

June 2011
ILYM

Adult Young Friends Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

How are you? Really, what have been thinking about lately? This year at ILYM our theme was "As Way Opens: Discerning Our Path Forward in the Light". At our retreat in January we discerned that we want to better integrate with the wider community of Friends. With this in mind, we decided to stay on campus, sign up for more ILYM volunteer jobs, give a greater showing in business meeting, participate in more ILYM workshops, and attend more lectures.

At times we had difficulty conversing with older Friends. We overcame this thanks to meals and overtures from individual Friends.

We participated in many of the workshops, including; "Support for the Journey: An Aging and Saging Group at Downers Grove," "'To ponder well the paths of my feet': Journaling and life in the Spirit," "Grief and Grieving," "Emily Greene Balch: Bridge Builder to Peace, Women, and Internationalism," "Engaging in Conversation on Racism," and "Getting our Final Wishes on Paper." We also enjoyed speakers Mary Garman, a Quiet rambunctious Friend, and Vanessa Julye, who shared some of her spiritual journey and experiences as a woman of color in Friends Meetings and urged Friends to bring awareness of this difference of experience back to their monthly meetings.

We made connections during worship sharing and the celebration of the purchase of a new building.

Amongst ourselves our fellowship was nurtured by walks up and down Quaker Lane. On one walk we saw a "moon-bow" (like a rainbow, except at night) and on another we made a cuddle puddle at the Friends cemetery.

At our Saturday business Meeting we approved Stephen Kuhn as co-clerk of the Adult Young Friends (AYF) and approved Christopher Earp continuing as co-clerk. We also approved Alethea Tschetterwood as recording clerk.

As we reflected on the growth of our group, we were reminded how four years ago many AYF simply sat on the Meeting House porch together and we are now much more involved with the rest of ILYM. We intend to work on further integrating ourselves with ILYM.

We look forward to our August and January tsunamis. We also would enjoy hearing from you.

In the Light,

ILYM AYF