

# **Intermountain Yearly Meeting**

**of the**

## **Religious Society of Friends**

**Record of the Plenary Sessions  
And Meetings for Worship for Business**

**40th Annual Gathering**

**Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico**

**June 11-15, 2014**

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# Welcoming Plenary Session, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Session 1

**Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm**

Friend Eric Wright led us in singing as we entered the Lower Pavilion.

Clerk Sara Keeney welcomed all to IMYM 2014. We began with a few moments of silence.

**Introduction of Meetings, Worship Groups, other categories:** FGC, CYM, JFY, SYF, first-timers, came when a baby, coming at least 20 or more times, founders [e.g. Kitty Bejnar, who met her beloved here, but who was not present at Session I]; Rebecca Cecil; Actions you have taken - Alternatives to Violence Project, Friends Peace Teams, written a letter to Member of Congress, been arrested; Ghost Ranch college staff; those who participated in IMYM in each decade from 1970 to today; Joint Service Project participants; persons involved in Mountain Friends Camp.

## **List of Meetings and Worship Groups present, June 2014:**

**Arizona Half Yearly:** Tempe Meeting, Pima Meeting, Phoenix Meeting, Flagstaff Meeting, Cochise Worship Group

**Utah Friends Fellowship:** Moab Meeting, Logan Meeting, Salt Lake City Meeting

**Colorado Regional:** Boulder Meeting, Mountain View Meeting, Ft. Collins Meeting, Colorado Springs Meeting, Three Valleys Worship Group

**New Mexico Regional:** Socorro Worship Group; Clearlight Worship Group; Gallup Worship Group; Santa Fe Meeting; South Side Worship Group; Las Cruces Meeting; Gila/Silver City Meeting; El Paso Meeting TX; Durango Meeting CO; Albuquerque Meeting

## **Attachment #1**

### **Introduction of Guests:**

Shan Cretin – General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

Diane Randall - Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Aura Kanegis – Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for American Friends Service Committee, Fredericksburg Meeting, MD

Mary Klein - Editor of *Western Friend*, Palo Alto Meeting

Miriam Mulsow – Friends General Conference Visitor, Lubbock, TX

Rene Palomares – Heberto Sein visitor from Mexico City Monthly Meeting and Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City

Claire Leonard - now part of Montana Gathering of Friends (Monthly and Quarterly Meeting), worshipping with Dillon Worship Group, formerly of Reserve NM and Gila Meetings.  
Patricia Morrison – still of us but now part of South Mountain Friends Meeting, Courage and Renewal trainer  
Roena Oesting – aka Elizabeth Fry, from La Jolla Meeting, CA  
Leo Charley - Navajo singer and poet from Torreon, NM  
Claudia Kirkpatrick – Sacramento, CA  
Laura Melvin – Fairhope, AK  
Anthony Manousos of Pasadena, CA, and Jill Shook (unable to attend but sent greetings)

### **Introduction of those who serve the Meeting:**

Clerk—Sara Keeney  
Arrangements Committee Clerk - Vickey Finger  
Facilities Planning Group - Becca Wright  
Representatives Committee Clerk - Bill Hobson  
Recording Clerk—Nancy Marshall  
Recording Clerk for Representatives Committee—Molly Wingate  
Treasurer—Brian Martin  
Registrars—Carol Clinkenbeard and Pelican Lee  
Coordinators of Operations —Steve Wampler and Shannon Harker  
Worship Sharing Groups Coordinator—Barb Stephens  
Interest Groups and Seminars Coordinator—Todd Hierlmaier  
Senior Young Friends Clerks – Joy Nachman, Quetzal Gallagher  
Friendly Adult Presences for SYF's - Eleanor Dart, Jerry Peterson, Andrew Banks  
Junior Yrly Mtg Coords—Penny Thron-Weber, Judy Danielson, Eric Wright, Paula Van Dusen  
Junior Young Friends co-clerks – Nikola Gacy, Melody Kennedy  
Junior Young Friends Recording Clerk – Izzy Colkitt  
Children's Yearly Meeting Coordinators— Roxanne Seagraves, Sonja Toutenhoofd, Marc Gacy,  
Bookstore coordinator—Susan Dahl  
Advocate for Persons of Differing Abilities and Kitchen Liaison —John Crowther  
Bulletin editors—Bonnie Fraser and Julie Brozio  
Facilities Liaison – Vance Marshall  
Web Clerks—Jim Mills and Bob Gaines  
Finance Committee Clerk—Bob Gaines  
Watching Committee Clerk—Maya Wright  
Volunteer Coordinator – Deb Comly  
Ministry and Counsel Committee Clerk—Charlene Weir  
Nominating Committee Clerks—Gail and Jim Hoffman  
Procedures Committee Clerk – David Nachman  
Peace and Service Committee Clerk - Jamie Newton  
Young Adult Friends Clerks – Kevin Wampler, David Wampler

Children's Yearly Meeting Infant coordinator – Sonja Toutenhoofd  
Faith and Practice Committee Clerk - Barb Stephens

## **Welcome from Ghost Ranch**

Debra Hepler, Director of Ghost Ranch Conference Center, welcomed Friends to the Ranch. She said that she is glad we are back at Ghost Ranch and appreciates our patience as Ghost Ranch works to complete its sewer project. She has been fundraising to have the ranch work on several improvements, including new chairs. She re-iterated her feeling that Ghost Ranch is blessed to have the IMYM Gathering here this week.

## **State of the Society Report**

Clerk Sara Keeney gave the State of the Society report based on State of Meeting reports and IMYM committee work. **Attachment #2.**

## **Announcements**

## **Closing Worship**

## **Meeting for Worship with Speaker, Plenary Session 2 Thursday Morning, June 12, 2014**

We entered and sat in worship.

### **Keynote Speakers:**

**Shan Cretin, General Secretary American Friends Service  
Committee;**

**Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on  
National Legislation**

Clerk Sara Keeney introduced the speakers. Aura Kanegis and Bill Hobson held the speakers in prayer during the keynote.

Diane Randall of FCNL spoke first. She expressed how touched she is at the welcoming by Friends and the children within IMYM.

In speaking of Shared Security, she asked us to re-imagine foreign policy: we should recognize rising economic strengths of other countries, and we need to question some U.S. structures such as the bloated Pentagon budget, military bases in over 80 countries. At the same time, we are increasingly in conflict over water, land, and other resources.

What can Quakers do?

Diane cited Steve Smith's Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "Living in Virtue," "To live in the virtue and power that takes away all occasion for war." This is what Friends truly have to offer. We are drawn to act in love. Quakers are unique in that we are called to live right now in a world to bring peace.

What are solutions for a world broken by conflict?

Civilians should lead the military, providing alternatives to fighting, including mediation, conflict resolution and robust diplomacy. Members of the State Department should know something about the language, the culture, the religion of the area in which they serve. We should support peace-building organizations such as United Nations, the League of African States, the United Arab League. The United States should sign and observe international treaties,



such as disability rights, rights of equality for women, etc. We should repeal the Authorization for Utilization of Military Force.

Quakers need to speak out about the world we seek.

**Shan Cretin** of AFSC spoke next, also addressing the queries in our call to the Annual Gathering.

The first query is: What do we have to offer as Quakers to the challenges of our times? She reminded us that George Fox said, to “be patterns, be examples, that your carriage and your life may preach to all sorts of them, whereby the witness of God in you can bless you, and in you blessing them, they can bless you.”

The second query is: What are the unique gifts Quakers have to offer? Is it Spirit-led? Is that uniquely Quaker? Shan draws strength from what John Woolman said: “there is a principle which is pure, has had different names. It is pure, confined in no religion or nation. Whoever takes hold of this spirit, becomes reverent.”

AFSC’s international presence leads us as Quakers to come in contact with all kinds of persons who have worked for peacemaking, from different faiths and backgrounds. We can be bridges among groups and between diverse groups and Quakers.

The third query is: How do we move from a country built on empire to one built on a beloved community? If we really want to do something to bring about the peaceable kingdom in the world, we have to bring about the end of problems here at home—to be examples: end racism, end economic disparity. Shan reminded us that John Woolman’s admonition/pamphlet, “A Plea for the Poor” also had another title: “A Word of Caution to the Rich.”

Learning to use our privilege is difficult. It’s not about just saying “I feel your pain.” And it’s not about taking over and doing it all for others. It is about sharing possibilities with those who have suffered discrimination so they have the opportunity to thrive, serve, and make a difference.

Shan challenged the group to take to heart how much we are missing an essential piece when we don’t have diversity within our group. We are missing something that we need to be faithful Friends. We need to be patterns, be examples, in all countries, in our country, in our own Meeting, and in our own hearts.

After a few moments of quiet worship, Friends brought forth some questions.

Regarding gun violence, Diane responded: Those of us who find these laws anathema must be louder and stronger in who we elect to pass laws for us.

On how to make the Religious Society of Friends more inclusive, the speakers suggested: Sometimes we should do interfaith visitation. We need to be supportive, learn what we may be doing that others may feel they need to overcome in order to participate with us.

On the sequester: We need to urge Congress to keep domestic but cut military spending levels. To reduce waste, fraud and abuse, start with the Pentagon.

On how to handle issue of the “white man?” We need to realize we did not “earn” all that we have and we need to share. We should not “give up,” on creative ways to do that.

On the goal of Shared Security: we must create an umbrella under which we can collaborate and work more broadly, knowing it’s a long-term process.

A complete copy of each of the speaker’s comments is available on the IMYM web site ([imym.org](http://imym.org)).

For an audio version, see Western Friend links: [westernfriend.org/media/reimagining-us-foreign-policy](http://westernfriend.org/media/reimagining-us-foreign-policy) and [westernfriend.org/media/what-can-quakers-offer-these-times](http://westernfriend.org/media/what-can-quakers-offer-these-times)

## **Announcements**

The session closed with a few minutes of worship.

## **Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session 3 Thursday Afternoon, June 12, 2014**

During this gathering a new seating arrangement is being tried, with the chairs placed in concentric semi circles rather than rows, with front row areas reserved for people who wish to address the meeting.

The meeting opened in silent worship.

**Memorial Minute - Carl Wallen of Tempe Meeting, read by Bill Hobson, Attachment #3.**

**Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative**, provided by the Watching Committee, read by Peter Anderson. **Attachment #4.**

Clerk Sara Keeney introduced the members of the Watching Committee. She urged folks to obtain copies of the Agenda and reminded Friends that youth groups and the Watching Committee will present epistles Friday in the afternoon for consideration. She urged folks interested in the Indigenous Peoples Proposal to attend the workshop this afternoon on that topic.

### **Report from Friends General Conference.**

Andrew Banks and Martha Roberts shared information about their work as representatives to Friends General Conference. Andrew gave a report on his experiences, **“At the Growing Edges of my Faith: Personal Reflections on the 2013 FGC Gathering in Greeley, CO, and my Work with Friends General Conference over the Past Year.” Attachment #5**

**IMYM 2014.01: Friends accept the report, as provided by Andrew (who served as co-Clerk of the Friends General Conference Gathering in 2013 with Sarah Beutel), with gratitude.**

### **Report from Friends' Peace Teams**

Vickie Aldrich gave the report on activities during the past year, noting that this year is the twentieth anniversary of the Peace Teams. **Attachment #6.**

**IMYM 2014.02: Friends accept the Friends Peace Team report with appreciation.**

## **Report on *Western Friend***

Mary Klein presented the report. She gave a summary of the fiscal year 2013-14 and discussed two books published by *Western Friend*. **Attachment # 7**

**IMYM 2014.03: Friends accept the Report from *Western Friend*.**

## **Consent Agenda**

The Clerk next turned to reports that will be placed on the Consent Agenda for later consideration: (no attachment at this time, attach, each as separate one at time of approval)

- 2013 Epistle from Friends General Conference,
- Report of the Clerks of the 2013 Friends General Conference Annual Gathering,
- Friends Committee on National Legislation Program Report to Yearly Meetings
- Epistle from American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting, March, 2014,
- American Friends Service Committee Call for Nominations,
- Message from Lucy Duncan, American Friends Service Committee Director of Friends Relations,
- 2013-14 Annual Report of Dougla-Prieta Trabajo (Works).

These documents are in the Bookstore in the “Documents in Advance” binders, or available at [imym.org](http://imym.org). Friends are asked to read them in preparation for accepting them without reading during sessions. The Clerk asked Friends to let her know if any reports need to be read and discussed before approval.

## **Report from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

Laura Peterson gave an oral report. A written report was submitted after the presentation **Attachment #8.**

**Memorial Minute for Rebecca Henderson Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, read by Vickie Aldrich. Attachment #9.**

## **Announcements**

The meeting closed with silent worship.

## **Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session 4 Friday Morning, June 13, 2014**

The meeting opened with silent worship.

**Memorial Minute for Eleanor Hull, Boulder Monthly Meeting - read by Marilyn Hayes. Attachment #10.**

**Memorial Minute for Jack Kraushaar, Boulder Monthly Meeting - read by Anne Marie Pois. Attachment #11.**

**Memorial Minute for Dorothy Eagan, Gila Worship Group - read by Marion Bowers Newton. Attachment #12.**

**Epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting, 2013 read by Maya Wright. Attachment #13.**

Clerk Sara Keeney announced a few changes of the agenda. She introduced Susan Dahl, Bookstore Coordinator. The Clerk read from “Quaker Practice and Business Meetings,” a Study Series led by Rebecca Henderson, 2013: ”Sense of the Meeting.”

### **Initial Report from the Nominating Committee**

Gail Hoffman presented the report, reading the names of persons who have agreed to extend their terms along with some new appointments. She noted that more appointments will be finalized before the close of business and that we will be asked to approve these nominations during later business sessions.

### **Initial Report from the Finance Committee**

Bob Gaines, Clerk of Finance Committee, gave the report. Friends were reminded that the various reports falling within the purview of the Finance Committee of IMYM can be found on the IMYM website. There were several questions, including those on subsidies for travel and on a voluntary carbon offset contribution. The Budget will be considered for approval during a later business session.

## **Minute for Consideration: Proposed Minute on Repudiating Doctrine of Discovery, affirming United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People**

Bruce Thron-Weber presented the minute as the recommendation and product of much work by the Boulder Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee. Clerk Sara Keeney noted that this minute has been seasoned by Boulder Meeting and other IMYM Meetings for two years through workshops provided by the Boulder Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee, interest groups, study, and queries. Bruce read the background to the minute and then the proposed minute.

Numerous comments and questions ensued, including the concern about picking winners and losers, the changing historical reality of “who was there,” how to implement such a minute with integrity and in practical ways, non-“indigenous” people who may have suffered, certain representatives of Christianity versus others, and the need for appreciative inquiry. The Clerk reminded folks to go to the table at dinner for further discussion and seasoning of the proposed minute.

### **Announcements**

The meeting closed with silent worship.

## **Meeting for Business for Listening: Plenary Session 5 Friday, June 13, 2014, 2:30 p.m.**

The purpose of the Listening Meeting is for young Friends to respond to questions, primarily about Youth and the Quaker Testimonies, and for other Friends to listen. Senior Young Friends co-Clerks Quetzal Gallagher and Joy Nachman presided over the Listening Session.

The format was as follows: Senior Young Friends and Junior Young Friends sat in the center of the circle, with adult Friends seated in chairs in a circle all around them. The seating design was planned to create a safe space in which to speak and a supportive space in which to listen. Adult Friends wrote questions on slips of paper that were then collected in a basket, and passed within the circle of youth. A person in the circle would take a question and respond to it, leaving space for worship between speakers.

The Meeting opened with silence and centering. A record of questions and responses, recorded to the best of our ability, is found in **Attachment #14**.

We closed with thanks and appreciation to the Senior and Junior Young Friends for planning, leading and contributing, and to everyone for holding this listening space for youth.

## **Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session 6 Friday Afternoon, June 13, 2014**

The meeting opened with silent worship.

**Memorial Minute for Dimitri Mihalas, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting – read by Guthrie Miller Attachment # 15.**

**Memorial Minute for David Livingston, Pima Monthly Meeting – read by Deb Holdaway. Attachment # 16.**

**Memorial Minute for Pat Gilmore, Mountain View Monthly Meeting – read by Ruth Montague. Attachment #17.**

**Report from Mountain Friends Camp.** Ana Easterling, camp Director, and fellow campers presented the report. Their report mentioned the value of camp for them, including worship sharing, singing, “PLORK” (a mixture of play and work), being accepted, the feeling like you have a lot of friends, and the sense of community. Mountain Friends Camp is making the official transition to a non-profit entity. **Attachment #18.**

**IMYM 2014.04: Friends accept the report from Mountain Friends Camp with appreciation. Intermountain Yearly Meeting expresses our great appreciation of our young people for their energy, hope and beautiful spirit. We appreciate the opportunity to listen to them in the listening session earlier this afternoon.**

### **Report of the Representatives Committee**

Bill Hobson, Representatives Committee Clerk gave an oral report.

**IMYM 2014.05: Friends accept the oral report of the Representative Committee with gratitude.**

## **Resources available from American Friends Service Committee**

John Heid of Pima Meeting spoke about posters and a resource kit on change movements that AFSC has available.

## **Consideration of the Budget**

Bob Gaines, Clerk of Finance Committee again brought the proposed 2015 budget before meeting.

**IMYM Minute 2014.06: IMYM Friends approve the 2015 budget as presented by the Finance Committee.**

**Attachment # 19A:** Finance Committee Report to the Annual Gathering, June, 2014;

**Attachment #19B:** Cash and Reserve Funds Report as of June 6, 2014; and

**Attachment #19C:** Approved 2015 Budget

## **First reading of Epistle – Watching Committee**

Watching Committee Clerk, Maya Wright, gave the first reading of the proposed Epistle.

## **Announcements**



## **Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session 7 Saturday Morning, June 14, 2014**

Meeting opened with silent worship.

**Memorial Minute for Jeanne Mayes, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting – read by Betsy Lombard. Attachment #20.**

**Memorial Minute for Curtis Sollohub, Las Vegas Worship Group, Santa Fe – read by Allen Winchester. Attachment #21.**

**Memorial Minute for Karin Salzmann, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting – read by Jan-Willem Jansens. Attachment #22.**

The Clerk opened with a few phrases from IMYM *Faith and Practice*.

### **Report from Ministry and Counsel**

Ministry and Counsel Committee Clerk Charlene Weir gave an oral report.

**IMYM 2014.07: Friends accept the oral report with gratitude.**

### **Report of the Registrars**

Registrar Pelican Lee reported that a total 289 were registered here this year. It is a decrease over previous years of 320-340. Half of our attenders arrived by Wednesday.

**IMYM 2014.08: Friends accepted the report with gratitude. Attachment #23. The Meeting expresses its great appreciation for registrars Pelican Lee and Carol Clinkenbeard for loving and competent service as registrars.**

### **Consideration of Proposed Minute on Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

Boulder Committee on Indigenous Concerns member Bruce Thron-Weber read a revised proposed minute. After several people made comments and several stated they would stand

aside but go forward with the minute, the Clerk suggested that we make a few specific language changes.

**IMYM 2014.09. IMYM Friends approved the proposed minute, with specific changes as recorded. Attachment #24**

## **Epistle from Children's Yearly Meeting of IMYM**

Several children from Children's Yearly Meeting gave a cooperative reading of the Epistle.

**IMYM 2014.10: Friends joyfully accept the Epistle from Children's Yearly Meeting. Attachment #25.**

## **Consideration for Approval of the Nominating Committee Report**

Gail Hoffman gave the second reading of the list of people nominated to serve. She noted that there are still some positions that need to be filled but are not. She mentioned additional nominations made during the course of the gathering. The attached Nominating Committee Report includes all nominees.

She expressed concerns that several vital positions need to be filled, including IMYM Clerk.

**IMYM 2014.11: Friends approved the Nominating Committee Report, with much appreciation. Attachment #26.**

## **Report from the Treasurer**

Treasurer Brian Martin provided an oral report noting adequate funds in bank, record keeping and reimbursements in place.

**IMYM 2014.12: Friends accepted the Treasurer's oral Report.**

## **Consideration of the Consent Agenda**

**IMYM 2014.13: Friends approve the consent agenda, accepting the following reports. Attachment # 27: 2013 Epistle from Friends General Conference, Attachment #28: Report of the Clerks of the 2013 Friends General Conference Annual Gathering,**

**Attachment #29:** Friends Committee on National Legislation Program Report to Yearly Meetings

**Attachment #30:** Epistle from American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting, March, 2014,

**Attachment #31:** American Friends Service Committee Call for Nominations,

**Attachment #32:** Message from Lucy Duncan, American Friends Service Committee Director of Friends Relations,

**Attachment #33:** 2013-14 Annual Report of Dougla-Prieta Works.

## **Peace and Service Committee Updates**

Committee Clerk Jamie Newton updated Friends on progress of the Committee. He noted that this is a new committee, still forming its way of functioning and invited monthly meetings to communicate through regional representatives to the committee. The committee appreciates the initial positive feedback on the display of various peace and service activities that they facilitated in the meeting room.

## **Friends Peace Teams Anniversary Celebration**

IMYM Representative Vickie Aldrich described the beginnings of Friends Peace Teams in 1994. She reminded us that Elise Boulding of Boulder Meeting in IMYM was a founder of the organization. Over the past 20 years peace building work has been done in 20 countries. A cake is provided for the break after business session.

## **Epistle from Senior Young Friends**

Senior Young Friends Clerks Joy Nachman and Quetzal Gallagher read their epistle.

**IMYM.2014.14. Friends accept the Senior Young Friends Epistle. Attachment #34.**

## **Report from the Watching Committee and Proposed Epistle from IMYM**

Watching Committee Clerk Maya Wright read the epistle before the meeting.

**IMYM 2014.15. Friends approve the Epistle with gratitude and thanks to the Watching Committee. Attachment #35 A (English) and #35 B (Español).**

## **Epistle from Junior Young Friends**

Clerks Nikola Gacy, Melody Kennedy and Izzy Colkitt read their epistle, reporting that the Junior Young Friends could not go horseback riding this year due to costs, but hope to go next year by raising money in advance to do it. Melody spoke to the Testimony of Community.

**IMYM 2014.16. Friends accept the Junior Young Friends Epistle. Attachment #36.**

## **Announcements**

The plenary session closed with a short time of quiet worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Keeney, Clerk  
Nancy Hicks Marshall, Recording Clerk