

Report on attending Friends General Conference (FGC) in 2013
By Margot Overington, New Brunswick Monthly Meeting

I attended the art workshop in the mornings and worked at the Information Desk afternoons and evenings. The first day of art, we were asked to pick out a picture that appealed to us. There were about 150 pictures scattered randomly across two large tables. I chose a woman dressed in belly dancing gear, coming out of the ocean, under a blue sky, breathing out fire. We did two rounds, first to say why that picture appealed to us. That was interesting...then we were asked to silently consider the picture. In the second go round we were asked to finish the following sentence:

I am the one who...

What I noticed during the silence was that the four elements of earth, air, fire, water were all present in the picture. I was reminded of the oneness of all life. So when my turn came, I said something like, "I am the one who is made of all the earth's elements and I am one with the universe."

We were then introduced to two tables of a variety of art supplies that Trish (our fearless leader) brought for us to make our creations. We started with collages, and I made wrapping paper for Rose Marie Cyprik's celebration on leaving Central Committee, and a card for Ruth, who was Trish's support person. I noticed how quiet I became inside as I worked. This is one of my clues that I am in a good place inside, when I quiet down. I made something different each day, and it was always wonderful. The conversations that sometimes went on were filled with laughter and good will.

It was also good to be on the Information Desk again. We form our own little Meeting during the week, since the same folks come back to that particular job. Because of work, which also helps to pay for my being there, I don't usually attend afternoon or evening events. To make up for that, I manage to have meals with Friends from across the continent, which is always a joy. I had a lovely lunch with Jessica Klassen-Wright, and some good visits with Rose Marie.

My roommate was a woman named Jan Lombardo, who is one of the co-Clerks for next year's Gathering, and she is a water colour artist! We had a wonderful time sharing our projects, hopes, and dreams.

Thank you, Friends, for the opportunity to open to such joy and Light!
Margot Overington, Sept. 2013