

# 2012 Sessions of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting



Dear Friends,

I will be attending the OVYM Sessions for the fifth time this summer. That barely moves me past the newcomer status but the schedule is now familiar and many Friends have become friends. There are activities I anticipate with enthusiasm and others that I may skip for a nap. I'm not in a rut yet but a comfortable groove is developing. I don't want this to happen.

Let's all stir things up this summer. Let's get up a little earlier so that we can attend the 7 am worship at Stout Meeting House, or stay up later for an Interest Group. Let's visit the children or talk to one of those tall teens. Let's treat ourselves to a book at the Book Store. Let's speak up in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Let's sing.

The Planning Committee tries to make each Yearly Meeting a new experience while still holding on to our past traditions. Our theme for 2012, "Love One Another As I Have Loved Thee," will guide us and challenge us and comfort us. Please join us at Earlham College July 25 - July 31, 2012.

*Tunia McClure*  
Clerk, Planning Committee  
[tunia.mcclure@gmail.com](mailto:tunia.mcclure@gmail.com)

## Clerks' Notes

Dear Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting,

Greetings from your new Assistant Clerk! I am writing from San Francisco, where I am attending (along with 10,000 other people) the American Academy of Religion. There is much that might be of interest to OVYM members here. A few nights ago, we had a fruitful meeting of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group, which has been meeting more than 50 years. I participated in a review of OVYM member Paul Buckley's recent editions of (1) the Journal and (2) the Letters of Elias Hicks. I found these two books tremendous reads, and I recommend them highly to you. Paul was there to respond to my review and that by California Friend Jim LeShana.

Elias Hicks was a Friend very sensitive to the leadings of the Spirit. Paul did a fine job as editor, restoring numerous passages that had been stricken by the original editorial committee. One, for example, expressed his sorrowful reflections on the slaughter of a young, beautiful cow, raising some queries as to whether Friends might not better be vegetarians. Not all of his reflections struck me as ones that the Spirit would lead me to embrace. For example, he deployed a stunning array of arguments against Friends engaging in hymnsinging, or, indeed, any kind of music. His arguments, I should say, did not strike me as convincing. I would hope that OVYM would keep its music camp!

Much of the discussion of Friend Hicks centered on his theological perspectives. Paul, Jim, and I concurred that he had a view of the importance of Jesus that could be called "Adoptionist." An Adoptionist believes that Jesus was wholly human when he was born, but that his ministry as recorded in the gospels had both divine and human aspects. According to Adoptionists like Hicks, the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist was that which led to Jesus' transition to this new heightened spiritual life. Paul had a wonderful explanation of how Hicks came to this perspective from his reading of the Bible. Hicks deeply loved the Bible, and he said that he had always preferred it to any other book, but he also objected to other Friends who had undue reverence for the literal text.

There were (and, as of this writing, will be) other fine opportunities to learn about Quakers at this conference. The QTDG session also included a similarly positive review of Joshua Brown's new edition of 19th century Richmond, Indiana, Friend Allen Jay's journal. Jay was a dedicated opponent of the philosophy of separating that afflicted Friends during his lifetime (and he would undoubtedly have counseled against the separation that our sister yearly meeting, Indiana YM, is currently contemplating). We had a deep and searching discussion of Quaker theism and non-theism, with papers presented by British Friend David Boulton and Canadian Friend Jeff Dudiak, with responses from Patrick Nugent and Shannon Craigo-Snell.

## Clerks' Notes

I, of course, would be delighted to have a chance for us to share in the exciting discussions that are taking place in the Quaker world! Perhaps workshops or interest groups along these lines at our yearly meeting sessions would be well received. But, most of all, I pray that you experience the blessings of divine love. May we all take deep root in and feel the close embrace of God's Spirit of peace, unity and love.

*In friendship,  
Steve Angell*

## News & Announcements

### From the Yearly Meeting Treasurer

Dear Friends, Some of you may have heard, or been affected by "the mystery of the lost Yearly Meeting Sessions checks". A number of people registered early for Yearly Meeting Sessions in 2011. When the registrar had received about \$7,000 in checks, he wisely thought that the money should be deposited instead of kicking around for another month. He "Priority" mailed them to me, but, alas, the package never arrived. By late September we decided that perhaps these checks were lost for good. So we asked Friends to submit replacement checks and in a few weeks, two thirds had complied. Then the package of "lost" checks arrived! Only 3 months late. So, poor, hardworking Deborah Jordan sent out another email to those that had not yet sent me replacement checks to say "forget-about-it". I used the checks from the "lost" package to complete our Sessions income for 2011 and shredded all the checks that had already been replaced. I can't promise you this much fun next year, but we shall see.

*Wilson Palmer*

### Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teen Group - 2012 Summer Service Trip

**WHO:** Teens, ages 14-18 (rising ninth-graders through new high school graduates).

**DESTINATION:** Washington, D.C.

We will be working with the William Penn House's workcamp program and staying at National City Christian Church on Thomas Circle.

**WHEN:** Friday, June 23, through Sunday, July 1.

**COST:** \$200, with a \$50 discount for each additional family member. (Scholarships available.)

**PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION DUE:** May 1.

**PAYMENT DUE:** June 15.

#### PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

**Friday, June 23:** Gather in the evening in Dayton/Yellow Springs, Ohio.

**Saturday, June 24:** Load vans and leave in morning for D.C.; arrive late afternoon, settle in at National City Christian Church, on Thomas Circle at Massachusetts Avenue and 14th St.

**Sunday, June 25:** Morning worship followed by sightseeing.

**Monday, June 26-Friday, June 29:** Daily work with William Penn House workcamp program, with one day to be spent lobbying on Capitol Hill; some evening sightseeing during the week.

**Saturday, June 30:** Spend day at Smithsonian's National Folklife Festival; spend night at Langley Hill Friends Meeting.

**Sunday, July 1:** Worship with Langley Hill Friends; leave for home and/or FGC Gathering.

**QUESTIONS?:**

Call Carol Simmons

OVYM Youth Secretary

at (937) 232-4250, or e-mail her at ovymyouth@yahoo.com

#### Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Paul Kriese, Presiding Clerk

Stephen Angell, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Deb Kociszewski, Recording Clerk

Wilson Palmer, Treasurer

—, Assistant Treasurer



**Comments for the Quaker Quill are appreciated.**

**Find me and tell what you think.**

The Quaker Quill is published three times a year in February, June, and October by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the months prior to publication. Editor: Daniel Cartmell, 11774 S. Springboro Road, Brookston, IN 47923 • 765-563-6284 • quakerquill@gmail.com *Quaker Quill*

# Quarterly Meeting News

## Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends gathered on First Day, 2012-01-15 at Stout Meetinghouse House. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends thank Clear Creek Meeting for hosting this session and offering a deep sense of spiritual hospitality to all who attended.

Many Friends commented on a strong sense of the Spirit moving among us over the course of the day, particularly during the afternoon discussion of the OVYM survey results, when Friends spoke with openness and trust about shared aspects of their spiritual experiences and understandings in a way that will allow deep sharing among us to continue.

Below you will find the minutes from our meeting for business. The next session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for First Day, 2012-04-15 at Fall Creek Meetinghouse in Pendleton, IN.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Clear Creek Friends Meeting, Richmond, IN

First Month 15, 2012

1. Opening worship. Friends gathered at the appointed time in a period of centering worship.

2. Welcome and role call of meeting representatives/reporters. The Clerk welcomed Friends and called the roll of monthly meeting representatives/reporters. The following Friends identified themselves as representatives/reporters:

Bloomington	Marcia Ankrom
Clear Creek	Jane Stowe
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne	no reporter
Hopewell	Susan Scott
Lafayette	Michele Tomarelli
North Meadow	Dinah Duvall
White Rose	no reporter
Presiding Clerk	Rex Sprouse

3. Clerk's Table. The Clerk summarized for Friends some of the functions of quarterly meetings within the structure of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The functions of the quarterly meetings include: (1) seasoning concerns arising in monthly meetings; (2)

shepherding new meetings into OVYM; (3) receiving State of the Meeting reports at the spring session; (4) offering spiritual support to troubled monthly meetings; (5) considering appeals regarding termination of membership in monthly meetings; (6) gathering for spiritual nurture and fellowship; and (7) acting as a regional body of Friends.

The Clerk reminded Friends that all were invited to the afternoon session devoted to a discussion of the online survey of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends conducted during 2010-2011.

4. Joint Quarterly Meeting, Tenth Month 2012. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting will host the biannual Joint Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for Tenth Month 2012. Friends appointed a JQM Planning Committee, consisting of the following Friends: Dinah Duvall, Diann Herzog, and Marshall Gibson.

5. Report from the Treasurer. The Clerk reported that he had received word from Treasurer David Duvall that our current assets are \$611.98. Friends were reminded that each constituent monthly meeting is asked to contribute \$50 per year toward the operation of the Quarterly Meeting. Friends are asked to remit the contribution to David Duvall, 7811 Kimlough Dr, Indianapolis, IN 42640. The Quarterly Meeting's current primary expenses are travel reimbursement for Friends who present invited programs at Quarterly Meeting sessions.

6. Children's programs at Quarterly Meeting sessions. Friends considered how we as a quarterly meeting might encourage children's attendance at Quarterly Meeting sessions. Several Friends offered suggestions, including the creation of an e-mail list of Friendly parents, facilitating communication among Friends with children who might attend Quarterly Meeting sessions, planning field trips or other community-building activities for children, and involvement of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Religious Education Committee. Friends will also remain open to other leadings of the Spirit that might arise in conjunction with particular Quarterly Meeting sessions.

7. Closing worship. Friends concluded the business meeting with a brief period of closing worship.

*Rex Sprouse, Clerk*

## Monthly Meeting News

### Bloomington Monthly Meeting

Bloomington Friends had a busy Fall. Small groups met to consider the writings of Thomas Merton with the theme, "Bridges to Contemplative Living"; to gather in prayer while seeking inspiration from the Psalms; to join in worship sharing guided by queries "On Being a Friend"; and to participate in our long-established Bible discussion group. In the new year, our Earthcare Witness committee is initiating a study series entitled "Earthcare for Friends." Their advance publicity promises we will enjoy fellowship and be "dazzled and intellectually stimulated." Our social life benefits from events as mundane as standing Winter 2012

around in the kitchen for coffee and snacks after the Meeting for Worship. We enjoyed a visit from the Friendly Folkdancers (when we hosted Whitewater Quarter) and were entertained by the children with their annual play that featured a conversation between Fox and Penn, and a Quaker family sharing a meal with Indian neighbors.

As efforts to strengthen our individual and collective understandings continue, we try to attend to our Quaker testimonies through social action and outreach. Some of us supported "Occupy Bloomington" in People's Park and we invited a local

peace activist and union supporter to lead us in a second-hour discussion; we participated in the Interfaith Coalition in support of the DREAM Act; and one Friend traveled to Washington to demonstrate against the Keystone XL pipeline. Our monthly service at the Community Kitchen and other individual commitments continue, not least among them caring for members and attenders who are sick or need logistical support. In a community like Bloomington, many of us do not have family to step up and help when we have a crisis. Our friends in the meeting community become our family.

The largest project that has engaged our meeting as a whole has been a consideration of the need to renovate our meeting house. In its early life, Bloomington Friends met in rented space. Then, in the late 1960s, the meeting bought a small house on the edge of the town and built on a meeting room. Many OVYM Friends have attended our Meeting for Worship and have shared in the simplicity and beauty of the space. In the 1990s, we made some necessary renovations to expand the kitchen and add an accessible bathroom. Now, however, the old concrete-walled house has several structural problems, the meeting room is showing its age, and we need more space, especially for First Day School.

## Dayton Monthly Meeting

Dayton Friends gathered to celebrate Christmas with a carry-in lunch and fellowship following worship on December 18.

We are pleased to welcome Englewood Friends to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. We look forward to planning a joint retreat with them this spring.

Under the leadership of our Long-Range Planning committee, we are engaging in a discernment process. We are seeking to come to an understanding of how, together, we may best move forward. There are, of course, a range of opinions within the meeting, some strongly held: for example, concerns about whether we should continue with a short-term approach fixing problems as needed, or whether the time has come to develop an integrated, multi-stage, long-range plan that may over the years more surely meet our needs and be cost-effective. We want to be good stewards of our property and resources while giving full attention to our Quaker beliefs and values. As we strive to move forward in unity, we have employed processes handed down to us: a threshing session, query discussions, and forums. We have come to realize that we need clearness on the basic question of "What is the mission of Bloomington Meeting?" and that answering this question - and many others - can only come through deep listening to each other and to the Light within. We still have some way to go but our experience over recent months has been encouraging and enlarged our faith that with divine assistance we will move forward.

*Phyllis Martin, clerk, Bloomington Monthly Meeting*

We have decided to revive our "Evening with..." programs. We ask an individual member to share their spiritual journey with us at a gathering at a member's home. When we have done this in the past we enjoyed learning many interesting things that we didn't know about our fellow members.

*Terri Scarpelli, correspondent*

## Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting

Last summer, the meeting decided to start serving lunch once a month at the Jimmy Heath House in Cincinnati, a facility for homeless men with substance abuse histories. The lunches have been greatly appreciated; here's an excerpt and a picture from their newsletter, available from

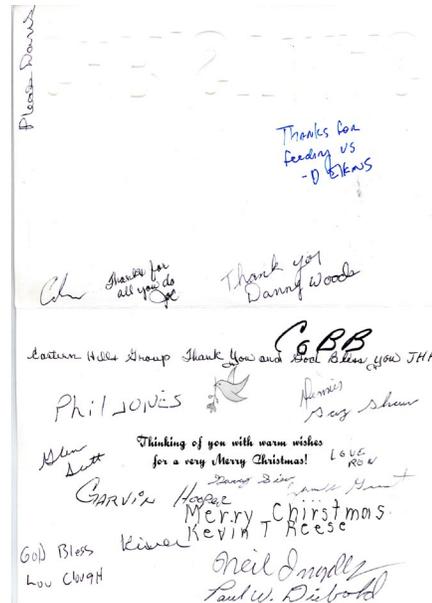


*Eastern Hills Friends' Group Shares a Meal at JHH*

[http://www.otrch.org/images/JHH\\_Newsletter\\_3.pdf](http://www.otrch.org/images/JHH_Newsletter_3.pdf):

Eastern Hills Friends' Group Meatloaf Hits the Spot! Thanks to the Eastern Hills Friends Group for preparing a meal for the residents of the Jimmy Heath House. Volunteer Martha Viehmann says "We knew we'd made an impact when a resident remembered that we had served meatloaf on our first visit. We're glad that some men will sit and talk with us so we can get to know a little more about them and Jimmy Heath House, too. We're looking forward to serving more meals and enjoying more fellowship."

The meeting has long searched for a way to pursue social justice that could be done by our small numbers, and we intend to continue at Jimmy Heath House.



*Here is also a Christmas card that was sent to us by many of the residents*



*Our Host*

The meeting gathered for a Christmas potluck and carol sing at Darlene & Ralph Palmer's on December 16th. Much good food, fellowship and singing was enjoyed, as the photos attest!



*Our Accompanist*



On a sadder note, we lost two long-time former members of our meeting, Cecil Rockwell on November 10th, and Dick Day on January 12th.

*Submitted by Rick Boyce*

## Lafayette Monthly Meeting

Lafayette Friends were saddened to learn of the death of Margherita Rose Getman in New Haven, CT on Jan. 19. Margherita, who was known to us as Midge, was a member of our Meeting from 1959 to 1993. She is remembered fondly by many of us, and those who did not know her wish that we had.

*submitted by Ann Pellegrino*



## Oxford Monthly Meeting

Oxford Friends gathered for a film and discussion on the Israeli occupation of Palestine, using the film "Life in Occupied Palestine" supplied by OVYM's Peace and Social Concern committee. We found it informative and convincing and recommend it to other monthly meetings for discussion and action.

In response to the unwelcome visit to Oxford of the Westboro Baptist Church and its hate messages against gays and lesbians, Oxford Meeting placed an ad in the Oxford Press. Without mentioning Westboro Church, we affirmed our welcome to all sexual orientations in our community.

As usual in the fall, Oxford Meeting joined with other concerned churches to present the "Empty Bowls" lunch event. Student potters produce hundreds of beautiful soup bowls, talented cooks make four soups and homemade bread, schoolchildren decorate tables, and we serve a benefit lunch to the community. This is a very popular event, and this year brought a record turnout and a big contribution to the local Food Pantry.

This year, Oxford Meeting has three new children in the first-day school. This meant a quorum for a Christmas pageant! We staged the traditional story, with the innovative element of a shepherd's flock that included a manatee, a black-footed ferret, and a boa constrictor, among others (scripture doesn't specify what kind of flocks the shepherds were watching over). We drew a large audience, including alumni from our last Christmas pageant - twenty years ago.

At our annual Advent Event, we included a food-themed focus in recognition of the growing number of local schoolchildren who now qualify for free and reduced lunch plans. This is a visible index of the increasing economic distress in our community. We made a welcome year-end contribution to the Food Pantry and gathered several bags of high-protein nonperishables for the Pantry.

*submitted by Andrew Garrison*

## Miami Monthly Meeting

### OVER THE HOLIDAYS:

12th Month 25th, 2011, Miami Monthly Meeting held its annual Christmas program with carols, carry-in brunch, and meeting for worship in the Red Brick Meetinghouse. The following 1st day, we carried the holiday spirit to Quaker Heights, sharing it with residents and staff during the bi-monthly meeting for worship with carols and Christmas thoughts shared by various members of the Meeting.

### ADULT 1ST DAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, 1/22/12, Adult First Day School began its study of the Gospel of John with an overview of the gospel, background on the author, and examination of the various themes, key phrases, emphases, and the miracles mentioned in John. After the overview began a section by section study of John with particular emphasis on the Love Commandment and other themes.

*Lonny Burger, Assistant Clerk, MiamaMonthly Meeting*

## Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting

Lifelong Friend Richard Eastman died on October 4. He had been active in Quaker affairs much of his life as well as serving as Greene County Engineer. A memorial service on October 22 drew a large number of Friends, family members and members of the community.

Our September Retreat was well attended and held "at home" in our usual space at Rockford. Marjorie Isaacs led, Diane Herzog having been called away by the death of a brother.

Our relationship with the newly revived Antioch College continues to grow. Rockford is being used for weekly "mindful meditation" by students. Students are also having voice and piano lessons at Rockford. Kat Christen, who heads up the Antioch College farm, spoke to our Meeting about sustainable agriculture.

Havura, the local Jewish worship group meets at Rockford on alternate Saturdays.

Our member Jane Brown developed a successful course at Antioch Midwest to teach people how to be advocates for hospitalized patients.

We have added a number of small children who provide a good audience for "Godly Play" -- which many adults also enjoy.

The Meeting continues to grow and prosper. We wish the same for all meetings.

*In the Light, Carl Hyde*

## 2011 Sessions



*free time in the shade*



*new American citizen - Lupe Witte*



*workin' at the car wash*



*After Thoughts Cafe*



*Habitat House*



*working on the Habitat House*

*Thanks to Tunia McClure for these photos*

## News From The Broadacre

### Mt Gilead Friends Retreat — 2012 Workshops on "Connecting with Spirit"

#### Shared Journeys

With Shelley and John Newby

April 14, 9:30-3:30

This workshop is for partners who want to recommit to one another. The day will include group time, couple time, playful interactions, deep explorations, and processes that will help us know and love one another more clearly.

Fee \$80 per couple. Register by April 9

Location: Friends Meeting House, Moores Pike west of Smith Rd

#### Creating a Compassionate Life

With Gracia Valliant

May 19, 9:30-3:30

How do we create the world we want to live in? During this workshop, we will meditate on ways to address the uncivil and antagonistic culture in which we live through an exploration of Karen Armstrong's 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life.

Fee \$45. Register by May 14

Location: Mt Gilead Friends Retreat, 3363 Mt Gilead Rd.

*To register or for more information, call (812) 679-6835*

*or e-mail [mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us) <<mailto:mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us>>*

*or [shetter@indiana.edu](mailto:shetter@indiana.edu) <<mailto:shetter@indiana.edu>>*

## Ouaker Heritage Center

### Special Event

**Topics in United States History: The Civil War**  
February 1 through April 27, 2012

In conjunction with Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, the Quaker Heritage Center is pleased to extend an invitation to you from Dr. Vinton Prince, Professor of History at Wilmington College. Dr. Prince has generously offered to open his current course, "Topics in United States History: The Civil War," to members of the Wilmington community, starting on February 1. The course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 to 10:50 a.m.. The topics covered are:

**March 19, 21, 23, 26, and 28:** Confederate Exhaustion, East & West

**April 2 and 4:** Early Reconstruction

**April 9 and 11:** The High Water Mark of Reconstruction

**April 13, 16, 18, and 20:** Destroying or Completing Reconstruction?

**April 23, 25, and 27:** Remembering and Forgetting the Civil War

Those interested in attending one or more class sessions should contact:

*Ruth Brindle Dobyys*

*Quaker Heritage Center (937/382-6661 x 719*

*[ruth\\_dobyys@wilmington.edu](mailto:ruth_dobyys@wilmington.edu)).*



### Current Exhibit

**Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War**  
Now through February 17, 2012

This traveling exhibit explores important questions left unanswered by the authors of the Constitution and faced by Abraham Lincoln during his presidency about the nature of the United States, the existence of slavery in our nation, and the protection of our civil liberties. The exhibit relates to Wilmington College's Quaker-inspired values of Integrity, Peace & Social Justice, and Respect for All Persons. The Quaker Heritage Center is one of only two places in Ohio hosting this exhibit, which comes from the American Library Association and the National Constitution

Center, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### Upcoming Exhibit

#### Patterns & Prints: Quaker Quilts and Textiles

April 2 through December 14, 2012

Join us as we celebrate the heritage of southwest Ohio through the quilts and textiles left behind by 200 years of residents in Clinton and Warren Counties.

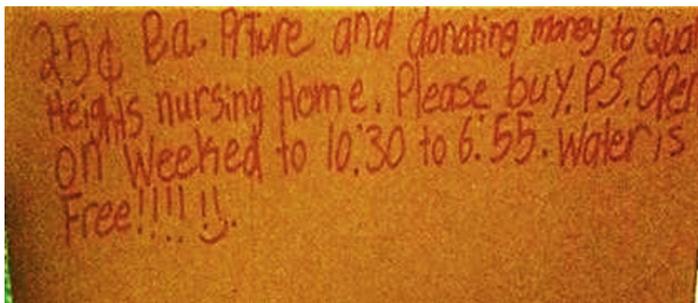
### Upcoming Exhibit

#### Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan

April 2 through June 29, 2012

This unique and powerful traveling exhibit provides an opportunity to see ourselves in depictions of the war in Afghanistan

## Quaker Heights Care Community



### Small Gifts of Greatness

Madison Lowe is an 8 year old little girl who lives in Waynesville, Ohio near the Quaker Heights Care Community (OYVM's largest ministry). Madison decided to sell her art work and bottles of water to raise money for Quaker Heights Care Community. Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director for Quaker Heights, described Madison as a precocious and giving little girl whose idea came from an experience at her friends' house where a group of children set up a lemonade stand to make money for them-

through the eyes of more than 40 artists and children from around the world, including U.S. students. The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization dedicated to peace and nonviolence, sponsors the exhibit. Watch for more information on special events and programming.

*Ruth M. Brindle Dobyns*

*Curator, Quaker Heritage Center*

*Chair, Heritage Advisory Council*

*Region 8 Representative, Ohio Local History Alliance*

*Newsletter Editor, Friends Association of Higher Education*

*Coordinator, Issues & Artists/Westheimer Peace Symposium*

*Wilmington College - 1870 Quaker Way - Pyle Center 1182 - Wilmington, OH 45177*

*(937) 382-6661 x 719 - office*

selfes. Madison said after performing in a play last year at Quaker heights, she decided she would work to raise money for the elders who lived in the Quaker nursing home. Wendy described Madison's efforts, which included hand written signs with Quaker Heights listed as the benefactor of her work. Wendy stated that the generosity and compassion from



this little girl might be just what Quaker Heights needs to inspire others to rally around the mission of good care. Madison may be the seedling of true philanthropy for Quaker Heights. Madison's small gifts were greatness in the

making; she is a demonstration of letting one's life speak.



*Wendy L. Waters-Connell, RN, MS, LNHA, CPASRM*

*Executive Director*

*Quaker Heights Care Community*

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*Waynesville, Ohio 45068*

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Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
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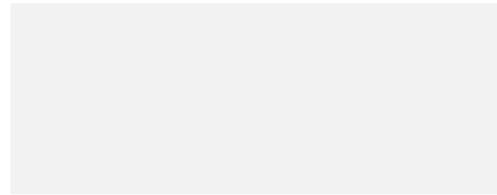
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**OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING**  
**THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**



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Find OVYM on the web at  
<http://ovym.quaker.org/>

The OVYM blogspot is at  
<http://ovymnotices.blogspot.com/>

Calendars and more can be found at these  
web sites.

Get the *Quaker Quill* on the  
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