**2013 Annual Report**

The mission of the BYM Advancement and Outreach Committee is to support meetings growth and revitalization and encourage outreach to seekers. The Committee deals with issues of visibility, welcoming newcomers, knitting in newcomers, strengthening community, sharing our faith, witness and service, and reaching out. The committee is also trying to take on support and cooperation with Quaker schools. We meet three times a year at Interim Meeting, and once at Annual Sessions. All committee meetings are open meetings.

The major event for the Committee this year was an all-day Quaker Quest training. Quaker Quest is an approach to outreach that was developed by British Friends and is now being promoted by Friends General Conference. It uses a series of brief personal presentations on a particular topic, followed by small group discussion, to show how shared experience of Spirit, not doctrinal unity, enlivens the Religious Society of Friends. There are two training events involved in the process of getting ready to do the full Quaker Quest. Some of the experiences in the trainings can be used just to help Friends develop greater comfort in doing general outreach. The Friends General Conference offered to provide trainers free of charge for an all-day training for the Yearly. As part of our support of Quaker Quest in BYM the A&O Committee sponsored the training, which took place at Langley Hill Meeting on May 11, 2013. There were 25 Friends attending from 12 Meetings. The feedback we got was very positive.

There are at least two Meetings scheduled to do their own all-day trainings this year. One Meeting made the request to FGC before the BYM training and one Meeting made the request after the training.

The A&O Committee has some money in its budget to help Meetings with the cost of putting on Quaker Quest events and FGC also offers some grants to local Meetings.

Still in the planning stage as of mid-June is a test project for on-line advertising.

The Committee could very much use Friends with skills related to computers and Friends interested in working with Quaker Schools.