (Boulder), LaDonna Wallen (Tempe), Tom Kowal (Mountain View), Annette Kowal (Mountain View), Chris Viavant (Salt Lake), Eric Wright (Mountain View), Eleanor Dart (Pima), Con Sawyer (Boulder), Mike Gray (Cascabel WG), Becca Wright (Mountain View), Rebecca Henderson (Santa Fe), Philip Brewster (Salt Lake), Jim Mills (Durango), Claire Leonard (Gila), Kathryn Bowers (Durango), Cindy Yurth (Logan), Becky Schroeder (Tempe), Glen Trostle (Logan), Meg McCalla (Albuquerque), Bez Booth McCauley (Albuquerque), Bob Schroeder (Tempe), Julie Wigton (Durango), Kitty Ufford-Chase (Pima), Deb Driskill (Pima), Eileen Haney (Pima).

SYF FAPs Penny Thron-Weber (Mountain View) and Gusten Lutter (Mountain View) and JYF Coordinator Mark Holdaway (Pima) met with the SYF co-clerks Siivi Lutter (Mountain View), Kevin Wampler (Pima), Miranda Trostle (Logan), and Rebecca Wright (Mountain View) and JYF co-clerks Aalandria Edmunds (Tempe) and Carlton Halaby (Boulder) during the weekend.

The meeting opened at 6:30 pm with singing led by Eric Wright, followed by a period of worship.

Clerk Eleanor Dart opened the Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business. She said the purpose is to listen for the spirit as we make decisions. She asked that Friends wait to be recognized, leave time between speakers before raising a hand, and to speak only when led and not more than once. Minutes will be done in the course of the meeting and approved before we move on.

Those present introduced themselves and their roles. The Clerk noted that Friends do our best work in small groups who know and love each other, so encouraged Friends to become better acquainted over the course of the weekend. The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Speaker at Annual Gathering

Hal Wright announced that the speaker for 2005 will be Jane Orion Smith, General Secretary of Canadian Friends Service Committee. The Speaker Selection Committee was Hal Wright, Cathy Webb, Jeannie Durlin, Ted Church, Cynthia Smith, Rebecca Henderson, Tom Kowal and LaDonna Wallen. Speakers the past two annual gatherings have been inward oriented, so the committee sought a speaker more outward oriented. The theme will be "Shaking the Foundations: A Call to Prophecy." The term "prophecy" in this context means to reveal the will or message of God, to speak under Divine inspiration, to speak critically regarding social and religious institutions or practices and to call for change.

Friends accepted the report of the Speaker Selection Committee, with gratitude (2005-01)

FWCC

LaDonna Wallen reminded Friends that the FWCC annual gathering will be in Tempe, Arizona, April 14-17, 2005. The local arrangements committee sent letters to each IMYM meeting with a request for a photograph of the meeting house or meeting place with information on when the monthly meeting began and how many people are now attending. These photos will also be displayed at the IMYM annual gathering.

IMYM Web Site Task Force

Jim Mills presented a report on the IMYM web site, www.IMYM.org. He distributed a handout with samples of web pages. The site is now in infancy. It uses an open source platform. The home page describes the makeup of IMYM. The purpose is to post documents from IMYM business meetings and minutes (2003 and 2004), information such as lists of officers and committee members, copies of the Guide and financial statements, and hosting developmental work for IMYM committees. The site will be expanded with requests for a password to access list serves, collaboration of drafting committees, discussion forums. Jonathan Cartland of Santa Fe has been hosting the site at no charge. The task force, comprised of Russ Fitch, Charlene Weir, Phil Brewster, Ted Church, reviews each expansion of usage. The task force will help IMYM committees to set up or help transfer documents. The web site will not be ready to use for registration for the annual gathering in 2005. Friends requested that information about the annual gathering and scholarships be highlighted on home page. There may be an interest group on use of the website at the annual gathering.

The Committee accepted the report of the Web Site Task Force. (2005-02)

Worship Sharing

Barb Stephens reported that worship sharing groups get high marks in evaluations and are regarded by many as a highlight of the annual gathering. She will attempt to schedule the worship sharing to make it easier to arrive after meals. She seeks guidance for types of worship sharing: e.g. Bible, discussion, Spanish speaking. She always seeks gifted worship sharing leaders—30 volunteers are needed. Afternoon worship sharing groups are led by Senior Young Friends. Friends suggested that Friends be assigned to worship sharing groups only if they intend to attend.

The Committee accepted the report from the Worship Sharing Convener. (2005-03)

Early Days and Interest Groups

Kitty Ufford-Chase requested proposals for early day seminars for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. She will coordinate with Ghost Ranch around their concurrent seminars. Information about early day seminars needs to be in the registration packets, so her deadline is Feb. 21. Interest group titles are encouraged for the packet, but less urgent because Friends schedule their early days around the seminars. There may be committee meetings in early days and conveners should request space from Kitty so she can coordinate with Ghost Ranch.

Mike Gray noted that the JSP worked with AFSC Albuquerque to provide a service project for the annual gathering Early Days, primarily for JYF. It was in Espanola on an organic farm and a school garden. However, due to high level of participation, the cost was more than \$500 which was unexpected in the JSP budget. Friends noted that the program provided activities for JYF in early days, and that this service component of the annual gathering is valuable. The JSP oversight committee will discuss this project at their meeting next weekend.

It was the sense of the meeting that we would like the JSP to continue to offer this program at the annual gathering. The clerk asked that more information be provided tomorrow about the cost in preparation for a discussion about how to pay for it. (2005-04)

Rebecca Henderson said in the past there have been very successful Alternatives to Violence seminars. Ideally, there are four facilitators. Last year the facilitators volunteered their time. This year the AVP is not ready to do a full workshop, but in the future this may be offered, with an off-site component. To offer an AVP workshop would entail some costs.

Kitty asked that AFSC, FCNL, QECW and other Quaker groups organize the interest group or seminar they desire and let her know. Uffordchase@hotmail.com

The Committee accepted report of the Early Days and Interest Group Coordinator. (2005-05)

Doll Project

Glenn Trostle presented for Pat Trostle. She has some ideas of where to send the dolls, but welcomes ideas. Her e-mail is Ptrastle@hjnews.com She plans to send patterns for doll bodies to each monthly meeting. Other doll-making materials are not needed.

The Committee accepted the report about the doll project. (2005-06)

Nominating Committee

Annette Kowel reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee provided a written report. Nominating Committee convener will be resolved prior to the annual gathering. The Committee is still looking for a convener for operations for 2006; ideally someone would train with Tom Kowel this year to begin a three-year term. Maybe SYF could volunteer for some operations tasks. JYF convener will be Mark Holdaway but we still need 3-6 helpers for the JYF program. For 2006 nominations, to be approved at the 2005 gathering, we need interest group convener, JYF coordinator, liaison with kitchen, advocate for persons of differing abilities, in-training worship sharing convener, conveners for committee to revise the Guide. Hal Wright suggested that members of the Watching Committee be solicited before arrival at annual gathering—these are nominated by regional meetings.

The Committee accepted report of the Nominating Committee. (2005-07)

The Meeting closed with worship at 8:15 pm.

Saturday, January 29, 2005

Judy Ray joined the meeting, which began 8:40 am with singing led by Eric Wright. The Clerk referred to an article from Friends Journal by Marty Grundy suggesting that Friends come together for business with a "sense of adventure." She suggested that we will always find what we look for, and thus we should look for the Spirit and the will of God in our meeting.

A period of worship followed.

World Gathering of Young Friends

Eric Wright read a letter from Maya Wright informing Friends of the plans for the World Gathering of Young Friends to be held in England in August 2005. Maya Wright and Mark Sailor will represent IMYM. The letter, which will be sent to each Monthly Meeting, seeks financial contributions from Meetings and individuals to support IMYM's two participants and those from developing countries.

Brinton Memorial Visitor Program

Eleanor Dart reported that IMYM must decide if we wish to appoint a representative from IMYM to the Brinton Memorial Visitor Committee. The Brinton Visitor program was started when North Pacific and then Intermountain Yearly Meetings separated from Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM), as a way for the three yearly meetings to remain connected through inter-visitation. This committee solicits funds and selects a visitor and will meet this summer at Pacific Yearly Meeting. The next visitor would be from either Pacific or North Pacific Yearly Meeting as a visitor to IMYM meetings. A Brinton Visitor would visit Meetings, particularly smaller ones, throughout IMYM during the course of a year or two. S/he is reimbursed for travel, in the range of \$5,000. Meetings that receive visitors tend to make donations following a visit.

The committee member would need \$450 for costs of PYM plus travel. IMYM has not had a representative on the planning committee for several years, and communication between IMYM and the committee has been inconsistent. Marian Hoge has served as Brinton Memorial Visitor Planning Committee member from IMYM and is willing to do so again. The planning committee has always met at PYM, since that is where the program originated, but could be invited to meet elsewhere. The IMYM Guide discusses how to use a coordinator when a visitor comes, not what our obligations are to the planning committee. The Treasurer reported there is about \$350 in the line item to host a Visitor, but nothing budgeted for a committee representative.

Several Friends commented that intervisitation has been an important aspect of maintaining the strength of the Society of Friends. Visitors deepen connections and pass along news and experiences from other Meetings. The Monthly Meetings should discuss how much they value interaction with west coast Friends. There may be other types of visitation, such as someone within IMYM, or exchanges with other yearly meetings besides PYM or NPYM.

Friends like the idea of visitation, but wish to season further the different types of visitation we might support, including the Brinton Memorial Visitor Program. Friends will

go back to their meetings to discuss these questions which we will place on the Continuing Committee agenda again in June. (2005-08)

The Committee took a break from 9:50 to 10:10 am then reconvened in worship. The Clerk read advice from London Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice to “seek through stillness to know,” and to distinguish deliberation from debate.

IMYM/AFSC Joint Service Project

Mike Gray gave a short report on the background of the joint service project. JSP started in 1990 as a way for yearly meeting to provide work camp-type experiences for our young Friends. Mike went on staff in 1995. The JSP started with three weeks of projects each summer. Mike and the JSP oversight committee desired that it become a year around program for better consistency with the communities its serves. In 1998 the oversight committee and AFSC approved a full time salary with benefits for Mike. Projects are now conducted up to 18 weeks each year in the U.S. and Mexico. He distributed a written report about the project in 2004 during annual gathering early days.

When IMYM annual gathering was in Durango there was a service project nearby that was “inexpensive, attractive and ‘on the way.’” A similar project near Ghost Ranch has not yet been identified, thus the need for rental of extra vans. Mike suggested charging service project participants a fee of \$50 for the “seminar” at annual gathering Early Days, which would offset direct costs and potentially generate a small amount of overhead. To reimburse 2004 costs would deplete the surplus from the 2004 annual gathering.

The early days service project was designed so that younger Friends could be accommodated. Glenn Trostle reported that JYF and SYF co-clerks like the idea of an early days service project for both groups. This also helps the youth get better acquainted. While we asked Ghost Ranch to provide programs in early days for the younger children, IMYM did not pay Ghost Ranch for JYF supervision, as it was anticipated that JYF’s would either attend the JSP project or build marimbas.

Friends discussed asking early days JSP participants to pay JSP directly, with annual gathering making up the difference. There was concern that some families may not be able to afford extra fees. It was suggested that the JSP early days project be treated as part of the cost of the annual gathering, to be absorbed.

Friends approved that the JSP in early days be continued for JYF and SYF and that costs be included in future budgets for the annual gathering. For 2005, these costs will be paid from the operational funds of the annual gathering. (2005-09)

Tom Kowel reported that the JSP Oversight Committee needs guidance from the Continuing Committee now about the JSP program, and asked not to wait until June for discussion of JSP finances. The Clerk recognized that many Friends anticipated spending time at this weekend’s meeting discussing the query about funding and oversight of the JSP, and the monthly meeting responses. This discussion will be scheduled for the June Continuing Committee meeting and Continuing Committee members are asked to thoroughly review these documents.

Task Groups

The Continuing Committee divided into task groups on specific portions of the annual gathering: communications, newcomer orientation, volunteer coordination, and schedule. A fifth task group met to discuss JSP funding issues.

Lunch was provided by Pima Meeting and cooked by Cedric Singletary.

The afternoon session opened at 1:25 pm with singing of civil rights songs, led by Eric Wright. The Clerk read advice from the London Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice suggesting that the business of church affairs be times of enjoyment in working together with Friends. A period of worship followed.

Schedule for 2005 Annual Gathering

Hal Wright distributed a written report. He and Cynthia Smith met with SYF and JYF co-clerks to coordinate joint activities. The plenary speaker will lead an interest group Thursday afternoon. The proposed schedule allows 30 minutes between breakfast and worship sharing to allow time for Friends to drop off children or for those who need more time to walk. Evaluations also suggested more time for business meetings; 30 minutes has been added. Epistles will be presented Saturday afternoon to allow inclusion of the Saturday thematic worship.

Attendance at the Meeting for Worship for reading of memorial minutes is light when it is scheduled at night. However, if this Meeting is scheduled during the day, it means less time for other activities. Ghost Ranch will watch children from 7 to 8:30 pm. Mark Holdaway offered to play hammer dulcimer for the memorial meeting.

Friends approved keeping the reading of the memorial minutes on Friday evening at a time when child care can be made available. Hal Wright noted that twelve memorial minutes can be read in a one-hour meeting and if there are more, Continuing Committee should discuss how to accommodate them in a limited time. (2005-10)

Tom Kowal requested that time be scheduled for the traditional folk dancing, campfire sing, and creativity night and that they be listed as part of the regular program. Wednesday evening will include a meeting with JYF and their parents, the opening welcoming meeting followed by a SYF business meeting. The campfire will be Thursday night without a conflicting evening program so young children can attend. Folk dancing will be scheduled Friday night following the reading of memorial minutes. JYF and SYF will have their offsite overnight camps on Friday evening. Creativity night will be Saturday evening.

There will be an open twelve step meeting every day from 5 to 6 pm.

Marilyn Hayes asked that information be included in the registration packet about released Friend Pat Kutzner hosting a crafts fair in Cuba, New Mexico the weekend prior to the annual gathering, to benefit projects of the Navajo. Friends could visit en route to Ghost Ranch. It was noted that there is a section in registration materials describing off-site attractions.

The IMYM co-clerks will present a copy of the schedule at tomorrow's meeting.

Finance Committee Report

Bob Schroeder presented a written report. John Kretzmann accepted the position of Treasurer with the understanding that a bookkeeper would be hired to set up books and record financial transactions. There are sufficient funds in the budget to pay for this.

Bob referred to a written fee schedule comparison for the annual gathering. There was a surplus of over \$2,000 from 2004. There will be additional cost savings from how camping is calculated and by scholarships being supported from assessments and not solely from annual gathering revenues. IMYM raised our rates around 20% between 2003 and 2004. Therefore, we will be able to absorb the 7% Ghost Ranch increase without an overall increase in our rates. Bob recommended further "tilting" of the rates, raising private, semi-private and lower level room rates and reducing Mesa and camping fees slightly. It was noted that four adults can share one campsite.

The finance committee is comprised of Bob Schroeder, Bruce Thron-Weber, Charlene Weir, Bob Dolphin, Ted Church, Kathleen Chindell, Chris Viavant and John Kretzmann.

Continuing Committee accepted the report of the Finance Committee. (2005-11)

The Committee approved the recommended fee schedule for 2005 annual gathering. (2005-12)

Bob distributed an analysis of the IMYM monthly meeting assessment projected into the future. The spread sheet breaks down the current \$35 per member assessment by purpose such as costs of Continuing Committee meetings, general administration, Faith and Practice, AFSC/IMYM Joint Service Project, and travel. If costs increase according to his estimates, and if IMYM chooses to cover projected costs for the 2005 budget with assessment increases, the January 2006 assessment would need to be increased to \$41.25. Some yearly meetings assess costs based on ability to pay; there may be other ways besides a per capita rate. If IMYM approved a 100% increase in our JSP contribution, as the JSP Oversight Committee is requesting, and if IMYM administrative and travel costs were also to be fully funded, the per capita assessment needed to cover these costs would be \$55 to \$60 per member. We expect that consideration of how to raise revenues to support the IMYM budget, and what the assessment will be in January 2006 for each Meeting, will be on the IMYM business meeting agenda at the 2005 annual gathering.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Viavant distributed note cards for Friends to draft a note of thanks to accompany the formal IMYM assessment invoices to Monthly Meetings. He presented a written report. 2004 expenses were \$537 less than the budgeted amount of \$35,463, and income exceeded the budget in the area of contributions for the laptop computer and JSP. These added contributions were passed through directly to cover the computer purchase and JSP expenses. The operating

reserve is at \$19,322 toward a target of \$20,000. The separate annual gathering budget shows a surplus of \$2,840. Finance-related issues which may be brought by Finance Committee or the Continuing Committee for consideration at an IMYM 2005 business meeting include the JSP AFSC-IMYM funding partnership, assistance for the World Gathering of Young Friends in 2005, funding for our representatives to attend FWCC Section of the Americas 2006 conference in Guatemala, and continued increased costs of Ghost Ranch.

The Committee accepted the Treasurer's report. (2005-13)

Registrar's Report

Eileen Haney received the Registrar's laptop computer yesterday and will work with the Registrar Support Task Force to continue improving the use of the software. Any information to be put into the registration packet must be received by the Registrar by February 26. The registration packet will be sent March 26, with registrations due May 1. She recommends that registrations received after May 13 be assessed a late fee because we need to give numbers to Ghost Ranch one month in advance, and make room assignments. The children and youth program leaders also make plans and purchase supplies based on the numbers of children registered. Eileen noted that FGC does not allow late registration of children. Monthly meetings can help explain both the value of the annual gathering and the reasons to register on time. Perhaps an incentive could be established, framing it as a reduced fee for early registration. Some Friends historically have been opposed to fines because they may be casually paid by people of means, leaving the poor to face other consequences.

The Continuing Committee accepted the Registrar's Report, with gratitude to the current and last year's Registrars (2005-14).

Continuing Committee discussed assessing a late fee for registration forms received after one month before the start of the annual gathering. Friends are not in unity at this time to adding a late fee for 2005. However, the Continuing Committee was made vividly aware of the many hours of extra work and the multiple and complex problems in programming, child care, accommodations, food planning, finances and other areas of the annual gathering that result from late registrations. The Continuing Committee requests that each monthly meeting educate its members and attenders about these real costs of late registration and encourage timely registration. At future meetings Continuing Committee will consider other solutions to the problem of late registrations, such as a reduced fee as an incentive for early registration or refusal to accept late registrations at all. If late registrations remain a problem in 2005, this item will be placed on the agenda for the June 2005 Continuing Committee meeting. (2005-15)

Senior Young Friends

Senior Young Friends introduced themselves: Siivi Lutter (Mountain View), Miranda Trostle (Logan), Kevin Wampler (Pima), Rebecca Wright (Mountain View). They presented the SYF schedule for the annual gathering. The Early Days will have very little structure, with an invitation to the Joint Service Project as part of the call. They will establish a SYF table at

mealtimes to get acquainted and plan activities. They will arrange with Ghost Ranch to do both high and low ropes. There will be few scheduled activities in the mornings. The SYF opening business meeting--for introductions and establishment of ground rules--will be Wednesday evening at the Long House, following the plenary welcoming. The SYF will lead intergenerational worship sharing groups on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons. SYF worship sharing will be held each evening. On Thursday they will tie dye with the JYF and meet with the plenary speaker. After dinner Thursday there will be active games with JYF. Friday afternoon will be a SYF/JYF discussion, tentatively "what about Hitler?" and a talk with John Calvi. Friday night will be the overnight campout and writing of the epistle. A business meeting will be held before lunch on Saturday, with the late afternoon an alternative meeting time with a speaker, or discussion. Saturday they will do henna and prepare for creativity night. They will hold a late night worship sharing after the performance and clean up for check out by noon on Sunday. SYF ask that if adults sign up for intergenerational worship sharing that they attend, because the time with adults is valuable to the SYF.

The SYF distributed copies of an information letter about the World Gathering of Young Friends and the exciting opportunity to support young Friends.

The Committee accepted the report of the Senior Young Friends. (2005 -16).

Junior Young Friends

Carlton Halaby (Boulder) and Aalandra Edmunds (Tempe), co-clerks of JYF presented their proposed schedule. It will be similar to last year. JYF will attend the opening plenary and the Thursday campfire with the adults. Instead of environmental project, they will do henna. They will schedule tie dye, music, a topical discussion, and a game of capture flag with the Senior Young Friends. On Friday they will go to the waterfront in the morning and swim after lunch. They will schedule discussions with the plenary speaker and John Calvi. They will camp out Friday evening and write the epistle. Ghost Ranch staff will teach high ropes and macrame or watercolors. Following creativity night on Saturday they will have ice cream in the cantina. Sunday morning the JYF will hold worship sharing then go horseback riding. They will be ready to check out by noon.

The Committee accepted the report of the Junior Young Friends. (2005-17)

Mark Holdaway has identified three adult volunteers to help with JYF during the annual gathering and will recruit two or three more. He said there needs to be a better system for parents to excuse JYFs from planned activities to reduce "unexcused absences." The Continuing Committee discussed expectations for and responsibilities of JYF and their parents during annual gathering. This age group needs clear boundaries, even as they see themselves as deserving more freedom. It is important that JYF either participate in the planned activities or are under supervision of their parents. Friends suggested that this be made clear in the registration materials as a condition of attendance, that JYF discuss and approve groundrules themselves at a business meeting, that this be a topic at the parent meeting Wednesday evening, and that families with JYF discuss requirements prior to arriving at the annual gathering. It is neither fair nor practical for the adult volunteers to take time away from the organized activities to track down unexcused JYF.

The Committee empowered the JYF coordinators to implement procedures to enhance the accountability of the JYF and their parents during the annual gathering. (2005-18)

Children's Yearly Meeting

Julie Wigton, coordinator of Children's Yearly Meeting, reported. Eric Dillon and Eric Swanson are co-coordinators. The sign-in/out process will be improved. There will be written instructions from parents so caregivers and children will be clear on any special needs and boundaries, and schedules will be posted. Some children felt over-scheduled last year so there will be more unstructured play time. The CYM will again incorporate worship sharing on various themes in small groups, with queries; they will need adult volunteers to lead. The coordinators need greater certainty about volunteers—who will come and when, and volunteers need to know they will have support and are needed. Nursery care givers will again be hired for the annual gathering to assure complete coverage. Caregivers may arrive late at morning worship sharing, after the Ghost Ranch staff takes over. The older children will meet with the plenary speaker and John Calvi. They will prepare acts for creativity night, as the children like being on stage.

The Committee accepted the report of the Children's Yearly Meeting. (2005-19)

Task Group Report: Volunteers

Cindy Yurth reported for the task group on volunteers. In 2004, many people volunteered but when they showed up no one was expecting them or there was nothing to do. At other times expected volunteers did not show up. Friends enjoy the volunteer opportunities. This year, each convener will make a specific request in the registration materials about their volunteer needs. The Registrar will forward names of volunteers to Annette Kowal who will forward them to the appropriate conveners. If there are too many for a given task, Friends will be notified and asked to change assignments. Becky Schroeder will staff a volunteer office at Ghost House during specified hours to assist Friends wanting to volunteer. The task group had an idea to help with newcomer orientation: people who are "old hats," to wear a decorated hat signifying willingness to be asked questions or help resolve problems.

The Committee accepted the report of the task group on volunteers. (2005-20)

The meeting closed with the Clerk reading from George Fox, "when friends have finished business, be quiet together," followed by worship. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Sunday, January 30, 2005

Friends worshiped with Pima Monthly Meeting at 10 am and enjoyed a bountiful meal afterward. The Continuing Committee meeting opened with worship at 1:30 pm.

Final Schedule

Rebecca Henderson presented a poster with the proposed agenda that incorporated the comments from yesterday. Afternoon activities were moved 15 minutes later so that intergenerational worship sharing could begin at 1:15 to avoid a rushed lunch. This means the business meeting would be scheduled until 5:15 on Thursday. Friends noted that creativity night is scheduled after the Saturday evening business meeting for final approval of Epistles, and that Friends should try to keep on schedule to avoid going too late into the night.

The Continuing Committee approved the final schedule as presented by the IMYM co-clerks. (2005-21)

Scholarships

Bob Schroeder summarized various documents relating to scholarships for annual gathering. The guiding principle is that cost not be a barrier to Friends in good standing for attendance at annual gathering. Monthly meetings are the first place to request financial assistance, and Monthly Meetings should encourage Friends to ask. Once a Monthly Meeting can no longer fund requests, the Yearly Meeting will provide assistance. The budget in 2005 is \$1,700, but the intention is that all requests will be honored.

Bob Schroeder distributed a flow chart describing the process for matching the scholarship checks with the registration. The first step is for the Friend to request a scholarship from their Monthly Meeting. The Monthly Meeting then writes a check payable to IMYM that the Friend sends with the Registration. If the Monthly Meeting cannot pay (i.e. its scholarship fund is exhausted), the Monthly Meeting will send a letter to the IMYM Registrar to accompany the Friend's registration. The Monthly Meeting in this way endorses the Friend's legitimacy and need. The Registrar will confirm the amount of the IMYM scholarship as part of the annual gathering confirmation.

The Registrar will give the finance committee a list of all scholarships, their amounts, and how many were from each Monthly Meeting. The finance committee, along with the Registrar, will evaluate the process after the 2005 annual gathering.

Most Monthly Meetings responded to the fall query that they have a scholarship process of some type for annual gathering. Each Monthly Meeting can use whatever system it wants to assure that its Meeting scholarships, and its requests for IMYM scholarships above what the Meeting can fund, get to the Registrar in a timely way. Partial scholarships are encouraged. The IMYM budget will continue to have a line item for income and expenses for scholarships so Friends who contribute for scholarships can see that the funds were used.

The Continuing Committee approved the process for IMYM scholarships as presented, with the clarification that the Monthly Meeting is responsible for requesting scholarships on behalf of active Friends whose need cannot be met by the Monthly Meeting. (2005-22)

Task Group Report: Newcomers

Kathryn Bowers reported for the task group of Barb Stephens, Con Sawyer, Kathryn Bowers and Leslie Stephens. Few ideas from last year were implemented, but there is renewed energy

this year to welcome first-time attenders to the annual gathering. This year the registration form will have a check off for newcomers and an option to check off if you want to be a mentor to newcomers. We will not try to match mentors and newcomers this year, but it will be a possibility in the future. Confirmation packets will have letter prepared by the task group to newcomer with tips, ideas and suggestions. Names of all newcomers will also be listed. A sticker will be put on newcomers' name tags so that more experienced Friends can welcome them, help them, etc. The task group will organize an interest group for Thursday called IMYM 101. The task group suggests that Clerks ask newcomers to stand during the opening plenary welcoming. Friends suggested putting newcomers in housing close to old hats so they feel they have someone to talk to.

The Continuing Committee accepted the report of the Newcomers Task Group. (2005-23)

Task Group Report: Communications

Tom Kowal reported for the communications task group. There will be yard signs placed with directions to various places (e.g. *JYF this way*, with a little map). This should make finding ones way around easier. There will be four bulletin boards: at the dining hall, Ghost House, campground, and lower pavilion where the business sessions are held. A copy of each notice will be put on all 4 bulletin boards. People will be responsible for posting their own stuff on all four bulletin boards. The schedule will be posted on a whiteboard at Ghost House. A volunteer is needed for daily bulletin coordinator. The laminated map will again be used to show positions of interest groups, worship sharing groups, etc.

The Continuing Committee accepted the report of the Communications Task Group. (2005-24)

Operations Committee

Tom Kowal gave a report for the Operations Committee. Operations volunteers will wear panama hats. There are two volunteers so far: Jeremy Kowal and Perry Sailor; four or five more volunteers are needed. There will be a few sets of walkie talkies to make communications easier among people working with Operations; two for Operations, one for the physician on call, and an extra. Operations coordinator will purchase more walkie talkies to ensure SYF, JYF, CYM all have walkie talkies available. There will be agreements to sign for all golf cart users to adhere to Ghost Ranch expectations and rules. There will be about five carts available for us. The Registrar will notify the Operations Coordinator of all of the people who request use of golf carts. There is a Ghost Ranch van available, however there is too much paperwork to meet Ghost Ranch insurance requirements for us to use that van. A van would be a great way to move more people, more quickly between the lower pavilion and the dining hall. A Friend requested that we consider whether renting a van might be advantageous in the future; it could also transport Friends to and from Albuquerque.

The Continuing Committee accepted the report of the Operations Committee. (2005-25)

The Clerk announced the next meeting of the Continuing Committee will be from 1:30 to 4:30 pm Wednesday, June 15, 2005, at Ghost Ranch.

The meeting adjourned with worship at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

DeAnne Butterfield
Recording Clerk

February 9, 2005