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# OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

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*Quaker Quill* 

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## Roads and Paths

*Cindi Goslee*

In his essay "A Native Hill" Kentucky author Wendell Berry quotes from an account of an early road building expedition in Kentucky. In the account the author notes that prior to this road only a path built by native Americans traversed the country in those parts. Berry goes on to speak of the differences between a road and a path.

He offers the perspective that a path is a "ritual of familiarity" existing in concert with its surroundings. It follows the contours of the land, disturbs little and through experience and familiarity allows movement to place.

A road, on the other hand, takes no account of the land it traverses and likely as not creates destruction. Its purpose being "efficient" transportation, the surrounding countryside has no import for the road. It is built by blueprint rather than lay of the land.

To my mind this road/path dichotomy is an apt metaphor for lives of humans on this earth in this time. We all too often live as roads. Getting from, to and back again, at high speed so that we can begin the process all over is the lot we choose. The landscape along the way has little impact on us as we impact it grievously.

As Friends we attempt to witness the path way of life. Living in a manner that takes away the occasion of all

wars as Fox modeled for us, we must take into account the landscape and live in concert with it. Not an easy thing to do in this world, but particularly crucial.

All too often we are busy building our own roads. Even as Friends we may become caught up in the gods of efficiency, expediency, and ego. While we see the negative impacts of these roads in our larger society, our eagerness for movement can transcend the landscape along our way. As Friends, the paths we strive to walk take into our care, not only our physical surroundings of the earth and her inhabitants, but especially the landscape of God's desires for us and our witness in the world.

Each year at annual session of OVYM, our epistles testify to the paths we attempt to walk. At the end of each session we leave to step out in faith, continuing the journey before us. This year as in our previous 183 years, our ritual of familiarity leads us to hear God's desires for our movement in the world. One Friend recently reminded a committee in a flurry of emails to schedule a meeting time that genuine Spirit led discernment might well be the highest calling of the committee.

May genuine Spirit-led discernment pave the paths we walk this year.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 13-16 Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) Midwinter Gathering. Burlington (NJ) Meeting
- Feb. 15 Miami Quarterly Meeting. Eastern Hills Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
- Feb.28-29 OVYM Teen Overnight. Eastern Hills Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
- April 17 Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. Clear Creek Meeting, Richmond, IN
- May Miami Quarterly Meeting.
- June 13-19 OVYM Teen trip and work camp
- July 3-10 FGC Gathering. University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA
- July 11-Aug 7 Friends Music Camp. Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH
- July 28-Aug 1 OVYM 184 Annual Sessions. Wilmington College, Wilmington,

## 2004 Yearly Meeting

This year finds OVYM at Wilmington College from 7/28 - 8/1 - 2004. The Planning Committee has selected the theme "Telling our Stories of Faith." This came from a realization that as Quakers we are not always very good at telling our stories of our faith and how that has guided our life path, actions, and interrelations with the world. We plan to provide an environment where where we can share during Yearly Meeting sessions and leave feeling more skilled in both the understanding and sharing of our faith and where it leads us.

To help us with this, T. Canby Jones will be one of our plenary speakers. He comes to us from Campus Meeting in Wilmington with a rich background among Quakers and a lifetime of telling the story of faith as a part of his life and the wider religious community.

We are planning the workshops, worship sharing and other activities of Yearly Meeting to provide opportunities to learn together about sharing our Faith. Please mark your calendars to join us for our 2004 OVYM Yearly Meeting sessions.

## Clerk's Page

*Lisa Cayard, Assistant Clerk*

Recently in Meeting for Worship a message was given that spoke to what was so strongly in my heart: that we as a faith community are bound together in God's love, in a covenant to care for and support one another. We care for one another in many ways, through spiritual ministry, through caring for children or preparing meals, through visiting or calling when someone is sick or grieving, by preparing budget reports and meeting minutes, by making music together, or just by listening prayerfully to one another's joys, sorrows, and life journeys.

We are bound together in God's love as a meeting community, and also in our wider Yearly Meeting community. Some of us are called to minister in leadership roles, serving and caring for us by becoming so spiritually open and tender that they can discern and give voice to the motion of Love as it gathers and moves among us. Others serve as quiet nurturers, holding to the still center and reminding us that we are held always in an outpouring of Light and Love. Many of us are called to a ministry of active work in the world, working for peace and justice, seeking to heal the earth and the divine interconnectedness of all things, planning activities for our youth who will carry our vision and our faith into the future, revising our statements of Faith and Practice to more clearly reflect the truth we see being revealed, and planning our annual Yearly Meeting sessions. This work is love made visible. It is my prayer that each of us, in our own small way, is able to use our gifts and our hands to minister to one another. May our hands become God's hands when we open them to the Spirit and let them be used to release more love into the world.

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## OVYM Hosts Midwest Regional Gathering

On Saturday, 20 September, Ohio Valley Friends welcomed Friends from nine different yearly meetings to focus on the theme "Face to Face: Paths to Peace." Miami Monthly Meeting opened their meetinghouse to us and provided meals for more than forty Friends from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio Valley, Western, Lake Erie, Ohio, Wilmington, Intermountain, and New England Yearly Meetings.

Cathy Habschmidt provided breakfast and welcomed Friends on behalf of our yearly meeting, and Milton

Cook started us off with a presentation on the history of Miami MM and their two meetinghouses (the history made its way into small group discussions and messages offered in worship). Janice Clevenger gave an introduction to unprogrammed worship and oversaw our worship time together.

Lou Bucklin put together an excellent panel of participants in the FWCC Greensboro Conference last January, "Friends' Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis." Aase Loescher of Western and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings, Shane Kirkpatrick and Anna Crumley-Effinger of Indiana Yearly Meeting, Sadie Forsythe of New England Yearly Meeting, and Elizabeth Mertic of Illinois Yearly Meeting all gave presentations on who they were before the January conference, how the peace conference has changed their lives, and what local meetings can gain from the peace conference. Most of the presentations (or summaries of what was said) are available in written form through the FWCC Midwest Office.

The morning panel was followed by small worship-sharing groups responding to the query, "How has the Friends Peace Testimony changed, influenced, or affected your life?" In the afternoon the same small groups came back together for a discussion on "How can the Friends' Peace Testimony change the world? How has it done so already, what have you experienced corporately, what do you hope for it in the future?" We then gathered back together for reports from the small groups and brainstorming on next steps in peace-building for our meetings and resources in our region. One major concern that emerged is the onslaught of military propaganda and cultural pressure our young Friends receive daily, and a need to start early, provide choices, and help young Friends when making career decisions. Friends are reminded to contact the FWCC Midwest Office for help in offering and finding resources for local meetings.

There was also time in the afternoon for an update on FWCC activities and opportunities in the Section of the Americas and the Midwest Region. Elizabeth Mertic (clerk of the Section of the Americas), Bill Medlin (clerk of the Midwest Region), and Susan Lee Barton (Midwest Regional Field Secretary) gave the report. A printed Midwest report is available.

Lunch was prepared and served by Gretchen and Katie Stone in the community room of the new assisted living wing of Quaker Heights, as a way for everyone to get a glimpse of the facilities there. Milton Cook and Byron Branson also arranged late

afternoon tours of Quaker Heights (led by director Wendy Waters-Connell), the Friends' Home museum (led by Milton Cook), and a historical walking tour of Waynesville (Milton provided maps and brochures for a self-guided tour).

Phil Stone and Lou Bucklin led a youth program for 5 young Friends. The morning focused on the idea of a path or journey to peace. In the afternoon the children visited the civil war reenactment at Pioneer Village where Friends from Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Miami-Center Quarterly Meeting) were maintaining a peaceful presence and performing a skit in the historical meetinghouse there.

Fifteen Friends stayed for supper in the red brick meetinghouse. Afterwards J.P. Lund and Susan Lee Barton led singing from the FGC hymnal plus a sampling of Friends' songs in Spanish, Kiswahili, and Aymara.

Many thanks to the planning committee: Lou Bucklin, Cathy Habschmidt, Gretchen and Phil Stone, Byron Branson, Janice Clevenger, Josh Medlin, Susan Lee Barton, and David Wood. Many thanks also to Friends in Miami and Dayton Monthly Meetings who provided home hospitality to ten traveling Friends.

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## Teen Trip

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens now have a service trip planned for June 13-19, 2004. Put it on your calendar! More details will follow.

The location is near Pipestem, West Virginia at the Appalachian South Folklife Center, 300 miles from Cincinnati. Part of the summer it is a daycamp for kids. It's in a very rugged, mountainous area with lots of recreational opportunities. The service work will be determined later - it could include helping to get the camp ready for campers, helping elderly with painting, yard work, etc. in their homes.

Teens have to be age 14 by June 1, 2004. If there are folks in your meeting that will be fourteen, get their names to me so we can add them to the Teen list. There will be a cost - we haven't prepared an estimate yet. We will need a few adult presences too. Any other questions, please contact me.

Jim Coppock  
Clerk, Teen Committee  
513-321-3696

## Advancement and Nurture Committee Invitation

It is a long tradition in the Religious Society of Friends for members to visit other meetings within their yearly meeting. This can provide an important opening "for understanding and cooperation in the affairs of Friends and for mutual ministry and spiritual growth." (PYM Faith and Practice 2002) In Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, in addition to other individual Friends who may feel such a calling to travel, members of the Advancement and Nurture Committee are prepared to make a visit to your meeting. Our hope is that in worshipping with you and in listening to your concerns for the life of your meeting and our yearly meeting, we can help to strengthen your faith, reassured that the Inward Teacher is present with you.

In addition to attending your meeting for worship, we are available to meet with your Ministry and Oversight Committees, attend Monthly Meeting for Business, or provide a second-hour opportunity around a topic of your choosing or perhaps one of the ones listed below. We invite you to reflect on the needs of your meeting and to contact our committee clerk to arrange a visit from one or two members of the Advancement and Nurture Committee. If we have not visited your meeting in some time, we may contact you in the months ahead to arrange a visit soon.

Possible Topics:

- Identifying Our Spiritual Gifts in the Meeting/ Using the Clearness Process
- Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography/ Journaling
- Leading Young and Old to Worship
- The Gospel of the Meeting - Is it Important to have a Corporate Witness?
- Vocal Ministry

We are grateful for the blessing of our faith community, Friends. Please know that our committee members and many others within the yearly meeting hold you in loving concern.

On behalf of the OVYM Advancement and Nurture Committee,  
Peggy Spohr, Clerk  
447 S. 4th Street  
Richmond, IN 47374  
(765) 935-0335  
peggy.spohr@att.net

## Peace and Social Concerns Committee

In a world filled with problems you can't spend all your effort on the biggest crisis. Louisville Meeting made this point in a letter to the FCNL in the fall, urging them to not spend all their effort on the war. They asked the FCNL to spend a part of their time on domestic issues. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee endorsed the Louisville Request, writing to the FCNL asking them to turn part of their effort to domestic issues. The Committee said in part: "The military competes with domestic programs for limited financial resources. Education about adverse effects on domestic programs must be a component of any campaign against current U.S. foreign and military policies. We must educate Friends, policy makers, and legislators about the connection between outsized military expenditures and our government's woefully inadequate response to our nation's needs for basic health care, education, and infrastructure. Neglect of the latter will have drastic effects on the average American's safety and well being." We understand FCNL's need to focus its limited resources, but we believe that, instead of diluting our opposition to the current U.S. foreign and military policies, appropriate emphasis on domestic policy can strengthen our arguments against these policies. ..."

The Committee has tried to keep in communication with Meeting Clerks and others of concern. We invite all in OVYM to look at the whole world and consider how problems can be solved. Is there a statement to be made? Is there an action to be taken? The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is listening.

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## Quakers embrace the silence, explore their inner lights

11/22/03 By Karen Owen  
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Nine adults and two children sat quietly in a local living room one recent Sunday morning. All the grownups had their eyes closed. A couple of candles flickered in the room, adding to the homey atmosphere. The host confessed later he was just trying to hide the smell of cigarettes. Quakers generally frown on such affectations in worship. A Chihuahua mix dog snuggled up next to a man on the

couch and napped. It would have been easy for the humans to fall asleep, too, just as Benjamin Franklin once did at a Quaker service. For more than 50 minutes, Owensboro's only Quaker meeting would pass in almost total silence. After a while, the children were taken to another room for story time and coloring. The adults stayed as they were.

Someone cleared his throat. A stomach gurgled. The dog scratched. Occasionally, the worshipers could hear the sound of a passing car or twittering birds. Somewhere, a church bell chimed. A man stretched. Another popped his knuckles. Still the silence continued. In the middle of the service, a visitor from Louisville stood and prayed, "Holy Spirit, make your presence palpable among us. Open our eyes so we may see past our individual will, intellect and light. "Bless this meeting and make us all instruments of thy peace." "To be honest," worshiper Cynthia Knudson said later, "I sometimes really resent it when someone speaks out. "She gets a "warm and fuzzy" sensation of "lightness" during the silent worship, Knudson said. "I love a meeting that's totally silent. It feels good to be in a room with other people doing the same thing. "The silence also appeals to Michael Heary of Harrogate, England, who was in Owensboro recently visiting a friend. "I get a real buzz out of it. "Quakers love to visit, sing and dance," said Maureen Kohl of Maceo, "but during worship, they remain quiet because they are waiting on God. They are waiting for the Holy Spirit to prompt someone to speak. "I've spoken in meeting only once in 13 years," Heary said. In the silence, "I'm contemplating what's happening around me," he said. "We're reconnecting with the force of the universe."

The Religious Society of Friends, as Quakers are formally known, developed in mid-17th century England out of the social turmoil following civil war. George Fox, the 19-year-old son of a prosperous weaver, began a spiritual quest that lasted four years. When religious leaders couldn't satisfy his questions, Fox became convinced that God had given him the answer within himself. Fox and his followers called themselves "Friends of Truth." Outsiders nicknamed them "Quakers" because some trembled or quaked with religious zeal. Quakers believe each person contains an Inner Light, an element of God's own spirit and energy, members say. That's why they have always been staunch pacifists. "Killing is never an option," said Michael Reale, who helped start the Owensboro Friends Meeting in his home a few months ago. Quakers believe that if they can't reason with someone or convince them to stop behaving violently, "you basically make your peace with God," Reale said.

"That's been our testimony since 1650." Fox and his followers also taught God had to be experienced first-hand, not through rituals or sacraments. No priest or religious authority could act as intermediary. Creeds were unnecessary. And divine revelation, in their view, did not end with the Bible. Christ could deliver a message through any human being. "We believe salvation starts here," Reale explained, tapping his chest. "It's an internal process," and it takes a lifetime, he said. Asking a Quaker about heaven and hell is a bit like asking a United Methodist what that faith teaches about self-rising flour, said Chel Avery, interim director of the Quaker Information Center in Philadelphia. "I would suspect most Quakers believe in an afterlife, but it's not something we talk about with each other," she said. "We're about trying to live in harmony and unity and trying to realize the divinity within us." Quakers don't worry so much about what happens after death, "trusting it will be OK," she said. The early Quakers incurred authorities' wrath by refusing to pay tithes to the state church, to swear oaths in court or even to tip their hats in respect to the king or other powerful people. "An oath means you have two standards for telling the truth," and

Quakers believe it is important for people to tell the truth all the time, not just on the witness stand, Avery said. The Quakers also believed in equality for men and women and were active in running the "underground railroad." Perhaps because of the persecution they faced in England and Puritan New England, they were also keenly interested in prison reform. Early leaders

promoted simple living and preached against alcohol, holidays, sports, the theater and wearing powdered wigs. Quakers avoided the commonly used "pagan" names for the days of the week, preferring labels like "first day" or "seventh day" instead. They also advocated simple language, using pronouns like "thee" and "thou" instead of the more formal "you" their contemporaries used when addressing their social betters. Today, Quakers talk like everyone else, except in jest, Avery said. "It's lost its social significance. We don't go in for quaintness for its own sake." They also dress pretty much like everyone else. Paying someone to stitch up an outfit like the Quaker Oat Man's would be the opposite of simplicity in a society where clothes are available off the rack, Avery said. "There is no longer a Quaker uniform.



"The Friends have split several times since Fox's day, producing the Shakers, other Quakers who look and act much like their evangelical neighbors, and even Quaker Catholics. That group was influenced by the Lutherans and Anglicans, Reale said. "They basically have their coffee hour first. "The Owensboro group, the only one in the tri-state area, is part of the "unprogrammed" Quakers, those who follow the old style of silent worship. Worldwide, the Friends claim about 233,000 members, more than 70,000 of them in this country, but their religion is very decentralized and there's wide variation of beliefs among followers, Quakers say. "There are Quakers who are universalists," Reale said. "There are Quakers who are Christ-centered." Many of the eight or so people involved with the local group grew up in other traditions, and most are not Owensboro natives. Reale, a computer network administrator originally from Philadelphia, was a Catholic and an Orthodox Christian before becoming a Quaker a few years ago. "I found there a faith I didn't have to convert to," he said. "I already espoused those beliefs." "I've been a Quaker my whole life and didn't know it," said Knudson, editor of publications at an Evansville

college. She's been a Quaker about 15 years. The former Presbyterian gradually became interested in the Friends through her political activism. One of their social justice organizations paid her legal fees when she protested at a nuclear power plant, Knudson said. Heary said he grew up Catholic, then was an atheist before he "mellowed a bit" and started exploring different faiths.

He loves "the simplicity, the lack of ritual, the silence" of the Quakers. But the silence isn't for everyone, members acknowledge. "I find sometimes it's the only hour in a week I quiet my mind," said Kohl, a public health nurse who grew up Catholic. However, "I'm not real good at it. My mind doesn't always stop," she confessed. To get in the right mood, "Sometimes I have to do a little reading prior to the meeting."

--- Beginning in December, the Owensboro Friends Meeting will meet at 10 a.m., on the first and third Sunday of each month in the chapel of the Daniel Pitino Shelter at 501 Walnut Street. A fellowship time will follow.

# MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

## Bloomington Meeting

- Jim Morgan, correspondent

Bloomington meeting had a very busy summer. We have been discussing our relationship with Western Yearly Meeting following last year's release of Evanston Meeting and various other issues that have surfaced. These discussions included a January forum, a special visit with the Clerk and Superintendent of WYM in June, and then two threshing sessions in August and September. The result was a recommendation from the ad hoc committee that managed the threshing sessions that we separate from Western in a spirit of amity. This was approved at our September Monthly Meeting. More information about the decision, and followup plans, are in the Bloomington newsletter and minutes, available on the web at <http://www.bloomington.in.us/~quaker>.

Aside from these events, the summer was a full one, with many members attending the FGC Gathering in Johnstown, Pa., and both OVYM and WYM. These gatherings gave new impetus and life to meeting as returning members shared their experiences. In August we sponsored Marcie Wenzler's attendance at a Quaker Conference on the Environment and the Economy at Pendle Hill. On her return she was the featured speaker at our fall retreat. As an outgrowth of the retreat, Monthly Meeting has set up a new committee, the Quaker Earthcare Witness Committee, to follow environmental concerns.

We regret the recent passing of Karen Lindesmith, a long-time member. Her infirmities made it difficult to attend meeting in recent years, but she made a strong effort this summer to join us on a regular basis. Gerry Bernbohm also passed away after a long battle with cancer. We hope for the recovery of Marcie Ankrom's son who was stricken with a serious illness. We have begun a practice of sharing "joys and sorrows" at the start of each Monthly Meeting to keep ourselves more aware of each other's struggles and triumphs. In the fall we transferred the membership of Jonathan Anderson to Juneau Monthly Meeting, and welcomed new members Colin Schroder-Ehri and David Gay. Friends will remember Jonathan Andersen's participation in Yearly Meeting in the early 90's.

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## Campus Meeting

- Terri Miller, correspondent

Campus Friends are mourning the loss of Eunice Jones, one of its founding members. Eunice, the wife of F. Canby Jones, faculty emeritus of Religion & Philosophy at Wilmington College, died on January 26 after a long illness. At a memorial service on January 31st at Kelly Center on the Wilmington campus, friends and family remembered her as a woman of strong Christian faith, a wonderful hostess, and a demanding teacher, as well as devoted wife and mother. Her strong witness in meeting will be sorely missed. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Clinton County Homeless Shelter.

We welcome Jim and Millie Ramsey to the Wilmington community. They moved from Centerville to Wilmington in November and have become regular attenders of the meeting. They hope eventually to transfer their membership from Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville to Campus Friends.

Campus Friends were sorry to learn that Barbara Olmsted, a long-time member of the meeting fell and broke vertebrae in her neck. She has been recuperating in a nursing facility near hers and Sterling's home in upstate New York. She would appreciate getting cards and letters from friends at 124 Coburn Village Way, Rexford, NY 12148.

Friends are asked to continue to hold Chris Swisshelm and his family in the light as he continues chemotherapy treatment for prostate cancer.

The spiritual retreats in member/attender homes continue with the next one scheduled for February 17 at the home of Patricia Thomas and Doug Woodmansee. The topic will be the "first time you felt led to speak in Meeting."

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## Dayton Meeting

- David Wood, correspondent

We have been pleased during the summer to have so many of our members at home. We averaged about seven people at meeting for worship, which is a

record for Dayton Friends in the summer. Attendance seems to be holding up in the fall despite several illnesses of our members.

Our summer began with the wedding of Michael Snyder, who grew up in our meeting, to Lori Anderson. The wedding was in Centerville under the care of our meeting and was after the manner of Friends. Earlier in the spring Steven Wood, who also grew up in the meeting, married Holly Cavendar in California where they reside.

In July the young people currently attending our meeting traveled to Richmond to help sort clothes at the AFSC materials aid center. While in Richmond they also had a tour of the Quaker Hill conference center and a brief walk through Earlham College. On the way out of town they were glad to locate Lauramoore Home, which is one of the game squares they use in a "give away" game created last year during first day school.

In August the adults got their chance with a Quaker Heritage tour through Clinton and Warren Counties conducted by member Christine Snyder. We visited the Miami, Springfield and Dover meetinghouses, as well as the site of the Friends school for freed slaves in Harveysburg. We had lunch at the Hadley home, which had previously belonged to the Harvey family. At the Historical Museum in Wilmington we saw an outstanding collection of bronze sculptures by Eli Harvey, as well as other items from the Quaker collection.

During the summer and fall, Dayton Friends came as close to moving as we have in the last 20 years. Only the decision by a Christian Science congregation that they really could not give up any of their religious education space stopped the move. In the meantime, things had changed at the Methodist Church where we have been meeting. The new pastor has initiated a plan to upgrade the entire building, and offered us a change to a quieter and more accessible room. Since the first of January we have been meeting in Room 130 of the First United Methodist Church. Come visit us any Sunday at 9:30.

Dayton continued its tradition of Christmas plays with a short play featuring both children and adults of the meeting. A highlight was the flute and piano playing of three of our young people.

We are extending our second hour discussion by a second session each month in which we will discuss Michael Birkel's recent book on John Woolman.

We have discovered that some of our material in the OVYM directory is not correct. Marion Adair Hinds' new telephone number is 937-275-1923, while Tom and Caroline Applegate's correct number is 937-847-0893. If you want to send an e-mail to Marian Alter, the address is malter@holons.org. Mail to Bruce Comly French should be sent to 45802-0839, i.e. Box 839 at zip code 45802. Lastly Bob Enderle's new address is 36 Missouri Ave., Dayton Ohio 45410, telephone 937-258-3809. Please make these corrections in your OVYM directory.

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## **Eastern Hills Meeting**

*- Darlene Palmer, correspondent*

Women in the Meeting gathered twice at the home of Barbarie Hill in November to learn the art of making dreamcatchers and beaded medallions as taught by Mary Pember, a Native American. Our task was to complete these projects as gifts for attenders to Tellabration 2003 which celebrated Native American storytelling. It is a custom of Native Americans to give guests a small token before leaving. Tellabration 2003 was organized by Greater Anderson Promotes Peace (GAPP), an organization in the local community which the Meeting helps to support.

In December we celebrated Christmas with what has become an annual talent show showcasing visual and performing talents of members and attenders of the Meeting. Each year we are delighted by the ever-improving musical talents of our young people in both instrumental and vocal music. The adults seem to be able to maintain their skills as well and entire families sometimes perform together such as the Jim and Linda Coppock family. Those who have talents of a visual nature display their crafts for everyone to enjoy as well. Lyn Day even taught weaving to those with coordinated fingers.

In January we celebrated the richness that the Rockwell family has brought to the Meeting by their presence. They will be moving to North Carolina in February to be closer to their family and will be missed by those of us left behind. Meeting for Worship was filled with messages of love and thanks for their contributions to the well-being of the Meeting. A reception with wonderful food and a certificate signed by those in the Meeting were part of the event.

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## **Miami Meeting**

*-- Tom Nowel, correspondent*

During the Christmas season the Meeting lost Jane McCulloch after a long illness. She had been a resident of Quaker Heights Nursing Home. Jane was a long time member, and she was an artist of note. Many of her paintings had been displayed at the Waynesville Area Cultural and Historic Center at Friends Home over the past few years. Her drawing of the White Brick Meeting House has graced the commemorative cups and plates which have represented Miami Monthly Meeting for decades. Her family and the Meeting will miss her quiet presence. By the time this article appears the Meeting will have conducted a three part lecture and discussion series on Quakerism on three Wednesday evenings during First Month. T. Canby Jones led the discussion for the first session. The program was open to Friends, the community and surrounding schools. Each session was attended by 15 to 20 participants. Following the example of Community Meeting, the Meeting approved a letter to be sent to teenage members and attenders regarding pacifism, the peace testimony and conscientious objection. It was noted during a discussion session that military recruiters are promising much in the schools but delivering little truth. It was suggested that, if the current administration in Washington remains in power for four more years, the possibility of a military draft might become a reality. Young Friends must be prepared for hard choices in light of selective service requirements, and Meetings must be prepared to counsel and support. A special First Day School discussion is scheduled with the teens of the Meeting on February 29 at 9:30am. Teens from area Meetings are welcome and encouraged to participate. E mail us at [tnowel@cinci.rr.com](mailto:tnowel@cinci.rr.com) for more information. The Meeting continues to discuss proposed changes to the Book of Discipline. We struggle to understand new definitions of family. Yet we must be open to the Light on these matters. Being so, we'll accept what God wants of us.

...From Gretchen Stone: Some very exciting news I'd like to share with you... I have been trying to recruit someone to help out [with the Sudan TB Project] in February. When two prospects called me Saturday to say they couldn't come, it occurred to me that maybe my best prospect was right in my own home. My family was unexpectedly enthusiastic and unanimous in their support for the idea. I am looking at going over on Feb 8th, and returning about a month later.

It is a tiny bit freaky to think about leaving my family for that long. But they are big and capable, and this is something I've dreamed of doing for several years. The Sudan TB Project is trying to work itself out of existence after this spring. Now that the peace treaty has ended 20 years of civil war, other non-governmental organizations feel more able to take over a lot of the TB work. So this is truly my window of opportunity, and I am leaping through it.

For those of you who ask, "OK, is she going to ask for money now?", the answer is no. But, for those of you who have just been waiting to contribute to the TB project, there is still time. We hope to raise \$20,000 in the next 3 months, so that we can leave the project on a firm footing. Well, if anyone DOES want to send a contribution, I might as well include the address:

IMRF/ Capacitar (This is the name you write on the check, with a notation that it is for the Sudan TB Project.)  
23 east Beach St.  
Watsonville, CA 95076

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## **North Meadow Circle**

*-- Jane Haldeman, correspondent*

We have had a good several months to tell about since we missed the last Quill. We have celebrated several weddings, two births, and five new members. These opportunities and new members have enriched our meeting and increased attendance and participation greatly.

Our meetinghouse has been a busy place with several groups using our space and work going on around the meeting. There have been some trees trimmed and some removed, new bookshelves and discussion about what to do with our third floor. We welcome new caretakers, Jennie and Tony who took over from Georgette who is planning to move into a new house when it gets finished. Our caretakers are very gracious to provide resources from the meeting to neighbors who have need for food, bus tickets, or other items that we can make available.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee have coordinated participation in three Earth care activities, Earth Day, Earth Charter Summit, and One Earth Festival. Our meeting has worked with James Taylor in promoting the Help Increase the Peace Program.

The meeting has a strong interest in the Middle East with reports from Joann Lingle(CPT) and Stan Zarowin (one of newest members) from their time in Israel / Palestine. We helped bring the Ambassador from the League of Arab States to speak on the Arab Peace Plan and provided various conversations with both Jewish and Muslim community members.

Education within the meeting has blossomed in both the Religious Education of our children and adults. We have a team of teachers. Now all we need is some more children!! Adults have shared in three evening discussions in different homes on Jesus, Heaven and Hell, and Meeting for Worship. We have several more planned for the next year. We joined in the Cities "One Book, One City" discussion of Friendly Persuasion. We found this a great opportunity to explore several aspects of Quaker history and practice. These opportunities have created a deeper fellowship and spiritual awareness among our community.

We are excited about the Plowshares project under the three Peace Colleges in Indiana - Goshen, Manchester and Earlham that is being developed at the schools and in Indianapolis with the Peace House.

Without a doubt the most memorable moments at North Meadow this year have been those following meeting when Georgette Boneham reported how life has changed since her son Rupert has become a contestant on the CBS reality show "Survivor". Many from North Meadow came together on several Fifth Day evening to watch Rupert.

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## **Oxford Meeting**

*- Camilla Flintermann, correspondent*

Starting the first Sunday in September, we moved from our long-time "home" at the Campus Ministry Center to the nearby Hillel Foundation, which has welcomed us with warm hospitality. It is located at 11 East Walnut St., and if you come to visit us, please call either 513-524-7426 or 513-523-1061 for directions. We will still be meeting at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Our new MAILING address is P.O.Box 495, Oxford, OH 45056 -- please do NOT send mail to CMC or to Hillel.

We are delighted to welcome new members Rachel and Jason Dean, and their infant son, Tobias -- having lost Jesse Garrison to Oberlin College, we needed some "young blood." We were also happy to welcome into membership our long-time attender and

former Clerk Nani Ball, as well as Miami U. faculty member Rodrigo Lazo. By transfer from the Tallahassee, FL, meeting Steve and Sandra Ward Angell, have now joined us, also ... we are greatly enriched by all these new members.

This summer we hosted Friends from West Elkton Meeting for worship, food, and fellowship and held a memorial service for Mary Stanton, Miami U. librarian, Earlhamite and lifelong Friend. Mary's wishes for an unprogrammed service which included music performed by some of her friends were carefully followed, thanks to Barbara Dichl who arranged for the contributions of the music club members, and also was one of the performers.

On Oct. 11th, we again sponsored an "Empty Bowls" lunch to raise funds for the local Family resource Center. This project, with student and local potters donating soup bowls and volunteers making and serving soup, last year raised \$2,400 to assist local families and in cooperation with other Oxford churches, a Miami sorority, and Miami student potters, is an opportunity for outreach into the community. As a result, Camilla Flintermann was honored by the Oxford community as a "Woman of the Years."

Our Pre-Christmas gathering this year was held at the Shore-Garrison home, with a theme of "the Coming of the Christ Child." In this spirit, we brought favorite childhood books of our own, a "favorite childhood food" for the potluck, and new toys for the Christmas baskets prepared by our local "Family Resource Center."

Our new Clerks are Steve Angell <angelst@earlham.edu> (Presiding) and Cecilia Shore <shorec@muohio.edu> (Recording)

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## **Yellow Springs Meeting**

*- Jean Putnam, correspondent*

Carl Hyde, Bill Houston & Hazel Tulecke were part of a sizable crowd who attended the execution in protest, of Lewis Williams recently. Williams was one of a few who struggled for his life throughout the entire procedure, Friends reported. Yellow Springs Friends have been regular attendees in protest of Ohio's executions as part of their witness against capital punishment.

The Havurah group in our village worships regularly in our meetinghouse where they also store their

Torah. We shared an instructive meeting with this Jewish group in which they described their worship practices.

Ed Hyde became the newest adult member of our meeting. Ed has attended meeting since his birth.

Denise Ranyon continues to lead Dances for Peace, to which the public is invited. She can be reached at 937 767 8422.

... from the Yellow Springs Meeting newsletter ...  
Yellow Springs Friend Irwin Abrams has co-edited a new book, *The Iraq War and its Consequences: Thoughts of Nobel Peace Laureates and Eminent*

*Scholars*. Collected essays address concerns such as the economic costs of war, the role of the United Nations and multilateral international organizations, human rights issues, the looting of museums, education and the rebuilding of Iraq, the impact of war on American society, and much more. Contributors include The Dalai Lama, Jose Ramos-Horta (Foreign Minister, Timor Leste) Mary Ellen McNish (AFSC), Noam Chomsky (MIT), Joseph Stiglitz (Columbia University), and Sir John Daniel (UNESCO). Many other notable and knowledgeable peace laureates and scholars add insight and information to this book, which has drawn widespread opposition as well as strong support. On Saturday, February 21, Irwin will be signing copies of the book at Borders in Dayton.

## QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

### Whitewater

Whitewater Quarter had a busy summer and fall with our regular gatherings and one additional called meeting. The focus of our called meeting was to labor with Fall Creek Meeting to consider whether to follow through with their request for preparative meeting status. After a very deep worship together, it became clear that we were led to support the meeting to use and strengthen the resources from within their meeting and not to change the status of the meeting. There is a support/resource committee with several meetings represented from the quarter. They are available to help with resources and attendance at business meetings.

Our fall meeting was held at Maple Grove north of Fort Wayne where they are currently meeting, the Grabill Evangelical Mennonite Church. We heard from Keith Kendall, the current executive Director of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indiana Affairs, and the work they are doing on the Mission Field in Oklahoma, Iowa and Alabama.

The business of our Quarter has included: - A look at the assessment process of Yearly Meeting, consideration of OVYM hosting of the FWCC annual meeting in the year 2006 or 2007. Both of these items need more seasoning. Our spring Quarter will be an

extended meeting for worship with a concern for business to consider the assessment process. Our January meeting will consider the Alternative to Violence Project. with Stan Zarowin as our program.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Clear Creek Meeting in Richmond, IN. There will be a pitch-in lunch from noon until 1:00 p.m. The morning and afternoon sessions will be devoted as completely as possible to discussing the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting assessment process, though there may be some pressing business which needs attention early in the morning session.

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### Miami

Miami Quarter will meet on Sunday, February 15 at Eastern Hill Friends Meeting in Cincinnati. Meeting for Worship will start the day at 10:00 a.m., followed by a carry-in meal. The afternoon program will be presented by Lexington Friends, and Meeting for Business will follow at about 2:30 p.m.

There will be childcare during the afternoon.

The Quarter will meet next in May.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
6921 Stonington Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45230

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## ***NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM***

### **What Canst Thou Say?**

*What Canst Thou Say?* is a quarterly newsletter on Quakers, mystical experience and contemplative practice -- a worship-sharing group in print. Friends from around the U.S. and occasionally overseas share their personal experience of Spirit. Themes for upcoming issues will be Guidance (May), Precognition (August), and Darkness (November).

Send name and address to Mariellen Gilpin, 818 West Columbia, Champaign IL 61820, for a sample copy with queries for upcoming issues. Or email [m-gilpin@uiuc.edu](mailto:m-gilpin@uiuc.edu). If you can receive attachments in Word, we can email a copy. Save a stamp and save a tree. WCFS is \$8 for four issues a year, \$15 for two years. Subscriptions can be sent to WCFS, c/o Margaret Willits, PO Box 5082, Sonora, CA 95370.

### **Request for Donations**

The FWCC Midwest Office is looking for donations of a new computer (PC) and a fuel-efficient car. If there are any Friendly dealers out there or people with connections, please contact Susan Lee Barton for more information.

P.O. Box 2471, Richmond, Indiana 47375  
765-939-1449, [susanleeb@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:susanleeb@fwcc.quaker.org)

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### **IFCL Help Wanted**

The Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation is seeking a part-time lobbyist. Familiarity with Friends Testimonies is very important. For more information write Marilyn Bell, 1178 W. State Road 38, Sheridan, IN 46069.