

Epistles from *Moving Together with the Spirit* 2017 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Earlham College, June 14-18, 2017



The Quaker Quill

Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met for its 197th Annual Sessions at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from June 14 -18, 2017. Our theme was "Moving Together with the Spirit." With great joy we reconnected with familiar Friends and welcomed many who were attending for the first time. As one person put it, each year we reconstitute the Body! Or as another Friend exclaimed, "We have a love fest!" The date for annual sessions was a month earlier this year in hopes of accommodating the schedules of more families, and we did see an increase in the number of children attending.

As we gather here this year, we discover Spirit in all the usual places. Worship sharing groups going deep, workshops providing tools for nurturing relationships, children laughing, exchanged smiles and reacquainting hugs, little pods of people engaged in conversations, sharing meals in the cafeteria, early morning walks and worship, singing together, catching up with old Friends and learning about the lives of new Friends. The annual Variety Show united us in laughter, music, and celebration. These usual finding places are important to us as we reaffirm that we are moving together in Spirit.

In our business sessions we were challenged to create openings for the Spirit to move throughout the Yearly Meeting. We approved a proposal developed in response to a leading that came to us last year to create a program of intervisitation among monthly meetings to bring life and nourishment to all parts of our body. We committed as individuals to visit other meetings in the Yearly Meeting, and as meetings to plan shared events or activities with other meetings. Older friends were challenged to listen to younger voices, and to reconsider some traditional practices. In our discernment about which wider Quaker organizations to support financially, we heard the concerns and enthusiasm of young Friends to support the work of newer organizations where life of the Spirit is breaking through, and we were challenged to make such changes at a faster pace. We approved several additions and revisions to our Faith and Practice in the more expedited

(continued next page)

Dear Friends: Greetings from the Clerk

I hope you all had restful, fun, active summers! Can it be fall and the start of the school year already? I recently saw Halloween merchandise in a store. I imagine the Christmas merchandise is not far behind!

Looking back on the summer, we had a good yearly meeting session in June. The Youth Services Committee reported to Executive Committee that the combined middle youth and teen program went very well and was better attended than in 2016. Our thanks to Chie Togami, who directed the program, and Dylan Cahalan, Andrew Hardy, and Lucas Blanchard-Glueckert, who assisted her.

One thing that became clear to me during these sessions is that we need to do more to be inclusive of younger adult Friends, especially in our business sessions. I am currently talking to some younger Friends and welcome further input and getting to know younger Friends better.

Last spring the Executive Committee changed the model for our **Nominating Committee**. We are seeking a representative from each monthly meeting to serve on this committee so the committee can have a broad awareness of all the Friends in our yearly meeting. The committee is also going to do much of its work by email and telephone to minimize travel time to its meetings.

**Betsy
Neale**



Many of our monthly meetings have appointed their representatives. Thank you! We are still looking for representatives from Campus, Englewood, Fall Creek, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Louisville, and White Rose meetings. Please submit names and contact information to Richard Mitchell, clerk of Nominating Committee, rjm47@twc.com.

We recognize that we need to make changes to make it more possible for Friends to serve OVYM. The time and expense required to travel to committee meetings is often a barrier. The Executive Committee is exploring possible methods of virtual attendance. We recently had success with one member attending via Skype. OVYM Friends enter the 21st century!

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is November 4 at Earlham. I encourage *all meetings* to send a representative. And stay tuned for information on ways to attend virtually.

(from p. 1). approval process, with the goal of completing the revision by 2018. The revisions included a set of greatly simplified queries, which prompted considerable discernment about the approval process.

Lynn Newsom presented a powerful plenary session on the work of Quaker House, work that bridges the divide between the largest military base on the planet and a little house in Fayetteville, North Carolina. This work includes support for veterans with PTSD and moral injury, support for conscientious objectors, and raising awareness about torture, sexual abuse, suicide, and domestic violence in the military. It is remarkable that Quaker House is now welcomed onto the military base at Fort Bragg, and accepted by the local community as a faith based organization advocating for the needs of veterans. Lynn reminded us that veterans are children of God who have been injured and who need compassion and a place to go for support.

Benigno Sánchez-Eppler of the Friends World Committee for Consultation shared with us his ministry of crossing languages, cultures and theologies. He urged us to resist the separating spirit and to mend separations among Friends. We learned about the longing and frustration of wanting to be part of what others are experiencing through singing a hymn that only some of us knew. He compared being separated from a home language, culture, or spiritual practice, or even forgetting or devaluing what we used to know and love, to losing a great treasure. He reminded us that we are a body with a womb that can be filled with a quickening of the Spirit. What is the new life that is eager to be born? We were reminded that some Friends experience a walking away from the treasure box of Christian language, by forgetting a language that used to be our own. We were admonished that Friends might need to do some inner work to reclaim this treasure. Losing the language of Early Friends, do we not lose some of their wisdom? We were urged to cross borders, recreate relationships, and heal the injuries that caused our separations.

In our worship sharing groups we shared personal experiences of the movement of the Spirit, and listened compassionately to one another about times of conflict in our meetings. We found it healing to reach deeply into the sacred center of our lives and move together with the Spirit in these small groups.

As we have moved together this week, we continue to find new and awakening manifestations of the Spirit. We want Friends to know that the living Spirit deeply binds us together. We are learning to live as the body of Christ. "Our differences will want us to fight for them, but our love will make no room for the violence!" Spirit blows us together, it loves us together, and we move with its breath and instruction as we turn ourselves inward to hear the Teacher and Guide.



Epistle from the Teens/Middle Youth

For the hundred ninety seventh yearly meeting sessions, we had a total of eleven youth between the ages of twelve to seventeen attend. On the 14th through the 18th day of the sixth month in the year 2017, we engaged in a variety of activities that informed our ideas of Quakerism.

Lynn Newsom met with us to speak about Quaker House and conscientious objection. We wrote letters in support of incarcerated veterans. Despite the inclement weather, an impromptu trip to Whitewater Lake gave us the opportunity to swim, paddle-boat and canoe around.

We enjoyed watching movies with friends. Cooperative games taught us how to interact with one another and the larger Quaker community. We enjoyed the improved quality of food and the community that we formed around meals. This increased community led to a well-organized and coherent skit this year. At business meeting we helped to plan this skit and brainstormed ways to encourage youth participation throughout the year. In particular we discussed the need for attendance at Quarterly Meeting to build our community.

Along with the programming, our downtime was just as important to us. Whether it was playing sports outside, or taking naps on couches, we were able to bring the Quaker Spirit into our everyday activities. We appreciate any opportunity we have for increased independence and autonomy.

Every year the youth of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting include a request for increased participation of youth at annual sessions. This year, we would like to extend our request for monthly meetings to make concerted efforts to encourage their youth to attend both the annual sessions and Quarterly Meeting so that we can continue to develop deeper concepts of Quakerism and community. Thank you for your continual support.

Signed by: Maryam Tonne, Elana Branson, Cecilia Branson, Toby Dean, Charlotte Dean, Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, and Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson.

Epistle from the Children

The children ages 1 to 10 of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met at Earlham College from June 14th to 18th. We shared a lot of experiences and concerns. We had many revelations and teachings with the spirit-led speakers who visited us.

We learned to feel the spirit with movement of yoga and the movement of kites. We felt the spirit in our water play in the pool and the sprinkler and the water slide. We experienced the spirit when we made bead bracelets and necklaces and chokers.

We went to the animal shelter and moved with excitement along with the cats and kittens as we played with the yarn toys and feather toys we made. We are very concerned about the animals in the shelter and plan to donate some of our earnings to them so they can continue to provide a home for animals and a place for people to come and choose an animal for their pet.

We learned about the lack of the healthcare for veterans and we are concerned about the veterans. We hope veterans can receive better healthcare and get better treatment.

We made new f(F)riends at yearly meeting and enjoyed a lot of good times playing soccer, dodgeball, flying kites, swimming, blowing bubbles, jumping rope, singing, and painting. We all agree that OVYM was an endless amount of fun that we wish would never end.



Save the Date !
Next Annual Sessions!
June 13-17, 2018
Earlham College

“Incarcerated Veterans need adequate mental health care!! Support our veterans!” (led by Lynn Newsom)



**Report from OVYM Annual Sessions
Combined Teen and Middle Youth
“Simply Speaking” Exercise
Gail Koehler (Lexington Friends Meeting)**

Because traditions must adapt to remain vital activities, this year’s “Simply Speaking” exercise was revised from past years to accommodate a group of combined middle youth and teens. The revision began as staff and committee members for the program considered what purpose the tradition served—to provide an opportunity for Quaker adults to interact with young Friends, and to hear them speak the truths of their lives. This is particularly important for adults who are not parents of youth in the age group.

Thus, staff developed an informal questionnaire to draw out key information it seems important for Quaker adults to know about youth in their care. In a time prior to the public Simply Speaking scheduled activity, we had assistance from additional Friendly Adult Presences, and were able to pair each young Friend with an adult so the room was filled with pairs of Friends earnestly examining uniquely youth-focused queries. These responses were compiled so they could be shared anonymously as a group of replies.

When the time came for “Simply Speaking” on Saturday during the yearly meeting sessions, the youth invited adults first into a series of cooperative games. Engaging multiple generations, these games were fun, providing interactions that were pure pleasure. Next, youth together with staff presented both the questions and youth responses from their earlier reflection time. (Questions and responses follow)

Part A: Appreciative Enquiry (think of times when something good happened!)

Q: Describe briefly the best time you’ve had at a Quaker event. (Where were you? What were you doing?)

A: Visiting Pioneer Village, At Friends Music Camp *At last year’s sessions*: Rafting, Enjoying the talent show, Drinking root beer floats (with soft serve ice cream), Having ice cream with friends at lunch without adults around.

Q: If there were Quaker adults at that event other than your parents, what were they doing to help make the event memorable for you?

A: Putting on the Talent Show, Being good teachers and planners; they got input from the kids as they planned, Telling jokes/sharing humor (we like to laugh!), Being supportive: by buying us small food treats; by keeping us safe, On the raft trip: rowing for us so we could swim and ride, Letting us play.

Q: Do you have Quaker adults (whether at your meeting, Quarterly Meeting, or Yearly Meeting) that you have had positive interactions with? Describe what makes those times positive for you.

A: When they get me to try something new, give me encouragement and compliments. Make sure we have good food. During worship mentor discussions, they’re serious but not too serious, Discussions are short but good, I had good interactions with adults while I helped with the children’s program, Someone told me they liked my new nickname, The parent of another middle youth -- he’s comfortable to talk to.

Q: Provide a “job description” of your ideal non-parental Quaker adult

A: Someone who: Has flexibility with the schedule, Has ideas for activities and games, Has rules, but knows when to relax them, Is like me, but older -- someone who is active, will draw with me, who will give me a hug, who is encouraging, who cooks with me, Knows how to have fun, Organizes good events (I do like organized events), Listens to me -- really listens, Won’t say “that’s wrong! Go sit in the hall!” Is not too strict.

Part B: How would you like things to be different?

Q: What do you wish Quaker adults knew about you?

A: It’s hard for kids to sit still! Don’t have a discussion for an hour! (15 or 20 min is enough- short but good), I’m not creative with arts and crafts, but we do a lot of that. I like to use my phone: I need to keep in touch with my friends. I’m really open with my opinions; I’ll share when I want to share, I get hot and tired. Physical comfort is important!

• Q: What do you wish Quaker adults knew about what it’s like to be your age right now that they don’t seem to GET?

A: Don’t judge us, we are just kids; we like our phones (*see note above about keeping in contact with friends*). We can be bored.

Q: What do adults seem to *forget* about what it’s like to be your age right now?

A: It’s frustrating to be held to rules that were made before you got here -- someone broke something once, and now the balconies are locked. Do they remember, really, what it was like to be a kid? Doesn’t seem like it sometimes.

Q: What do you wish you NEVER HEARD from adults again?

A: I’m in my own dorm this year. Stop texting me late at night, “Look how big you’ve gotten”, When they mock me by saying “I believe you” sarcastically, “Everybody be still/be quiet”, “Why are you always on your phone?”

Q: What else do adults need to know that they don’t seem to?

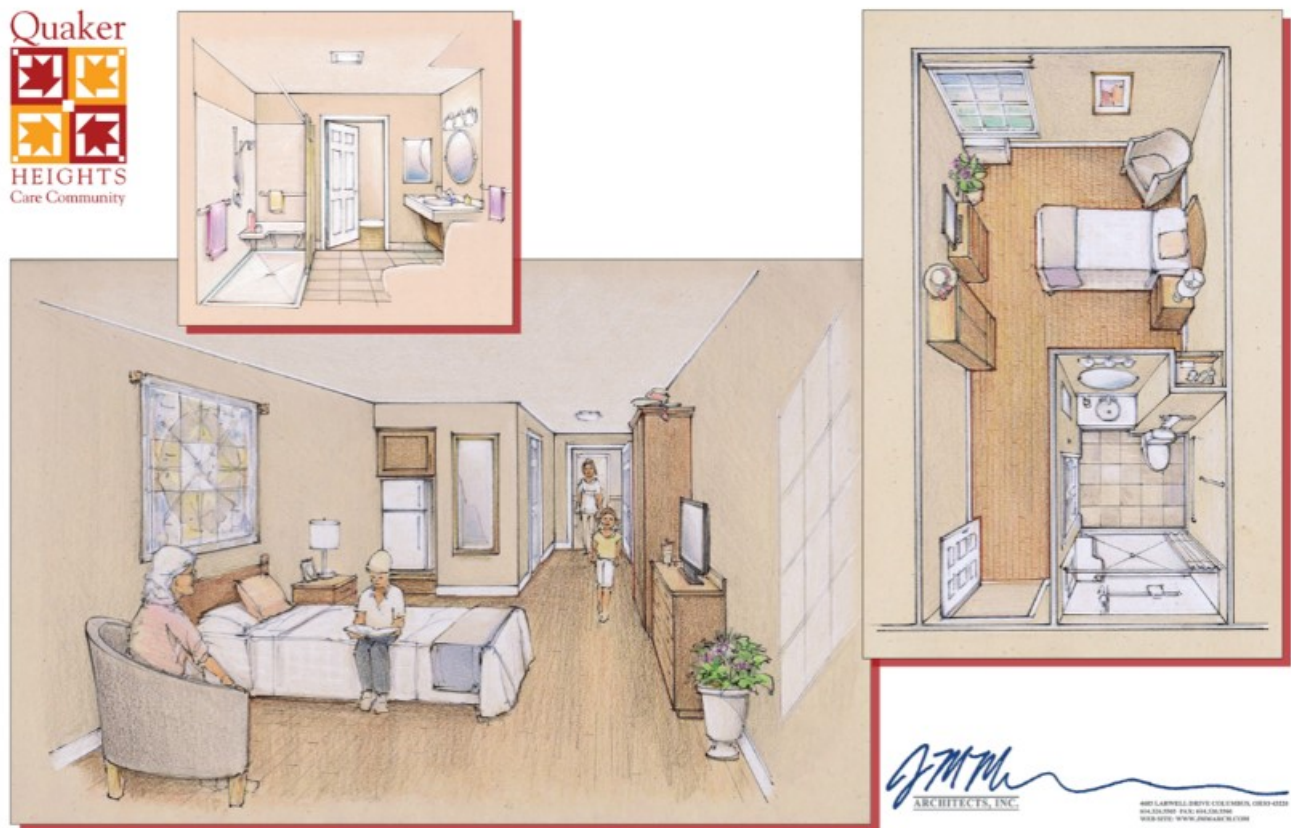
A: We need an hour of naptime. It’s boring to be the only middle youth (teen) at Quarterly meetings. I want to see my Quaker friends.

QUAKER HEIGHTS CARE COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The renovations began in November 2016, on the 200 Hall area, and have continued. We are communicating again with you to let you know the construction is moving along as expected. Remember, when the construction dust has settled, our residents will have more privacy and dignity – things all of us want for ourselves, and those we love.

This is part of our commitment to provide our residents the best accommodations possible. The renovation will take place in two phases, our first phase will be completed when the 500 Hall private rooms have been completed. This is expected to be completed in late September.

Below is a rendering of the new showers in the private rooms. Now that we have rooms nearly completed, many have been able to “take a peek” to see some of the changes in the new rooms. It is an exciting time. While the new showers take approximately 18 inches in the new rooms, the value of the private shower cannot be understated compared to a common shower room, please see the rendering below:



The second phase is the expansion of our memory care area, within which our goal is to create more common spaces as well as private rooms. We hope to start phase 2 in early November. It is beautiful and welcoming and will replace the old nursing station in the memory care area near the 500 Hall.

We believe in the inherent dignity and worth of every human being because there is that of God in everyone. We want each of our residents to have the privacy they deserve. Your support during our renovation to meet these needs is very important to us.

Lastly, Quaker Heights continues to evaluate possible partnerships for the future. We look to faith based organizations. While the financial performance has improved in the last few months, we are still very vigilant about monitoring expenses and driving up the daily census. Private rooms helps us meet these goals. What makes us distinctive is our Quaker values in practice. We shall hold these values up as we journey forward for elder care.

Quaker Heights is committed to serve as many people as possible... *in the best way possible*. Funding the conversion of semi-private rooms to private rooms for dignity, and adding more memory (Alzheimer's) care are the key motivations for our non-profit organization to begin an historic capital campaign. This non-profit organization has not asked for significant financial assistance since it opened in 1905. It will take many gifts to support these goals. As it is with everything we do, the support of our families is vital to the successful completion of these renovations. We thank you for your understanding, grace, and your gifts.

Wendy Waters-Connell, RN, MS, LNHA, CPASRM

Executive Director

Letting the Blood Flow: Intervisitation and New Life Among Friends

As Brian Drayton said in conversation with the RNE committee, “intervisitation brings life and nourishment to all parts of the body. It is the blood circulating.” When there is no circulation, the parts of the body become numb or fall asleep. Since George Fox first undertook his journeys, intervisitation and travel in the ministry have been crucial to the health of the Society of Friends. Intervisitation by Friends can help address issues that are beyond the resources of a single meeting, offer fresh perspectives, and unite individuals with specific concerns. Some Friends may feel isolated in their local meetings and long to connect with other Quakers who are called to similar work or face similar struggles. Youth and young adults, in particular, need time for fellowship with Friends in their age groups. Local meetings face challenges, and can benefit from the experience of other meetings or share creative solutions to a common problem. Intervisitation also provides a chance to nourish the leadings and gifts of individuals and monthly meetings, and to share those gifts with the entire body and the wider world.

Such ministry is not the work of one committee or a few individuals, nor does it take a single form. Intervisitation can involve traveling to attend another monthly meeting, but Quaker lifeblood flows through all the various connections we make as individuals, local meetings, and wider Quaker bodies. The Spiritual Nurture Fund under the care of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee is available to help support intervisitation. Write to the committee if you need assistance.

At the 2017 OVYM Sessions, the Religious Education and Nurture Committee presented a proposal to foster communion within the yearly meeting. It was accepted with excitement. We hope that individual Friends, meetings and committees will consider both traveling to visit with other Friends and offering hospitality to those who travel. Suggestions approved by the Yearly Meeting are outlined below. While some ministry is formal, sometimes what is most needed is simply a ministry of presence. In the words of Baltimore YM Friends, a ministry of presence is “to be spiritually and prayerfully present, to listen deeply with love and without judgment, to be tender with another, not to bring our own agendas, and to get to know each other in that which is eternal.”

Individuals

Individual Friends commit to visiting worship or a special event at another meeting at least once each year. It is often helpful to visit along with a companion. We particularly encourage youth, young adults and newcomers to consider intervisitation. Although formal travel in the ministry under a concern requires careful discernment, anyone can make an informal visit to another meeting.

Individuals are encouraged to read the Quill and otherwise keep informed about what is happening within the Yearly Meeting, and then to follow up by reaching out to Friends whose work they find interesting. Friends are also encouraged to consider how they might build relationships and find time for informal worship within their meetings, beyond First Day worship

Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings commit to making a connection to at least one other meeting in the Yearly Meeting at least once during the year.

Monthly Meetings commit to sending representatives to Executive Committee and Quarterly Meeting. Although this has been our practice, attendance has declined at both.

Possible activities which two meetings might share include coming together for worship, combining youth activities, co-hosting public events, joint retreats, or bringing a speaker to the area. Some meetings are already making such connections, and are encouraged to develop more. The Religious Nurture and Education Committee can help make these connections and identify resource people. Friends are encouraged to plan events that include younger Friends.

Following Yearly Meeting Sessions, we were reminded that the other side of intervisitation is offering hospitality. Monthly Meetings and individuals might also consider how they are led to act as hosts, from extending invitations to an event to offering overnight housing.

We are asking individuals and meetings to consider the recommendations to monthly meetings outlined above, and respond to the Religious Nurture and Education Committee by phone or email. Contact information is below. If you undertake a visit, we would also like to know how it went. We also have recommendations for committees and quarterly meetings, which will be sent separately.

Nikki Coffey Tousley

Clerk of Religious Nurture and Education, OVYM, Dayton MM

937-253-3366 nikkitousley@hotmail.com

Other Members of the Committee: Pam Richards - Community MM; Andy Garrison - Oxford MM; Shannon Isaacs - Community MM; Kevin Angell - North Meadow Circle; Gail Koehler - Lexington MM, Anne Hutchinson – Oxford. MM

MIAMI QUARTERLY MEETING SPECIAL ADULT PROGRAM!!!

**TOUR OF THE GREEN PLAIN MEETINGHOUSE-BUILT IN 1844.
SCHOOL BUS RIDE FROM YELLOW SPRINGS MEETING AT 1:30PM OCT 15.**

**Contact Veronica Frost at 937-864-5360 OR eclectictwelve@hotmail.com
for more information.**

Charlottesville and Quaker Social Change Ministry

by Jeff Kisling

Fourteen Friends of North Meadow Circle of Friends gathered for the monthly [Quaker Social Change Ministry](#) meeting. It had been announced that this meeting would discuss the recent demonstrations in Charlottesville, Virginia, where people opposing the removal of a statue of Robert E Lee, which included supporters of white supremacy, neo-Nazis and the KKK, clashed with counter-demonstrators. Heather Heyer was killed when a car rammed into the counter protestors.

North Meadow has been using Quaker Social Change Ministry, a model supported by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), for nearly two years as a way to approach issues related to racial injustice. This involves various tools to bring a spiritual focus to social justice work that engages the meeting as a whole. A large part of that relates to the idea of accompaniment, which is supporting a local community currently experiencing injustice. North Meadow Friends are fortunate that the [Kheprw Institute](#) (KI), a black youth mentoring and empowerment community, has been interested in being our partner in this work together.

The continued hate and belief in white superiority revealed by these demonstrators is deeply discouraging. The more those of us who are white have discovered how racism has been intentionally built into almost every structure of American society, the more we realize the scope of the work needed to correct racial injustice. And racial violence is more visible today, including the killing of unarmed people by police. To see people violently supporting the continuation of these deeply flawed, unjust ideas is difficult to comprehend.

After opening silent worship and a review of the Friendly agreement (below), Friends shared as they were led. Discussions such as these are difficult to summarize. We reviewed many of the ways racism is built into our society, and how those who are white routinely benefit whether we want to or not, and often in ways we have been unaware of. One of the greatest benefits of our work with the Kheprw Institute has been an increasing awareness of these advantages, as we see those at KI do not have them.

This increasing awareness has helped us be more aware of the foundational injustices American society is built upon, stealing the land from Native Americans, and the enslaved labor of African Americans. We are convinced that we cannot make real progress in creating a more just society until we acknowledge these foundational injustices, find ways to begin to try to make amends, and stop the continuing inequities that have been built into our society.

We are grateful that we can continue to learn about, and begin to correct these things with our ongoing connection with the Kheprw Institute community. Based upon our experience, we would encourage others to consider adopting the Quaker Social Change Ministry Program, which can be used for groups other than Quaker meetings, too.

<https://www.afsc.org/QSCM>

Friendly Agreement (Adapted from Parker Palmer's "Touchstones for Circles of Trust")

- *Be fully present in the moment, with your doubts, fears and failings as well as your joys and successes.*
- *When we offer attentive presence, we nurture love and respect. We commit to restorative justice practices.*
- *Observe deep confidentiality as we build trust. Nothing personal said in this circle will ever be repeated to other people.*
- *Refrain from interrupting others.*
- *Set aside judgment so you can listen to others, and to yourself, more deeply.*
- *Listen with resilience, "hanging in there" when hearing something that is hard to hear. Feel free to ask for time and space for personal reflection if needed. Set your own boundaries for personal sharing; ask yourself, "what parts of my life story, if any, am I comfortable sharing?"*
- *Pass" or "pass for now" if you are not ready or willing to respond to a question –no explanation is required.*
- *Speak personal truths in ways that respect other people's truth. Speak using "I" statements, assuming others can deduce the meaning as it applies to them.*
- *Assume positive intent on the part of fellow participants.*
- *When the going gets rough, turn to wonder. If you feel judgmental, or defensive, ask yourself, "I wonder what brought her to this belief?" "I wonder what he's feeling right now?" "I wonder what my reaction teaches me about myself?"*
- *Commit to regular attendance.*

What's happening in OVYM?

To stay informed about Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, you can subscribe to the quarterly newsletter and semi-monthly announcements (about 10 emails a year) on the website: ovym.quaker.org You can sign up at the bottom of the home page or near the top of the Quaker Quill page (under the Publications tab).

Look for this image at the bottom of the screen:



Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry

The mission of the Braddock Fund is to provide support for activities and projects for prison inmates that will promote their successful re-entry into their communities

[Click to link to pamphlet describing programs](#)

[Click to link to Scholarship Request form](#)

[Click to link to Grant Request form](#)

News from Monthly Meetings

Bloomington

At a recent business meeting Peggy Squires reported about "Planting Seeds—Peace & Justice," September 8, 6-9 PM at the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church in Bloomington. It is both a reception celebrating AFSC's centennial and a fundraiser for our building project. Our meeting agreed to co-sponsor a talk organized by Bloomington Peace Action Coalition by Geoff Wilson from the Ploughshares Fund, Washington, DC on "A New Generation of Nuclear Dangers". The event will be at the UU Church on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 PM. The meeting co-sponsored a Sing-A-Long concert, "Hope and Strength" presented by Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, the creators of "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" song books on August 23 at 7 PM at the UU Church.

At the close of September Meeting, Friends expressed gratitude for the presence of the children. Friends want the parents to know that the young families' participation in meeting for worship and in business meeting is vital to the life of the community. One Member spoke the mind of the others by saying: the sounds of the children are part of our worship.

Extracted from the meeting newsletter by Quill Editor

Clear Creek

The life of this meeting seems to be going along swimmingly:

The silence during meeting for worship continues to be gathered and deep. Both our worship and our fellowship time continues to be enriched by the presence of ESR students during their sojourns in Richmond.

Fellowship hour continues to harbor loud and rowdy discussions, these surely nurtured by a variety of eats as well as coffee and tea. (The larger coffee pot brought in last spring has been commented on gratefully by quite a few of the caffeine addicted among us.)

Adult Religious Education as well as Peace and Social Concerns presentations are well attended and present a variety of new information and perspectives related to our many local and national challenges.

Among these: a report from an attendee at the White Privilege Conference, a report on an intense 3 week trip to Israel and Palestine, consideration of how the 3 Richmond meetings can support local families facing deportation, a time for writing (and sharing) from the Spirit, discussions of particular Bible verses, a member's sharing of her personal spiritual journey to name just a few.

All this in spite of the loss of two of our members:

A memorial meeting was held for Herb Fraser in August. He died suddenly in May at the age of 96, (several years after having been dismissed from hospice care for no longer being sick enough). His son Peter was with him at the time of his death. Herb was a regular, gentle presence at meeting up until his death.

About forty people whose lives had intersected with Herb's in various ways attended his Memorial Meeting, resulting in a celebration of many dimensions of his life. The Fraser family was deeply appreciative of the event and of Clear Creek's efforts to support Herb in the final years of his life.

Paul Lacey's memorial meeting will take place during Earlham's Homecoming Weekend Oct 22nd so that his returning students can take part. It will be jointly hosted by the college and Clear Creek Meeting.

Finally, the meeting and ESR will soon be hosting a traveling sign saying "**Love Thy Neighbor. No Exceptions.**" for the maximum period the town of Richmond will allow at one location.

Submitted by Palline Plum

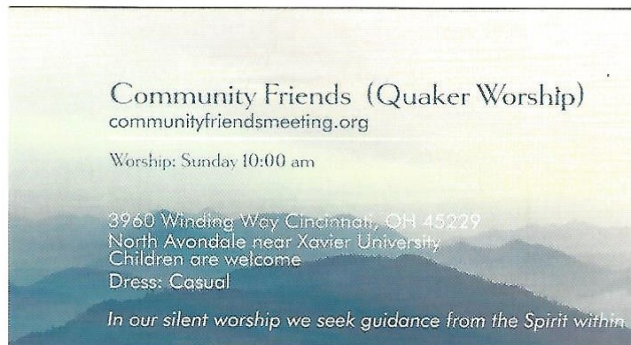
Community Friends Meeting

September calls us back to our more regular schedule. While we suspend our adult religious education or "Second Hours" in the summer, Ministry and Council did organize a monthly program after meeting for worship to reflect on our Quaker story together. These interactive programs were well attended. We will have a meeting renewal on Sept. 30 focusing on how the Quaker tradition of Christianity is relevant today.

Having 5 acres of grounds and a big house keeps our House and Grounds Committee, along with our caretakers, busy. We, unfortunately, had a break-in over the summer and are implementing ways to be both welcoming and safe. We are responding to concerns from two neighbors about "our" trees (those we tend), wanting to maintain Friendly connections and preserve the trees.

A committed group of Friends continues our outreach to Tender Mercies, a residence for those who are both homeless and mentally ill, by cooking and serving a monthly themed meal for residents. Plus we are trying not to hide our Light under a bushel as our more recently formed Outreach **Committee has come up with business-size cards to share.** They are also in search of a saying to put on our new Quaker banner which will be out and about at many events, in the company of Friends of course. There haven't been many children at meeting this summer so it was a joy to welcome a few of them back in September. The theme for First Day School will be the Quaker testimonies.

Submitted by Deborah Jordan



Eastern Hills

We welcomed our newest member, Madeline Murray, by having a potluck dinner at the home of Jim and Linda Coppock. It was a lovely party and we are happy that Madeline has chosen to become a member of our meeting.

We continue to furnish a lunch for the residents of Jimmy Heath House each month and a couple of women in our meeting have been busy sewing sanitary kits that will be given to women in Haiti.

This summer there were two concerts held at our meeting house. The performers of the first concert were Cindy Kallet and Greg Larsen, who are a folk music duo. Sean Gawin and Jesse Smith played Irish music at the second concert. Both events were well attended and the musicians were quite pleased with the space that our meeting house offered.

Eastern Hills Meeting was well represented at both Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's 2017 sessions in Richmond, Indiana, and at Wilmington Yearly Meeting's 2017 sessions in Wilmington, Ohio. At our August meeting for worship with attention to business, reports from both yearly meetings were presented and received with much interest.

We send greetings to all and wishes for much joy and many blessings during the upcoming holidays.

Submitted by Henrietta Ballinger

Lafayette Friends Meeting

Like many meetings, Lafayette Friends Meeting runs things a bit looser in the summer. People travel and do summer projects, so we suspend our business meetings and some other regular activities for two or three months. Of course, we still meet and visit with one another and support each other as we pursue the activities we feel called to do. Here are some of the things we have been doing.

Spurred on by one of our members who works with international grad students and post-docs at Purdue, **we have put the FCNL "Love Thy Neighbor: No Exceptions" banner in our front yard. (See photo)** The meetinghouse is in a student neighborhood and our tenants and many of our neighbors are from other countries. We want to be sure they feel welcome, and we have heard that the banner has been noticed and is appreciated.

Thanks to the perseverance of another member, we continue to assist with the OVYM Donations to Outside Organizations portion of the OVYM budget. It was decided at yearly meeting in June that there was more work for the Ad Hoc Committee to do and one of our Friends agreed to stay on the committee.

By the time this issue of the Quill has gone to press, another subset of us, along with several members of other local faith groups will have had a lobbying meeting with the district director of our congressman, Todd Rokita, to urge him to support the Dream Act of 2017 that will provide a pathway to permanent residency for DACA recipients. Although it seems unlikely that Rokita will support the bill, our belief in that of God in everyone and our love of our diverse community require us to give it our best try.

Another among us, who has operated a successful landscaping business for many years has become committed to working with people who are about to be released from our local jail to help them transition to life on the "outside." He has decided that he needs more training for this work and has begun working on a master's degree in social work. He has just begun his second semester after successfully completing the dreaded statistics course over the summer. Way to go, John!

We have had a long-standing affinity with the historic Farmer's Institute Friends Meeting in nearby Shadeland, IN. A regular attender who lives near Shadeland is also an active member of their faith community and has brought us closer together. They just had their annual Quaker Fair that raised a substantial but as yet uncounted sum to help repair and restore their National Registered meetinghouse.

Earlier in the summer two of our Friends went to see the head of the Entomology Department about a statue recently placed on the Purdue campus. The statue, which is supposed to honor Rachel Carson, instead looks like a family grouping from the 1950s.

Given that Carson never had children so that she could fully pursue her career, the patriarchal postures of the poses and the June Cleaver shirtwaist dress instead of field attire struck some of us as inappropriate. It is unlikely that the statue will be modified, but the accompanying explanations may be improved.

Finally and with sadness, we report that our long time and active attender, Terrie Kercher, is in the process of moving to Bloomington so that she and her husband can be close to his family. We have been helping her with the move. We will miss her ebullience, her humor, and her often probing questions about Quaker practice. We know that Bloomington Friends will make her welcome.

Submitted by Ann Pellegrino, Clerk



Lexington

It has been a hot summer and many of our Friends have been traveling and away from meeting. With school back in session and the fall approaching activity at Lexington Friends Meeting has picked up. The adult religious education committee who arrange fascinating first hour discussions will coordinate one RE session each month to put on a Quaker 101 course. In the past we have conducted such an introductory program by having one Friend lead using a specific book such as “A Quaker Book of Wisdom” by R.L. Smith or “Friends for 350 Years” by H. Brinton. This time, various Friends volunteered to speak about their interest such as: Early Friends, The Testimonies, Meeting For Business.

An interesting development in another area is the joint participation of a number of Lexington Friends in sessions organized by FCNL to train volunteers in advocacy. While our meetings are held in the meetinghouse, this group is unique in that it is largely driven by interested people from outside the meeting. Only about a third of the 15 or so who attend the training sessions come from Lexington Friends. After four weeks of training our group plans to visit with a staff member from Sen. Rand Paul’s office and will likely visit with staff from Sen. McConnell’s and Rep. Barr’s offices. The training has been an excellent opportunity to reorient our thinking away from antagonism toward representatives who we may feel are not sympathetic to forming long term relationships which are more likely to result in positive change.

In the near future we are looking forward to enjoying a retreat with our fellow Kentucky Friends from Berea and Louisville. Once a year in the Fall one of our three meetings hosts a weekend-long retreat. This year Berea Friends will host our retreat and lead us in examining “Being Quaker in a Divided Society”. We look forward to sharing time with our Kentucky Friends.

Submitted by Peter Hardy

Miami

Web Site

Miami’s website had 213 individual visitors and 240 sessions during the quarter up 30% from the prior quarter, so several people visited more than once. The majority of multi-page visitors have looked at the About Us and Calendar Pages. We are continuing to use Google AdWords to advertise our site to communities in the surrounding area.

Member News

We were saddened by the news that Daniel Wilde, one of our members located in North Carolina, passed away on July 9, 2017.

Religious Education

Religious Education has been upbeat and varied. Recent topics have included AFSC’s work in North Korea, Confucianism, and Elias Hicks, and during the month of August, the youth have been learning about Quaker worship in their First Day school.

Meeting Road Trip

The Meeting has a road trip planned for October 8 to Caesar’s Creek Friends Cemetery, a very old cemetery with a limestone wall surrounding it. Members of the Yearly Meeting are welcome to join Miami for that road trip in the afternoon following a post-worship luncheon.

Submitted by Lonny Burger

North Meadow Circle

North Meadow has been using Quaker Social Change Ministry, a model supported by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), for nearly two years as a way to approach issues related to racial injustice. This involves various tools to bring a spiritual focus to social justice work that engages the meeting as a whole. A large part of that relates to the idea of accompaniment, which is supporting a local community currently experiencing injustice. North Meadow Friends are fortunate that the [Kheprw Institute](#) (KI), a black youth mentoring and empowerment community, has been interested in being our partner in this work together. See article on page 7.

Submitted by Pat Zarowin

Oxford



Oxford Friends collected and assembled items for hygiene kits and school bags on behalf of Church Women United. This is an annual, intergenerational activity for Oxford Friends.

Submitted by Shannon Murray

Yellow Springs

Over the summer the LGBTQ ad hoc committee revised and had approved our same gender marriage minute. The same committee also created a welcoming minute. Our outside has been improved with the addition of a new picnic bench for meetings and meals. The work of the Child Safety Committee has resulted in an official packet of information, policies and procedures which have gone into effect at the start of our new first day school year. We are looking forward to our hosting Quarterly meeting on October 15th. Please come and join us! We will have programming for all age group, including a visit to the Green Plain meetinghouse for the adults. And finally, we are also looking ahead to our YSFM fall retreat on October 29th. Our topic will be, "The Integrity Moment: Friends' Resources for Bystander Intervention" presented by Gail Koehler of Lexington Friends Meeting.

Submitted by Heather Snediker-Morscheck

OVYM FRIENDS REPORT SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Initial Report from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Intervisitation Opportunity

Gail Koehler, one of the representatives from OVYM's Religious Nurture and Education Committee

I am most grateful for the invitation to participate in the 2017 Baltimore Yearly Meeting sessions. The time included numerous blessings, centered fellowship, and generosity in sharing resources and experiences. More detailed reporting will follow. To begin, I want to make particular mention that the week began with a day and a half retreat that provided spiritual grounding and an opportunity to meet people in groups in a variety of sizes for worship sharing. It reminded me of how worship for a larger group can be deepened when a smaller gathering of Friends begin centering in a room ahead of time. Demonstrations of Faith and Play, Paulette Meier's plainsong chants (after her time at the BYM women's retreat), and the use of art were most welcome and inspiring.

Business meeting began in a centered manner. I noted the practice of employing "reading clerks" -- YAFs who traded duties reading centering quotations and long passages from committee reports. This struck me as a tremendous way to include more Friends in the sessions and diversify, literally, the voices heard from the clerk's table. A number of other specific practices will be shared as I work through my notes.

Specific workshops I'll be sharing resources from in the near future include: the daily Experiment with Light sessions (adapted from Rex Ambler's work) from a meeting which practices these sessions monthly; a session on "Outreach as Ministry; Ministry as Outreach"; one on lowering barriers to diverse leadership; one on Forgiveness. These are just a sample of the rich sharing offered.

I commend the reading of an October 2016 Friends Journal article on the Ministry of Presence, which reports on their intervisitation history and shared work. This image, of a Ministry of Presence, was something I experienced throughout my time with these Friends. I am most grateful for this opportunity and look forward to a more deep sharing of the learning I enjoyed.

My Experience and Formation through the School of the Spirit Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Miami Monthly Meeting

The School of the Spirit is a ministry rooted in the Quaker contemplative tradition. Founded in 1991, it provides people a space to listen deeply, so they might come to respond more faithfully to the work of Christ, the Inward Teacher.

This past spring, I was a member of the 10th class of the "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" program offered by the School of the Spirit. I completed the program by attending eight residencies (4 residencies a year over a 2-year period) in the Philadelphia area. During the residencies, I attended teaching sessions and a small group. In between the sessions, I read assigned readings, wrote reflection papers and completed projects. I was supported along the way by a spiritual care committee.

The titles of my projects were "Needlework as Spiritual Practice: A Way to Love God, Self and Neighbor" and "The Spiritual Basis of Organizations: A Quaker Christian's Perspective and Experience." I also participated in a panel on forgiveness and reconciliation. For the panel, I shared about my journey with forgiveness through reflecting on the themes raised by Flora Slosson Wuellner's book, *Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey: Nine Steps of Forgiving through Jesus' Beatitudes*.

During the program, I became more clear about my ministry, learned more about my spiritual gifts, and deepened my relationship with God. I also developed close relationships with the other members of the class and gained a clearer understanding of the Religious Society of Friends and my place in it.

Currently, I am writing a book and developing a consultancy that will integrate and apply my knowledge of organizational psychology, theology and spirituality. I am tailoring my consulting services to faith-based elder care organizations. Through this work, I hope to feed the spiritual life of organizations and help them realize greater wholeness.

I appreciated the monetary support from Miami Quarterly Meeting and the spiritual support of Friends in the yearly meeting. I strongly recommend the program. The 11th class will start in the fall of 2018. I am happy to share more about the program and encourage Friends to discern if they are called to be a member of the next class.

On “Being Spiritually Fed”

The Bloomington MM clerk opened the Meeting with an excerpt from: “On Being Spiritually Fed” (A Grace Talk) by Philip Gulley http://www.philipgulley.com/wpcontent/uploads/2017/03/On_Being_Spiritually_Fed.pdf

“...Have you ever heard someone say that? I’m not being spiritually fed. I hate that phrase with a red hot intensity... I don’t care how good a spiritual feast a church sets out on Sunday morning, if we only eat once a week, we’re going to be spiritually famished. It made me think of spiritual sustenance, and I wondered to myself if he were reading good books, or helping others, or spending time in meditation, or praying, or discussing important matters, and thinking lofty thoughts.

Was he caring for the poor, or visiting the lonely? Was he spending time in nature, sharing meals with friends, devoting time to the people he loved, reading the Bible, associating with people who looked and thought differently from himself? Did he have a passion for justice? Was he nurturing the next generation? Was he making it a point to be inspired by something grand and beautiful each day? Did he practice gentleness of heart and endeavor to live at peace with everyone? Because I must say, everyone who does those things regularly and faithfully will never say, “I am not being spiritually fed.” They will sit down daily at a spiritual feast...”

From the Bloomington Friends newsletter

OTHER REGIONAL FRIENDS

Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation

The **Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation** exists as an instrument in the search for God’s will for Quakers who are wrestling with the social issues of our day. IFCL attempts to translate the social concerns of Friends into legislative action by advocating Quaker beliefs to Indiana legislators. IFCL aspires to be led by the spirit of God as mediated by the traditional testimonies of Friends: testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, stewardship and earth care. (From the website: <http://www.quakerifcl.org/>)

Finally, we once again encourage you to avail yourself of IFCL's Twitter feed at @INQuakerPolicy. This is the portal through which an exponentially growing number of followers seek to learn of IFCL news, outlooks, and priorities. Starting with only 40 followers about a year ago, we now have over 2300 engaged citizens who find this type of social media to be a worthwhile part of their day. See how IFCL's faith-based, bipartisan advocacy elevates public discourse, and seeks to improve the lives of all Hoosiers.

Excerpted from email from Tom Roberts, Clerk of IFCL's Quaker Connections Committee

Indiana Yearly Meeting

Friends United Meeting is delighted to announce the appointment of Adrian Moody to the position of Head of Ramallah Friends School (rfs.edu.ps), effective August 2017. Adrian will succeed Joyce Ajlouny, who has served for thirteen years and who will be taking up the post of General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. Adrian comes to the Friends School with an extensive background in international education, having served in school leadership positions in Australia, New Zealand, Tanzania, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, and India.

Wabash Friends this summer hosted their mission partner, Dr. Samson Retnaraj. Dr. Samson serves in Nepal with Evangelical Friends Mission and conducts community health education. He and his wife, Priscilla, provide Bible-based holistic training to ordinary villagers using Jesus' example to help ordinary peoples' lives. Also, Wabash Friends partnered with Sabatia Eye Hospital and a group from George Fox University to provide one of the biggest medical camps ever organized by the Kaptama Hospital Board and the Africa Ministries Office in Kenya. More than 500 clients or patients converged on Kaptama Hospital for the much needed general medical and eye camp. For a more complete account go to <http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/news/2017/06/19/friends-fight-blindness-in-africa/>.

Iglesia Amigos in Indianapolis, recently brought into membership with IYM will hold a Yearly Meeting Work Day on September 23 when they need help to do tree trimming and outdoor clean up to the property for their outreach event, Festival de Amigos, October 21. They also need volunteers for this outreach event for games, crafts, set up, and clean up. Contact Katy Moran for details: 317-450-4712

pastor.katy.moran@gmail.com

Yearly Meeting Sessions 2018 will be held at Quaker Haven Camp, July 26-28.

The 31st Triennial Gathering of Friends United Meeting recently met at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. Around 250 Friends came from Belize, Canada, Cuba, Kenya, and the United States. Their time together focused on Thomas Kelly’s *The Eternal Promise*.

Excerpted from the IYM Communicator

New Association of Friends

The New Association of Friends is a voluntary association of monthly meetings, churches and individuals that support worship, ministry and service through the cultivation of Christian faith in the Quaker tradition.

Our congregations can currently be found in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

From their website: <http://www.newassociationoffriends.org/>

Spirit-Led Action

Friends General Conference

Email from Barry Crosno:

At this summer's [FGC Gathering](#), Friends were inspired by [the words of Pamela Boyce Simms](#), who spoke of the growing importance of Quakers living out our testimony as stewards of the Earth. View her plenary presentation on YouTube now. [Click here to watch the video recording.](#)

If you've attended Quaker gatherings or a peace camp or two, you've probably come across [Rise Up Singing](#). Meet the dynamic Quaker duo behind this treasured songbook (and its sequel, [Rise Again Songbook](#)), **Peter Blood** and **Annie Patterson**. Learn more about their work, inspiration, and future plans in this month's featured interview. [Read the full interview on the QuakerBooks & More website.](#)

FGC website:

Want to learn more about the Spiritual Deepening Program and share it with your meeting?

The [Meeting Resources](#) page offers step-by-step recommendations for forming Spiritual Deepening small groups. If you'd like to lead a discernment session with your monthly or yearly meeting, you'll find talking point, sample activities, and other key information in the [Sharing Spiritual Deepening with your Monthly Meeting or Yearly Meeting](#) guide (PDF). Once you've decided to form a Spiritual Deepening small group, one person can register the group here: [Small Group Registration](#)

Retreat for Friends of Color and Their Families

Each year, FGC's Ministry on Racism Program sponsors an opportunity for Friends of Color and their families to come together to build multigenerational community through:

- Mutual support and sharing
- Worship
- Exploring our Faith
- Sharing what brought us to Friends
- Identifying ways to support each other

Retreats are regional and occur in the fall. Previous retreats have been held in Chicago, the Philadelphia area, and Washington DC. **This year's retreat will be held in Stony Point, NY from November 3rd-5th, 2017.** [Register now](#), or learn more [here](#).

American Friends Service Committee

From the website:

American Friends Service Committee welcomes Joyce Ajlouny as its new [General Secretary](#). In an emailed statement, she said "At AFSC, we believe that every single person has a divine light inside of them and we can speak to the light in everyone. We will not succumb to despair, even during times of darkness. **Instead, we will work together to find creative and innovative solutions that build bridges for a more peaceful and just world.**"

The [AFSC Midwest Digest](#) includes many regional actions for social justice, including a partnership with OVYM's own Bloomington Meeting and the recognition of Dayton as a welcoming city.

From Mark Graham email: Are you looking for ways to take your activism to the next level?

- [The AFSC Action Center](#). Contact your members of Congress, download printable signs for your window or your next protest, find tip sheets, and more.
- [Sanctuary Everywhere](#). Whether you are looking for ways to be an ally when you see someone being harassed or researching model policies for your school, campus, or city, this page has something for you.
- [Resources for Friends and faith communities](#). Discover tools for organizing events, deepening your understanding of vital issues, and connecting with larger movements for change.
- [Key issues pages](#). Find information on ending discrimination, building conditions for peace, advocating for immigrant rights, ending mass incarceration, engaging in economic activism, and more.

No matter where you are in your journey, know that your actions – large and small – do make a difference and that a worldwide community is here to support you.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Learn. Lobby. Lead.

[Annual Meeting & Quaker Public Policy Institute 2017](#)

November 2-5, 2017 in Washington, DC

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Cincinnati, OH 45229

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ovym.quaker.org

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