



# OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Religious Society of Friends

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Quaker Quill 

June 2006

## Queries for Ecological Mindfulness

- Was I aware today that everything I used came from Mother Earth? How much of it did I reuse and recycle?
- Did I communicate to another person today my value of respecting all of God's creation?
- Did I thank the rain for the water that makes up most of my body?
- Did I thank a tree for providing me with my oxygen today?
- How much of my day did I spend noticing nature vs. noticing man-made objects?
- Did I feel the love that is available to me from my Mother Earth today? How did her love feel in my body?
- Did I notice the colors, textures, smells or movements of Mother Earth and her children today?

- As I ate today, did I thank the plants and animals that gave up their lives so that I may live another day?
- In what ways today did I interfere with the natural balance of Mother Earth for my immediate pleasure?
- When and how today did I express my gratitude to Mother Earth for sustaining my life today and every day?
- Have I considered today the possibility of not owning a car? How would today have been different if I had not traveled by car?

### *Seeking an Earth Restored: the Spiritual Path of Stewardship*

OVYM Annual Sessions  
July 26 - 30, 2006  
Earlham College, Richmond, IN

**Registration Materials  
Inside**

- Did I keep in mind today that I am not the end result of the evolution of life on Mother Earth? Did meditating on this belief result in any new actions or thoughts for me today?

- Did I notice today any ecological feature or habitat being destroyed? How did this knowledge influence my actions and thoughts today?

– Quaker Earthcare Witness

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Quaker Quill* is published three times a year in February, June, and October by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month prior to each publication month. Editor: Barbarie Hill, 6921 Stonington Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230; (513)232-5348 (bhill@one.net)

### OVYM officers for 2005-2006:

Virginia Wood, Presiding Clerk  
Rex Sprouse, Recording Clerk  
Paul Buckley, Treasurer  
J.P. Lund, Ass't Treasurer

### Quarterly Meeting officers:

Miami  
Ben Griffith, Presiding Clerk  
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Dinah Duvall, North Meadow Circle  
Andy Garrison, Oxford  
Murray Cox, White Rose  
Dale Blanchard, Yellow Springs

Paul Buckingham, Fort Wayne WG  
, Owensboro WG



- June 10-19 OVYM Teen Service Trip to Hominy, OK
- June 17 Advancement and Nurture Committee meeting at Eastern Hills Meeting, Cincinnati.
- June 22-25 Friends Association for Higher Education conference. George School, Newtown, PA
- June 27 Discipline Review Committee meeting at Community Friends, Cincinnati. 11a.m. - 4p.m.
- July 1-7 FGC Gathering. Washington State.
- July 9 - Friends Music Camp. Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH.  
Aug 26
- July 14 - Quaker Youth Pilgrimage  
Aug 10
- July 26-30 OVYM Annual Sessions. Earlham College, Richmond, IN
- Oct 1 OVYM Executive Committee meeting. Richmond, IN
- Oct 6-9 Young Quakes conference. Little Rock, Arkansas
- Oct 14-15 Joint Quarterly Meeting. Happy Hollow Camp, Indiana
- April 27-29, Quaker Genealogy Conference.  
2007 Wilmington and Waynesville, OH.
- Aug 10-19, FWCC Triennial. Dublin, Ireland.  
2007

## **This Is Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**

– Virginia Wood, Presiding Clerk

As we prepare to gather for our 186th Annual Sessions I thought it might be helpful to lay out for all Friends some of the activities and roles that those you have appointed or encouraged contribute to the life of the Yearly Meeting. To share with you the resources and opportunities these Friends seek to provide for all of us. These brief descriptions might be helpful to you as you are asked to provide insight to decisions that need to be made or you yourself are asked to serve.

### **Program Committees:**

**Advancement and Nurture Committee (12 members)** – Promotes spiritual growth and health in the YM through

- visitation to monthly meetings once every two years...is willing to do a second hour program
- has prepared an outreach pamphlet on the YM...is willing to distribute other materials
- sponsors a workshop day each spring...the topic this year was on vocal ministry
- has responsibility for worship opportunities at YM sessions

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee (9 members)** – Seeks to be aware of the state of affairs in the world, to listen to the voices of Friends throughout Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings, and to help individual Friends and monthly meetings with activities towards peace and in the area of social concerns.

- sponsors a lending library of videos on topics relating to peace and justice
- has care of the Peace Witness Support Fund available to Friends seeking to witness for peace
- keeps monthly meetings informed of petitions, public statements, surveys that might be used in promoting peace and justice in their communities

**Religious Education (9 members)** – Supports the religious education and spiritual nurture of young people and adults

- serves as a liaison with the youth committees
- provides two workshops days, one in the spring and one in the fall...spring workshop topic was "Rejoice: Finding and Sharing your Joy in Religious Education"
- is looking into providing a circulating library of curriculum materials for adults and young people

**Yearly Meeting Planning (9 members)** – Plans for Yearly Meeting program.

- secures speakers, workshop leaders, and worship sharing leaders.
- works closely with Advancement and Nurture Committee, Youth committees, and YM officers to assure that there is a schedule that accommodates all aspects of YM sessions: business, worship, instruction, time to play together and/or just sit and talk.

### **Youth Committees**

**Children's Program (6 members)**

- arranges for program content and leadership (child care as needed) for children ages birth to 10 during YM sessions
- liaisons with YM Planning Committee and other youth committees

**Middle Youth (9 members)**

- arranges for program content and leadership for young people age 11-13 during YM sessions
- conducts up to three retreats for young people age 11-13 between YM sessions
- liaisons with YM Planning Committee, Youth Secretary, and other youth committees

**Teen Activities Committee (9 adults, 6 teens)**

- provides supervision, support, resources and active assistance to the Youth Secretary in developing activities for high school aged teens
- assists the Youth Secretary and Teens in planning program for YM sessions as well as overnights and retreats between YM sessions...retreat in November is held at Fall Creek, others throughout year are in conjunction with quarterly meetings

- assists the Youth Secretary and Teens in planning an extended work camp experience each summer prior to YM sessions. This year the work camp will be among the Osage Indian Tribe in Hominy, Oklahoma.

#### Representative to Wider Bodies of Friends:

The Yearly Meeting seeks to be kept informed of and to participate actively in the larger body of Friends who serve as advocates for the Religious Society of Friends. These groups are American Friends Service Committee (4-6 reps); Friends Committee on National Legislation (6 reps); Friends General Conference (3 reps); Friends World Committee for Consultation (4 reps); Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns, William Penn House, Quaker United Nations Program, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Friends Peace Teams, Work Camps International, and the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs (all 1-2 reps each)

Closer to home are ministries that have evolved out of the vision of individuals or monthly meetings within our own body. Although each stands as an independent body these ministries need our ongoing concern, promotion, and participation on corporate boards and at special events. A recent event was the workday conducted by P&SC committee for the Lauramoore Home. These ministries are the Braddock Fund, Friends Home Inc., Friends Music Camp, and the Lauramoore Home.

#### Special Committees

These are committees who are fulfilling specific tasks felt to be outside of the responsibility of other committees. Three committees are serving us at this time: Discipline Revision Committee, the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Covenanting Process, and a hospitality committee for the 2008 session of the Section of the Americas.

#### Officers, Staff, and Administrative Committees

The YM has two paid part-time staff members. Both provide assistance to volunteers. The

Youth Secretary serves the Middle Youth and Teen Activities Committee and works directly with our youth. The Clerical Staff person serves the Yearly Meeting officers and committee clerks. That person also maintains the YM information site

([www.ovymnotices.blogspot.com](http://www.ovymnotices.blogspot.com)) on which is posted the current calendar of quarterly meetings or committee meetings and events. Also posted are important dates or announcements of special events sponsored by the wider body of Friends within our region or beyond.

For you the most important and visible officer is our Publications Coordinator who reminds you three times a year to tell her what is happening in your monthly meeting. She also encourages committee clerks and representatives to do the same. The result of those many promptings is this publication, the *Quaker Quill*. The publications coordinator also maintains the YM web site ([www.quaker.org/ovym/](http://www.quaker.org/ovym/)). This site gives information about each of our monthly meetings, lists the major gatherings held each year, provides the program for the upcoming annual sessions for yearly meeting or the epistles written from last years sessions, a copy of the Book of Discipline, and much more. Also serving you is a clerk, an assistant clerk, a treasurer, an assistant treasurer, an auditing committee, a budget and finance committee, a nominating committee, a personnel committee, support committees, a records coordinator, a statistician, and trustees.

Also available to you are officers and special funds managed by the Quarterly Meeting and those you know the best, the committees, officers, and services of your own monthly meeting. Put it all together and you have us. As you can see it takes a lot of us to enable our beloved Religious Society to work.

I recently sent to each of our monthly meeting clerks a letter informing them of specific committees or offices within the Yearly Meeting structure that could use people. The chronic difficulty in finding Friends to do the work of our committees is not new. It is a need that

creates both a sense of concern but also of opportunity. For it calls each of us to re-visit the questions: What is the corporate nature of our work? What does it mean to be a gathered people? What canst thou say?

The young adult Friends say this

*"The Spirit present in our gathering summoned us to be a gathered people, and spoke through the many different people and cultures here to remind us of its glory, power, and purpose...Far away meetings now have faces, stories, and friendships that make them real to us. Bridges have been built ...we will keep this contact alive through exchanges, more frequent gatherings, and opportunities to work together. Through this contact we will give strength to each other and share our gifts. We must face the future challenges of the Religious Society of Friends together."*  
Epistle World Gathering of Young Friends  
2005

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## **Grounding in God and Garlic Mustard: OVYM Work Camp**

— Deborah Jordan

When Friends gathered at Lauramoore Home on April 29th, I jokingly said that we had to make this a Quaker experience. Does putting a group of Friends together with assigned work make it a Quaker work camp? Certainly our attitude was upbeat, companionship was lively, and the weather cooperated. The work was not, however, about ending the war in Iraq or feeding the hungry in a post trauma region. Instead, we did lots of yard work on the historic Lauramoore Home grounds, the bulk of which was pulling and removing garlic mustard, an invasive plant. Those who later went on to Quaker Hill Conference Center for dinner had the opportunity to pull even more garlic mustard in their circle garden. By that time, we were so giddy with garlic mustard that we sang.

I think what made it a Quaker experience for me was sharing the Spirit through working and worshipping together. I liked working steeped in Quaker history and stories. Two Friends shared

about their experience with work camps in other countries. One attributed her original attraction to Quakerism to her previous work camp experience. While there was plenty of quiet time, you can't get together with Peace and Social Concerns Committee members without discussing the world situation. We talked about the Iraq war, immigration concerns, and food politics. We also had some uniquely Quaker conversations about simplicity and peace. Two Friends stayed over and joined the Clear Creek clerk for breakfast and Meeting.

But does pulling garlic mustard qualify as meaningful work? It was certainly therapeutic to see what we could accomplish together. Many commented how good it felt to work with their hands. A few available residents and staff expressed appreciation. We also thought about Friend Julie Owen, our contact person, who has devoted so much care to the Home. I hoped she felt our many hands extending to her during the Memorial Service for her husband that same day.

Thanks to all fifteen Friends from six Meetings who participated in the mini Work Camp sponsored by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns. Thanks to Julie Owen for being so responsive to the idea of a work camp. Consider joining us at the next work camp.

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## **OVYM Religious Education Committee**

We thought the first offering in the Quaker Quill from our recently invigorated Committee would be a report on the May 13 Workshop at the Stout Meetinghouse on Earlham Campus. Sad to say the Workshop didn't happen. Lack of interest and unanticipated difficulty in disseminating the information were the two major reasons for the cancellation. Information was sent (via mail as well as email) to listed Meeting clerks and RE clerks, once in April and again in May. It is frustrating to learn that the information was never shared in some Meetings. This also may mean that the Resources

Questionnaire we sent to Monthly Meetings never got into the right hands either. So, back to the drawing board to figure out how best to get information to our OVYM family.

From another perspective, it might be that folks are too busy to attend an all day workshop. Or perhaps the topics did not speak to what is going on in some Meetings. The goal of the Questionnaire is to find out what Monthly Meetings are doing in the area of offering religious education, and share that information in the Quaker Quill. The dynamics are different in every Meeting, but an exchange of ideas brings possibilities for a new awareness and vitality to both new and long-time attenders.

While we are not holding ourselves up as RE experts, what we have in common as a committee is an interest in finding solid and interesting RE Programs for Quaker adults and children. Among the committee, we have a variety of life experiences, years of RE-related successes and failures, and the energy to help gather and share information, help create programs and facilitate workshops. We can visit Monthly Meetings, when invited, to listen and labor together for possibilities. Members of the committee are Lou Bucklin and Diann Herzog (co-clerks), Marjorie Isaacs, Rex Sprouse, Meara Bucklin, David Gay, Donna Bisset, Richard Mitchell, Cecilia Shore, and Rachel Dean. You will be hearing more from us in the Quill and at the Yearly Sessions.

**Be sure to visit OVYM's Blog-site for Calendar dates, Announcements, Events, Memorials and links to favorite Friendly sites!**

**<http://ovymnotices.blogspot.com/>**

**SAVE IT TO YOUR "FAVORITES"  
AND CHECK BACK OFTEN**

## OVYM Annual Sessions

This year we have adopted "Seeking an Earth Restored: the Spiritual Path of Stewardship" as the theme for our yearly meeting, and this has been extraordinarily productive in helping us develop an exciting program. These include the plenary speakers Doris Ferm and Carl Magruder, and workshop leaders listed below. The youth programs are similarly inspired. As usual, our commitment to youth means their registration and accommodations are free. Please bring as many teens, middle youth and children as you can. There are also multiple opportunities to participate in programs with the children. These include the canoe trip on Thursday with the teens, the canoe trip on Friday with the middle youth, and the ice cream social on Saturday. The Simply Speaking program with the teens on Saturday offers a chance to meet with teens (other than your own) to discuss important topics. And by popular demand we are bringing back the Saturday night variety show. So start polishing up your acts. Some activities for children(5-10) include composing an Earth Song inspired by meditative walks in nature and accompanied by instruments children will make from recycled materials and natural materials; trash pick-up walk and creation of found object sculptures from these materials; nursing home visit to share music and crafts; field trips to state forest and swimming, hiking etc. Friends coming are encouraged to bring instruments to share music with each other throughout the Yearly Meeting, esp. DRUMS which help us to be earth-centered connecting with the theme this year. Is there anyone experienced in facilitating drumming sessions?? Also Friends could be thinking about musical selections for the Variety Show ahead of time and prepare something related to the theme "Seeking an Earth Restored; the Spritual Path of Stewardship". Original music is highly encouraged! We hope adults may join the young Friends on a field trip at some point and join in some crafts and music!" The teen program includes an opportunity to talk with Carl Magruder (see the plenary speaker information below), the canoe trip, a service project at Lauramoore, and facilitating

the opening worship on Wednesday. Since we are back at Earlham they will have a chance to worship at Icthus House in the evenings. And of course they will be selecting a topic to discuss with the adults for the Simply Speaking program on Saturday. Unless the group is exceptionally large, the teens and their sponsors will have very separate accommodations at Norwich House. The Middle Youth committee is exploring projects with Cope House, Right Sharing of World Resources and the Miller Farm.

### PLENARY SPEAKERS

#### *Thursday:*

Doris Ferm will speak on Stewardship and Beyond. She plans to talk about the trouble the earth is in, then go deeper into a spiritual path, and the "the new universe story" and what it means for our lives. Doris was a member of Lexington FM and OVYM for many years until she moved to Washington state several years ago. She was active in ministry, pastoral care, and social concerns. As a life-long Friend, Doris was a valuable mentor to Lexington Friends, most of whom came to Quakerism as adults and many of whom had little or no experience of Quakerism outside of Lexington Friends Meeting. In her last year with us, she was one of one of our first Living Witnesses at OVYM, and many friends will remember the nature walks she lead at Yearly Meeting. Doris has a longstanding concern for the environment and has been active in Quaker Earthcare Witness.

#### *Friday:*

Carl Magruder is a Beanite Friend who describes himself as a minister of the Gospel of the Earth. He lives at the Sierra Friends Center in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range (South Fork Yuba River Watershed), where he teaches Humanities and Ethics to high schoolers, makes his own biodiesel, composts everything he can find for the big garden, and worships with the Grass Valley Friends Meeting. Carl is convinced that Friends have an essential role to play in the societal transformation that looms.

He will speak on *The Gospel of the Earth*. The path to right relationship with the whole of Creation is most essentially a spiritual one. Technology will not save us! The roots of Quaker ecospirituality have been with us from the start, and communion with Earth provides unique opportunities for joy, connection, and hard work! One of the old Quaker tests was, "Is there life in it?" When this query is applied to vocational seeking, stewardship choices, or relationship issues, it has an uncanny way of getting to the heart of the matter. John Woolman assures us that Love is the first motion, but for him ethics were the inevitable outcome of that Love. How can we live into a Christian ethics that leads to an Earth Restored?

#### THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

1. *Caring for the Earth: Planning and Cultivating an Earthcare Committee at Your Meeting*. Bloomington and Community Monthly Meetings are the only two meetings in OVYM to have Earthcare committees. How and why did they get started? What sustains them? Does OVYM need a committee focused on this concern? Experience some activities from these two Monthly Meeting committees and discern your calling related to Earthcare. This workshop is open to all ages and will consist of 30% discussion, 30% presentation, 30% experiential, 10% worship and 100% open to the Spirit.  
Presenters: Marci Ankrom, member of Bloomington Monthly Meeting and OVYM Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. Deborah Jordan, member of Community Monthly Meeting, former Quaker Earthcare Witness Program Clerk

2. *Embracing Earthcare as a Religious Calling*. Friends are called to be more than merely secular environmentalists. We are moved more compellingly to lifestyles and activism for the Earth if we vividly sense the Divine not only in ourselves and others, but in all of nature. How might we open ourselves to such experience as part of our deep listening practices? And how might a right relationship with Creation be seen

as an expression of our integrity testimony?  
Presenter: Bill Cahalan, an organic gardener and suburban sprawl activist, has led natural awareness retreats since 1983. He wrote an article published in *Friends Journal* in March, and a chapter for the book *Earthcare for Friends*. Maximum number 20. Adults and older teens. Presentation 50%, worship sharing 30%, & discussion 20%.

3. *Sacred Gardens: Gardening as a Spiritual Path*. Workshop will be partly experiential (really!) partly lecture/discussion. In our era when multitasking is the norm and incessant activity is the name of the game, the garden is one of the few places on earth where one can do one thing at a time. It teaches us to be mindful of small things. The practice of gardening can be a spiritual practice that leads us to deepen ourselves and our connection to Divine Spirit. We will learn to create a sacred garden that fosters this connection. Participants are limited to 12. Presenter: Kate Anthony is a long term member of Community Friends Meeting. She is a psychologist and was caretaker/gardener for the Community Friends Meeting house and five acres for nine years.

4. *Developing an Earth Friendly Community*. Presenters: Faith Morgan and Pat Murphy and Megan Quinn.

#### FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

1. *Expressing Our Earth Spirituality Through Music: An experiential workshop*  
Participants of this experiential workshop are asked to bring instruments, music, and/or earth-centered songs to share (original or not) reflecting earth spirituality to share with others. Jamie will start by sharing some music that was inspired by the intertwining of the natural world and the "Inner Light." Presenter: Jamie Fóta, a member of Community Friends Monthly Meeting in Cincinnati, is a singer/songwriter and a high school science teacher. Suggested group size: 15



2. *How Friends can influence their members of Congress on the issues they care about.* The presentation will be a mix of presentation and audience participation, mostly for adults. Presenter: Alicia McBride, FCNL. Alicia McBride joined the staff of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in 2004 to become the organization's first Director for Online Communications. She recently oversaw the redesign and relaunch of FCNL's web site and is helping the organization develop and implement a five-year strategic communications plan. She holds a masters degree in Technical Communication from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she designed an award-winning educational program to teach biology to engineering students and worked on several projects connecting political action, nonprofits, and technology. She received her undergraduate degree from Carleton College in 2000. Alicia lives in Takoma Park, Maryland with her husband, Sam Garman.

3. An examination of stewardship of the earth/environment from the point of view of the Bible. Presenter: Paul Buckley, OVYM Friend. All ages welcome. He says he cannot estimate what portion of the session would be for worship, for teaching.

4. *Why Sustainability? The Spiritual and Moral Challenges of Declining Resources.* Following an overview of the evidence of declining global resources (energy, clean water and air); their connection to our American way of life; and the mechanics of government power supporting their exploitation and distribution, discussion will focus on opportunities for resolving spiritual and moral challenges and options to achieve resource sustainability. Suggested pre-requisites to make this workshop more productive are a viewing of one or both of the videos that will be shown continually in the registration area: *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*; and *"The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.* Max number of participants: 30. Open to Teens and adults. Estimated Percent division of time: Worship: 2%; exposition: 68%; discussion: 30%.

Presenter: David Pilbrow, North Meadow MM, OVYM. David is the lobbyist for the Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation.

5. Faith Morgan and Pat Murphy and Megan Quinn. See Thursday.

#### *INTEREST GROUPS* (as of May 15th)

Alicia McBride. A presentation about FCNL's "green building" designed mostly for adults.

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### **OVYM Art Gallery**

A new feature at the 2006 OVYM yearly meeting sessions will be a gallery in which Friends can share the fruits of their artistic talents. The gallery will be located in 124 Boling Hall. We cannot use nails or tape on the walls, but there will be hooks for hanging paintings and photographs, and tables for craft items and sculptures. We cannot guarantee security since this room will be left unlocked all day so that members can visit before or after worship sharing or workshops. Please e-mail David Wood before July 8 at [dvwood@donet.com](mailto:dvwood@donet.com) if you have an item or items for the gallery. Include information about the type of art, size, weight, and how each piece may be best displayed. If possible send a JPEG digital picture. The OVYM Planning Committee will be responsible for selecting items, considering suitability as well as display needs. Art objects should be brought to the registration table on Wednesday. We hope you have items to contribute, and of course that you will take the opportunity to visit the gallery.

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## Ohio Valley YM - 186th Session, July 26th-30th, 2006.

### Seeking an Earth Restored: the Spiritual Path of Stewardship

	Adults	Teen	Middle Youth (MY)	Children
	Wilkinson auditorium, Runyon Ctr.	Norwich Center	Bundy	Orchard Room, Runyon Ctr.
<b>Wednesday - Registration 12 - 9 pm</b>				<i>Site Manager: Diann</i>
12:00 Noon Peace Vigil, Courthouse Square, Richmond				
2:30-5:00 Worship & Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	2:30 - 5:00 Get acquainted	2:30 - 5 Get Acquainted/ Games	2:15 - 5 Program - get acquainted activities; set up the classroom	
4-6 pm Open Swim				
5:15 - 6:15 Dinner				
6:15 Newcomer orientation (cafeteria side room) 6:15 - 6:45 Singing	6:30-7:00 Schedule, program		6:30 - 7 Children&Sponsor Orientation - meet the teachers; discuss plans	
7:00- 9:00 Get Acquainted Activity - ALL AGES, leading to Welcoming Worship (under care of Teens) at 8:00 Runyon				
9:15 - 10 Interest Groups	9:00 - 10 Parent /Sponsor /Teen Meeting	9-10 Parents meet with middle youth leaders and staff	With Parents	
10-12 Social time-Coffee Shop	10 - 11 Teen Time in dorms	10 - Quiet time	10 - Quiet time	
11 - Quiet time in dorms				
<b>Thursday - Registration 7:30-8:00 AM, 12:15-12:45 and 5:15-5:45 PM</b>				<i>Site Manager:</i>
7:00 - 7:30 Worship - Stout Meeting House; Walking Meditation (start from Runyon)				
7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast				
8:45 - 9:45 Worship Sharing in College Hall	8:45-5:00 Canoe Trip	8:45-12:15 Program	<b>8:30 - 12 Program</b>	
10 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	(Adults Welcome)		8:45 - 9:30 Worship Sharing 9:30 - 12 Program	
12:15 - 1:15 Lunch	Packed Lunch	12:15-1:15 Lunch	12:15 - 1:15 Lunch	
1:45 - 3:15 Workshops †		1:30-5 Program	1:30 - 5	
3:30 - 5 Business				
4 - 5:15 Open Swim				
5:15 - 6:15 Dinner				
6:15 - 6:45 Singing	Gather for Plenary	6:15:8:45 Program	With Parents	
<b>7 - 8:30 Plenary Session: Doris Ferm, PacYM Stewardship and Beyond</b>			6:45 - 8:45 Program	
9 - 10 Evening Worship Sharing or Interest Groups	Ichthys House, Clyde Johnson, Interest Groups	With Parents		With Parents
10-12 Social time-Coffee Shop	10 - 11 Teen Time (dorm)	10 - Quiet time in dorms	10 - Quiet time in dorms	
11 - Quiet time in dorms				
<b>† Thursday Workshops:</b>				LOCATIONS
Faith Morgan, Pat Murphy, Megan Quinn. Developing an Earth Friendly Community.				LBC
Kate Anthony. Gardening as a Spiritual Practice.				LBC
Bill Cahalan, Embracing Earthcare as a Religious Calling				LBC
Marcie Ankrom and Deborah Jordan, Caring for the Earth: Planning and Cultivating an Earthcare Committee at our Meeting				LBC
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Bookstore is in the Leeds Gallery in Runyon. Coffee and Registration are in the lounge outside the Leeds Gallery. The exhibits area is the corridor in Runyon. The Art Gallery is in the Landrum Boling Center 124. The Silent Center is in Stout Meeting house or ESR. Wifi (wireless computer network) access will be available in Runyon and the LBC.</b></p>				

	Adults	Teen	Middle Youth	Children
	Wilkinson auditorium, Runyon Ctr.	Norwich Center?	Bundy	Orchard Room, Runyon Ctr.
<b>Friday - Registration 7:30-8:00 AM, 12:15-12:45 and 5:15-5:45 PM Runyon</b>				<i>Site Manager:</i>
7:00 - 7:30 Worship - Stout; Walking Meditation starts from Runyon				
7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast				
8:45 - 9:45 Worship Sharing	9:15 - 11:00 Meeting for worship with attention to business	8:45 - 5:00 Canoe Trip	<b>8:30 - 12 Program</b>	
10 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business			12:15 lunch	
12:15 - 1:15 lunch				
1:45 - 3:15 Workshops †				
3:30 - 4:30 Memorial Meeting - Stout			1:30 - 4:30 Field Trip	
4 - 5:15 Open Swim				
5:15 - 6:15 Dinner				
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Tri to Farm recycle/compost?				
6:15 Newcomer orientation (cafeteria side room)				
6:15 - 6:45 Singing				
<b>7 - 8:30 Plenary Session: Carl Magruder, PacYM. The Gospel of the Earth.</b>			6:45-8:45 Program	
9 - 10 Evening Worship Sharing, Interest Groups and Shape Note Singing (Sacred	9-10 Ichthys House, Clyde Johnson, Interest Groups	With Parents	With Parents	
10-12 Social time-Runyon coffee	10 - 11 Teen Time in dorm	10 - Quiet time in dorms	10 - Quiet time in dorms	
11 - Quiet time in dorms				
<b>† Workshops: Friday</b>				LOCATION
David Pilbrow, Why Sustainability, the spiritual challenge of declining resources.				LBC
Faith Morgan, Pat Murphy, Megan Quinn. Developing an Earth Friendly Community.				LBC
Paul Buckley, the biblical Basis of Earthcare				LBC
Jamie Fota, Expressing our Earth Spirituality through Music				LBC
Alica McBride, how F/friends can influence their members of Congress.				LBC
<b>Saturday - Registration 7:30-8:00 am; 12:15-12:45 pm; 5:15 - 5:45 pm</b>				<i>Site Manager</i>
7:00 - 7:30 Worship - Stout; Walking Meditation (start from Runyon)				
7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast				
8:45 - 9:45 Worship Sharing	8:45-2 p.m. Service trip to Lauramore?	8:30-12 Program	8:30 - 12 Program	
10 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business			12:15 - 1:15 Lunch	
12:15 - 1:15 Lunch				
1:30-3:00 Living Witness: Ron & Jane Haldeman		1:30-5:00 Program	1:30-5:00 Program	
3:15-5:00 Simply Speaking: Teens meet Adults + Ice Cream Social at Lauramoore				
5:15 - 6:15 Dinner				
6:15 - 6:45 Singing				
<b>7:00 Variety Show</b>			7:30 - 8:30 Childcare for ages birth - 7, as needed	
9 - 11 Interest Groups	9-10 Ichthys House, Interest Groups	With Parents	With Parents	
10-12 Social time-Coffee Shop	10-11 Teen time	10 - Quiet time in dorm	10 - Quiet time in dorms	
11 - Quiet time in dorms				
<b>Sunday - Registration 7:30-8:00 a.m., Runyon</b>				<i>Site Manager</i>
7:00 - 7:30 Worship - Stout Meetinghouse; Walking Meditation (start from Runyon)				
7:30-8:30 Breakfast				
8:45-9:45 Worship Sharing	8:45 - 9:45 Closing & Epistle	8:45 - 9:45 Closing & Epistle	8:45 - 9:45 Work on Epistles and clean up	
10:00 - 11:00 Business Meeting and read Epistles				
11:15 - 12:15 Worship - Stout Meetinghouse				
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch and Committee Meetings - 2 p.m. Checkout				

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
**July 26-30, 2006 at Earlham College**  
**REGISTRATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all attenders

Please list ages of underage attenders

Full Name	Jr.	M.Y.	Teen	Workshops:	
	0-11	11-14	14-18	Thurs	Fri
_____					
_____					
_____					
_____					
_____					
_____					
_____					
_____					

**Special Needs:** How many in your party are vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging:** There are only a total of 40 beds in an air conditioned dorm. Those with physical needs and plenary speakers will be given first priority, then the elderly. All children, middle youth and teens must have a parent or sponsor staying in their dorm.

- I have the following special need for air conditioning \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to be put on the waiting list for an air conditioned room
- I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ who is not on this form

**Keys:** Earlham charges \$40 for each lost room key. OVYM will cover the cost when reported, but the individual losing the key is asked to pay the yearly meeting this cost after the sessions are over.

**Workshops:** Choose and enter numbers in table above from the following choices:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Thursday</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing Earth Friendly Community</li> <li>2. Gardening as Spiritual Practice</li> <li>3. Embracing Earthcare as Religious Calling</li> <li>4. Earthcare Committee at Monthly Meeting</li> </ol> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Friday</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Sustainability, a Spiritual Challenge</li> <li>6. Developing an Earth Friendly Community</li> <li>7. The Biblical Basis of Earthcare</li> <li>8. Earth Spirituality through Music</li> <li>9. Influencing Members of Congress</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**You must bring your own linens and towels.** None are available at Earlham. **Also bring Fans.**

**Late Registration:** A late registration fee of \$10 per person will be charged for registrations received after July 11.

Arrival (circle):      W, Th, Fri, Sat              Morning    Afternoon    Evening

## RESERVATIONS

### Meals

**Full Time Adult:** Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$84.80 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Full Time Children (0-18)** Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Time Attenders:** Indicate which meals you will eat at Earlham. Enter the number of meals for the entire party in each space, adults (who pay) and children separately, i.e. 2A/2C.

Breakfasts	Th	_____	Fri	_____	Sat	_____	Sun	_____	Adult Meals x \$6.00 =	_____
Lunches	Th	_____	Fri	_____	Sat	_____	Sun	_____	Adult Meals x \$7.00 =	_____
Dinners	Wed	_____	Th	_____	Fri	_____	Sat	_____	Adult Meals x \$11.00 =	_____
									<b>Total Meals =</b>	_____

### Rooms

**Full Time Adult:** Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x (\$106 if AC, \$92 if not) = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Full Time Children:** Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Time Attenders:** Indicate as above how many will stay in dorms which nights.  
 Wed \_\_\_\_\_ Th \_\_\_\_\_ Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Total Adult Beds \_\_\_\_\_ x (\$27 or \$23) = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Rooms =** \_\_\_\_\_

### Charges Summary

	Meals Total	_____
	Rooms Total	_____
Registration Fee: Number of Adults x \$10 (\$20 if sent after July 8)		_____
Contribution to OVYM		_____
<b>Total (checks payable to OVYM)</b>		_____

**Your registration is not complete until we receive this total or a \$50 deposit (non-refundable after July 8)**

**Mail by July 9** to Lisa Cayard-OVYM, 5712 Brant Rd, Morrow, OH, 45152-2557

There will be no telephone or e-mail registration.

**Volunteering:** Mark the activities you are willing to assist with during yearly meeting. Your name will be forwarded to the coordinators of these activities. They will ask you to designate a time when you check in.

Youth Programs:     Teens             Middle Youth         Children     Babies  
 Driving for field trips:             Teen field trip         Middle Youth field trip  
 Bookstore             Registration             Assisting a person with physical limitations

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**Families:** The Yearly Meeting pays all costs for children 18 years of age or younger, to encourage families to participate in the sessions. However, be sure to register all persons who will be attending, including children and babies for whom there is no charge to you.

**Middle Youth Program** participants are those aged 11, 12, 13 or 14 on July 26, 2006. 11 year olds may choose either the Children's Program or the Middle Youth Program. 14 year olds may choose either the Middle Youth Program or the Teen Program.

**Teen Program** participants are those aged 14 on July 26, 2006, through those who graduated from high school in 2006. 14 year olds may choose either the Middle Youth group or the Teen group.

**Parents Please Note:** All teens and middle youth must be housed with their parent(s) or a designated sponsor. **If the teen's parents will not be staying in the dorm with them (for example there is a middle youth sibling), another person who is staying in that dorm must be designated as the teen's dorm sponsor. Parents and sponsors must agree to the following responsibilities:**

1. Attend the parent/sponsor orientation meeting at 9:15 Wednesday evening
2. Parents/sponsors are responsible for teens after 11:00 PM except Saturday
3. Make sure the 11:00 PM quiet time is honored, and that youth stay in the dorm after this time
4. Teen parents/sponsors are responsible for monitoring the teens on your hall one night during yearly meeting after lights are out, to make sure they are quiet and in their own rooms. (parents/sponsors will each take one night.)

**All Middle Youth and Teens must have a permission slip on file to participate in these programs. Please be sure to send the attached forms to the registrar with the rest of your reservation. Be sure to send a separate form for each participant.**

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**TEEN & MIDDLE YOUTH REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

When will you arrive? \_\_\_\_\_ How long can you stay? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

(Each Middle Youth or Teen must have a parent or sponsor staying in the same dorm)

**Parent/ Guardian Consent and Medical Release:** I give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Teen or Middle Youth program at the OVYM sessions held at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, July 26-30, 2006. I hereby release the OVYM and its staff and volunteers from any liability for any injury or illness my son/daughter may experience during the Yearly Meeting. I authorize the staff or volunteers of OVYM, or the above-named sponsor, to consent to any emergency care that may be needed in my absence, following recommendations of qualified health care providers. In the event that my son/daughter needs special medications and is unable to administer them, I give permission for an adult to administer the medications. I will be responsible for any medical treatment.

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Registrar's Notes:**

Earlham College requires that we let them know a guaranteed number of participants two weeks before yearly meeting begins. OVYM will have to pay the first day's meals and room for anyone who registers but does not attend. We are therefore asking for a \$50 deposit to complete the registration process by July 9. The deposit is not refundable after July 8. Anyone who has difficulty paying for the cost of attending Yearly Meeting should first ask your monthly meeting if any assistance is available. Miami Quarterly Meeting also has funds available to support attendance at Yearly Meeting through the Cincinnati Fund. Contact Richard Mitchell at (859) 277-6101 or Susan Hyde at (937) 767-7756 for information about this resource.

There will not be a key deposit this year. Earlham charges \$40 for lost keys. We ask that anyone who loses a key reimburse OVYM for this expense. We will again provide those handy lanyards to help keep track of keys. We had no lost keys at Wilmington, so let's try to continue this great record!

**Earlham College does not provide linens or towels, so it is very important for everyone to bring towels, pillows, sheets and blankets or sleeping bags. It is also a good idea to bring a fan, because most of the rooms are not air-conditioned. Alarm clocks are also helpful.**

Please stop by the registrar's desk frequently to chat and maybe help out. I'll look forward to seeing you all!

Your registrar-in-training, Lisa Cayard

## QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

### Miami

Miami Quarter met on February 19<sup>th</sup> at Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville, Oh. Eastern Hills Meeting presented a program featuring a panel discussion with six men who were conscientious objectors during various periods in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The business meeting discussed the following items:

- Joint Quarterly Meeting will take place October 14 and 15, 2006 at Happy Hollow Campground. Ben Griffith, Dale Blanchard, Victoria Burke and Lou Bucklin are serving on the planning committee for the event. Bloomington Monthly Meeting and OVYM Religious Education Committee have offered additional assistance. Friends should be looking for further communication about details in the months to come.
- Community Friends brought forth a request to the Miami Quarterly Meeting asking the U.S. Congress pass the FCNL STEP resolution, which would resolve that it is U.S. military policy that U.S. troops and bases be withdrawn from Iraq (without a time table). Friends agreed to minute support of the resolution and forward support to FCNL, and a cover letter expressing support to U.S. Representatives and Senators representing the districts included in the Miami Quarterly Meeting.
- Lyn Day reported for the Trustees of the burial plots at Spring Grove Cemetery. The cemetery is located off the Mitchell exit of I-75 near Winton in Cincinnati. Miami Quarterly Meeting owns space in the cemetery for use by OVYM Friends and others at the discretion of the trustees. The Trustees are Frank Huss, Hugh Keily, Lyn Day and Roland Kreager. Trustees have been made aware that the space has not been surveyed and marked properly for

use by the Miami Quarterly Meeting of Friends. The trustees recommend that the space be surveyed and the cost borne by Miami Quarterly Meeting at a cost of \$3385.00. Friends approved.

Miami Quarter also met on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Louisville Friends Meeting. State of Society reports were read and discussed.

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### Whitewater

The most recent session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting was held from on Seventh Day, Fourth Month 15, 2006, at Bloomington Friends Meetinghouse. After an opportunity for coffee and fellowship upon arrival, Friends held a meeting for worship and then shared the State of Society reports from most of the constituent meetings. By intent, no other business was conducted, because the session was intended as a worship-centered spiritual retreat with focus on building the spiritual community of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. After lunch, Friends shared get-acquainted and worship-sharing activities, and the session concluded with a closing meeting for worship. Although still an unfortunately small fraction of the total membership of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, attendance, somewhere around 35, was encouraging, and all reports indicate that Friends who attended found the session to be spiritually very uplifting and a delightful opportunity for fellowship, including meeting new F/friends. Rex Sprouse, Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, encourages all Friends to join us at future sessions. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting regularly meets on the third Seventh Day of First Month, Fourth Month, and Tenth Month. The next session will be the joint Quarterly Meeting (combining both Whitewater and Miami Quarters) in Tenth Month 2006.



## MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

### **Bloomington Meeting**

– Terry Reynolds, correspondent

Bloomington Friends truly enjoy each other's company and draw strength from being together. Our kitchen and piano room buzz after meeting for worship, as we share details of our lives during our time of fellowship. The avid readers among us took pleasure in conversation during the book sale recently sponsored by our Library Committee. Many of us also enjoyed each other's company at another round of Dinners for 8. Our annual Evening of the Arts enlightened us as to gifts possessed by many of our members and attenders, and gave us a chance to have dessert and dance together. Our closeness deepens our worship.

At monthly business sessions we changed our membership procedure to match OVYM's Faith and Practice, and we established a Clerk of Records position. Friends reached clearness on a plan for more efficient use of space in our meetinghouse, which will soon be implemented. The upcoming OVYM teen trip awakened us to concerns some of us have regarding our Religious Society's relationship with Native Americans/American Indians.

One of our monthly query sessions focused on the queries provided by the WQM Nominating Committee. We later hosted our Quarterly Meeting, which was attended by approximately 30 Friends.

We increased our awareness by holding a forum featuring the Executive Director of the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination. We also held a forum to learn about Pendle Hill, and another to make priority recommendations to FCNL. Our Earth Care Witness Committee published queries to help us consider ways to conserve energy. We recently endorsed

FCNL's Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace Resolution, and we co-sponsored an event organized by Save Darfur-Bloomington. Two Friends participated in the Crop Walk raising funds to fight hunger and aid refugees, both locally and abroad.

We mourn the death of Hazel Smith, who was the last living founding member of our meeting. Because she was infirmed for some time, many currently connected with our meeting did not know Hazel very well or at all, but we are all grateful for her light and for her part in establishing our beloved faith community.

We hold member Lou Bucklin tenderly in the light as he continues chemotherapy treatment for leukemia.

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### **Campus Meeting**

– Jim and Millie Ramsey, correspondents

Members of the meeting served lunch to the needy at Your Father's Kitchen on Saturday, April 1 in Wilmington. The members were Patricia Thomas, Lenna Mae Gara, Summer McBrayer, Levi Tkach, Millie Ramsey, and Jim Ramsey.

Sharon Thompson's request to have her name removed from membership was approved. She and her husband are moving to Ross County.

Linda Sears has applied for membership to the meeting.

"Eyes Wide Open Ohio" on exhibit by AFSC in memory of victims of the Iraq War was on display at the Quaker Heritage Center from March 28 through April 2. It was a soul-wrenching exhibit.

Members of the meeting held a peace vigil on Saturday, March 18 at a corner of the campus.

On April 8 Summer McBrayer and Steve Potthof represented the meeting at a discussion at Earlham School of Religion on strengthening vocal ministry led by Lloyd Lee Wilson.

On April 2 Tom Mullen presented a Quaker Lecture "Believing is Seeing" in the McCoy Room at Kelly Center.

Patricia Thomas will represent the meeting at a Friends' Ministers Conference on "The Living Christ Today" in San Antonio, Texas in November.

Levi Tkach of Campus Meeting graduated from Wilmington College on May 14. Levi was honored by being chosen to give a farewell speech to fellow classmates at the graduation ceremony.

Marjorie Young, a long-time member of the meeting passed away April 11 after a prolonged illness.

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## **Clear Creek Meeting**

*- Cecile Holvik, correspondent*

Our annual Retreat was held in March and emphasized new ways of experiencing spirituality which might be a little different in manner.

We divided into three groups and chose one of three methods. Using creative writing as a method, Andrea Miotto encouraged us to write what came quickly to mind in a stream of consciousness style. Maureen McCarthy led a second group in a walking exercise. And Lonny Valentine led his group into experiencing spirituality as it relates to social justice problems.

The entire group was introduced to an hour of chair yoga by Jenny LoveIsbell, a student at ESR who is doing an internship in this subject.

She hopes to be able to conduct a long-term session for the entire membership of the Meeting.

We congratulate Cathy Habschmidt who has contributed a chapter to the book "A Quaker Bible Reader" edited by Paul Buckley and Stephen Angell. Her chapter is entitled "Letter and Spirit: Reading Paul and Listening for God."

In April three members of Clear Creek Meeting travelled to Guatemala to attend the annual gathering of FWCC (Section of the Americas.) They were Susan Lee Barton, Cathy Habschmidt and Krystin Schmidt. They report that the hospitality and exchange of ideas was "fantastic". Many new friends were made.

In cooperation with First Friends Meeting and West Richmond Friends Meeting, Clear Creek has agreed to provide a large outdoor billboard which will point out the locations of the three meetings. In addition, a web site will be developed which will mention all the different Quaker-connected organizations in Richmond. (For example, The Lauramoore Home, Friends Children's School, FUM, etc. It is hoped that this new endeavor will bring more visibility to the work of Friends locally.

As the term ended, college and highschool students graduating were honored by a simple pitch-in.

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## **Community Meeting**

*- Jean Stoffregen, correspondent*

The Friendly Friday Coffee House March 24th brought out an enthusiastic audience and raised money to support the projected youth work trip to the Oklahoma Friends Missions to the Osage in June. In a wonderfully varied program we heard folk dance music played on an accordion, Indian flute music, classical piano, clarinet and French horn numbers. Then a quartet of students from the College of Music brought us classical numbers on cello, violin, viola and

piano. The program concluded with jazz selections on the saxophone. What a wealth of musical talent there is among Friends in Southwestern Ohio.

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## **Dayton Meeting**

*– David Wood, correspondent*

It has been an eventful "quarter" for Dayton Friends Meeting. On March 25 we had our third meeting with young Friends on the Friends Peace Testimony and Conscientious Objection. Then on April 29,30 we had an overnight retreat at Quaker Knoll camp, a fine facility run by Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Jane Berger and Marianne Lockert led the program on Outreach and Inreach. This year our traditional Easter breakfast was at the home of the Scarpellis. Most recently, on May 6,7, we co-hosted Eyes Wide Open, Ohio with Mack Memorial Church, highlighted by a Brethren/Quaker mini-service by the boots at noon Sunday. Cooperation with Mack Memorial, where we meet on first days, has also included participating in their work days and some joint first day school sessions. Other first day school sessions have included a visit by local Hindus and a visit to an Islamic school. We now have our own web site [Dayton.quaker.org](http://Dayton.quaker.org) Pay us a visit at 1717 Salem or at the website.

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## **Eastern Hills Meeting**

*– Franchot Ballinger, correspondent*

Like the other meetings, Eastern Hills recently approved its State of the Society report. Our meeting is a "bridge" meeting, like Community and Campus, in that we hold membership in Wilmington Yearly Meeting as well as in OVYM. Using queries suggested by Wilmington Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel as our guide in preparing our report, we were led to discover the many ways that our

individual presence and participation in Meeting have transformed us. We saw, for example, that activities such as sharing our spiritual journeys and our Second Hour discussions have strengthened our faith community as we have come to know each other better in "those things that are eternal." We older members were also humbled and grateful when we saw how very effective our teens are in carrying our peace witness to the greater Cincinnati community.

It is the custom of Eastern Hills to consider a set of queries before Meeting for Worship on the day of our Meeting for Business and again before Meeting for Business. Recently, our clerk, Tom Hill, has been reading from the new queries approved at last year's Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Like the State of the Society queries, these, too, have challenged us and led us to new understandings of ourselves and each other.

By the time you read this, our meeting will have celebrated the high school graduation of four of our teens: Nathaniel and Jeremy Coppock, Grace Montgomery, and Matthew Wispe.

We have been inspired by the commitment to peace and the courage of Daniel Coppock, son of Linda and Jim Coppock and Earlham student. Daniel has made the decision to join the Christian Peacemakers Team. Our prayers will accompany Daniel as he begins this vital and challenging new ministry.

One of our more unusual Second Hour programs occurred in March when Christine Guenther spoke to us. Christine is one of 26 German volunteers assigned to the United States through Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, an organization started in the 1950s in Germany as a response to the genocidal policies carried out during WWII. Volunteers are placed in settings to help elderly Holocaust survivors, in Holocaust education and in homeless shelters or low income day care centers. Christine and a Jewish couple she helps were featured in an April 21 Cincinnati Enquirer article.

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## Hopewell Meeting

— Sherita Campbell, correspondent

Hopewell's second open house, October 2, was a success, though not as many were able to attend this year. Those who were there had an excellent time and the sharing and visitation were wonderful, the food abundant. The wedding of a Friend was well attended and we wish her and her husband well as they begin a new life in another city. We shall miss them. Our Meeting's sojourning Friend is back from visiting her home in Columbia and we rejoice in her safe arrival in Meeting and at ESR. We mourn, as do all Friends, the death of our beloved Ray Stewart, the memorial is at First Friends in Indianapolis, Feb. 4. Hopewell will also remember him during Worship on Feb. 5. We invite all Hopewell members and attenders to come and celebrate Ray's life as one of the original Meeting members. He taught us all the path of service, humility, courage, to act upon our convictions, all with a sprinkling of humor. Since we are all from different counties the policy for winter Meetings has been determined to keep the Meeting house open except when the roads are impossible for some to navigate. In this same vein of thinking our Christmas project was to send money from the Meeting to Doctors Without Borders, while each of us picked a project from our respective communities to support with help from Hopewell. Our second hour discussion has been studying the work of Elias Hicks, working on a minute concerning how we want to define marriage in our Meeting and to write a minute to make it easier to answer those who request to be married under the care of our Meeting. We are also discussing the queries about tolerance and diversity in our lives and the life of the Meeting. Money is set aside to help an Earlham student, we are studying the possibility of having workshops and programs during weekends in nice weather. These workshops would be spirituality in writing and art, singing, creativity and various other workshops that can use the talents of members of our Meeting and friends of Friends. We continue to hold in the light those who work, walk and wait for Peace and Justice.

## Lexington Meeting

— Gail Koehler, correspondent

The first line from our State of the Meeting Report is apt here, too: "Our meeting continues to be a place of worship, community and spiritual growth." Since January, the activities we've been involved in include:

-First Hour discussions that covered consideration of our monthly queries; Latino immigration into the Bluegrass; The United Nations; Sallie B. King's curriculum "A Quaker Response To Christian Fundamentalism"; a consideration of our environment and the viewing a DVD by David Suzuki; the gospel of Luke.

-First Day School where F/friends considered creation stories; spirituality and art; the Easter story; the environment; and produced and performed a puppet parable theater. We also enjoyed a field trip to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati (which we called the Underground Railway museum).

-potlucks where we shared "musical musings"; worked on revisions to the Book of Discipline; considered what might be seen as contradictory Quaker traditions--the prophetic impulse toward justice and righteousness, and the reverential pull toward compassionate lovingkindness-which grew from our continuing labors to find ways to lovingly and reverentially conduct discussions on topics where we have strong opposing opinions; reviewed the charitable organizations we support; drafted the Report mentioned above, which provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our ongoing examination of our quality of worship, not just at First Day, but in our various committee meetings, social gatherings, worship sharings, and clearness committees; and we also simply enjoyed our first games night for as long as anyone gathered could remember.

-our annual retreat to Pine Mountain Settlement School, where we engaged in worship, nature walks, orienteering, craft activities (weaving and stained glass assembly), companionable

informal discussion, the talent night, and a musical program prior to worship on First Day. We were enriched by the presence of some Kentucky Friends who live too far away to join us regularly in worship.

-the Carlisle Friends worship group which continues to meet on Second Sundays at the home of David Blair: 611 Rose Hill Road, Carlisle, KY. 859-289-7637.

-in the Joys and Concerns section of our newsletter we've marked the recent deaths of family members of Friends, and continuing health struggles. We have joyfully welcomed into membership a new Friend.

-continuing involvement in the larger community-particularly the celebration of Black

History Month by hosting an event free and open to the public of music provided by the Northern Kentucky Brotherhood and an actor who portrayed Frederick Douglass; participation in BUILD, an interfaith organization working toward justice in Lexington; a worship exchange organized by the Downtown Christian Unity Task Force; and the ongoing Thursday early evening Peace Vigil at Triangle Park, now running for more than 230 weeks.

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## **Louisville Meeting**

*— Dona Bisset, correspondent*

Things happening in Louisville Friends Meeting since January 2006:

A February Threshing Session was held to offer Guidelines to Committees for Clearness for Marriage and to address the spirituality of ceremonies held "under the care" of the Meeting.

A February Threshing Session and a March Discussion on the topics of:

1. Drafting of a minute of welcome to the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and queer attenders and members of our community.
2. Considering prayerfully whether our meeting should treat a request for "marriage under the care of the meeting" from a same-gender couple the same as we would treat a similar request from a female-male couple.

While both sessions were well attended and Friends sensed being ready to move forward, there has been no formal approval of such at Business Meeting.

Willie and Susan Beaty-Wilson welcomed their first child, Jonathan William, on January 11th. Jonathan has become a frequent visitor on Sundays.

Achai, Nyiaou and James Deng announced the birth of a new daughter, and sister, Adhel, at 8:00 a.m., Jan.14, 2006.

Our Peace and Social Concerns cosponsored the EYES WIDE OPEN exhibit which was held in Louisville April 7-14. Each pair of the three hundred pairs of combat boots represented one man or one woman who has been killed in combat in Iraq. Some from the Meeting helped staff the exhibit.

The monthly Worship-Sharing with Friends in Corydon continues on first Sundays at the home of Doris and Andrew Best. The worship service is at 11:00am and is followed by a potluck.

Owensboro Worship Group continues to meet every first and third Sunday. Because they have members and attenders from both Evansville, Indiana and Owensboro, Kentucky they have found a new location for worship in Henderson, Kentucky at Paf House, owned by Zion UCC Church.

The recent addition of so many young children to our Meeting Family has been a life-changing event for the Meeting. We are going through an adjustment period both in worship and outside of worship. A recent discussion on this topic, sponsored by the Religious Education Committee, was held to address the concerns of

including very young attenders in worship. There was sharing of what adults remembered from their own childhood of being present during worship. Parents were asked what they want for their children from our worship here in LFM. It turns out they want for their children what they are finding for themselves -- discovery and acceptance of who they are and where they are at this particular time in their lives. It was a conversation that was nourishing on many levels. The RE Committee encourages Friends to remain open to the possibilities that changes in the dynamics of our worship can allow. We each enter the worship room expectantly. What happens during a worship session is a result of those in attendance.

We enjoyed a visit from the FGC Religious Education Committee at the end of April. Louisville Friends provided weekend hospitality and were treated to a Saturday evening performance of a curriculum-in-the-making by some members of the committee. New friendships were made and old ones were refreshed.

The marriage of David Changaris and Mona Hight was accomplished, in good order, under the care of the Meeting, on Derby Day, May 6.

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## **Yellow Springs Meeting**

*- Carl Hyde, correspondent*

Yellow Springs Meeting has welcomed four valued new members in recent months. One of them has introduced us to the "Co-op America" program. Friends can now purchase Fair Trade coffee and cocoa at the meeting house.

Friends sponsored a benefit concert by Pop Wagner. Proceeds supported the Friends Music Camp, the Senior Center and the Children's Center.

Eve Williams, a Friend and Antioch student went to Cuba on a religious visit to Cuba

Friends. The Meeting supplied documentation of the religious nature of her trip.

At a regular monthly business meeting in Fourth Month Friends reviewed the FCNL priorities for the next congress and expressed our wish to continue the present priorities with some modifications.

Friends and friends traveled to Lucasville prison on two occasions to join the vigil protesting executions by the State of Ohio.

Our Friends Denise Runyon and Tom Malcolm will be married under the care of the Meeting on Sixth Month 10th.

We rejoice in the continued growth of the Meeting.

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## NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM

### Quaker Genealogy Conference

In April of 2007, The Mary L. Cook Public Library and Wilmington College will be hosting the Third Annual Quaker Genealogy Conference entitled "*Anti-Slavery ~Taking a Risk for Freedom*"

Date and time: Friday evening April 27th, Saturday April 28th (sessions), and Sunday April 29th (tour of UR sites), 2007 at the Quaker Heritage Center/Boyd Cultural Arts Center at Wilmington College and White Brick Friends Meetinghouse and The Mary L. Cook Public Library, Waynesville, Ohio

We want to begin collecting and archiving research for this conference as soon as possible by initiating an interview process of people who have information about their ancestor's involvement in the Anti-Slavery Movement and/or the Underground Railroad in Warren, Clinton, Greene, Clark and Highland counties. Our primary focus will be on the Anti-Slavery/Underground Railroad activity along the Bull Skin Trace and the Little Miami River and Caesar's Creek. Our interest, however, spans five counties because the Quaker community spanned these same counties. The interview questions are listed below.

Emphasis will be placed on the various Anti-Slavery activities of Friends, as well as the Underground Railroad, first, to relieve the suffering of the afflicted; second, to raise the general consciousness of the evil and injustice of the system; and third, to work in organizations on the political front to change the laws of the land. We have good examples of local Friends working on each of those levels against the institution and practice of slavery, and later in the promotion of civil rights.

Emphasis will also be placed on researching the Afro-American communities that sprang up in the area, i.e. the Gist Community and others. We want

to examine the relationship between the Quakers who moved here and the freed slaves who came with them.

People of other denominations also participated in these activities. It was truly an ecumenical endeavor. We also welcome information about people of other churches or beliefs involved in Anti-Slavery/Underground Railroad work.

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### Honoring Our Faith

Young Quakes: an FGC Conference for high-school-age Friends October 6-9, 2006. C.A.Vines Arkansas 4-H Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. With presenters Hope Braveheart, Aaron Fowler, and Elizabeth Lyzenga-Waterman

*Honor* honesty or integrity in one's beliefs and actions

*Faith* being sure of what one hopes for and certain of what one does not see; commitment to a religious tradition or community

*Explore the connections.*

Young Quakes is an exciting extended weekend of worship and worship sharing, invigorating discussions, games, singing, workshops, presentations, hanging out, and building incredible community. Approximately \$175.

SAVE THE DATE! Look for registration materials at the FGC Gathering and the FGC website this summer.

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Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
6921 Stonington Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45230

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## Save the date – upcoming Regional FWCC Gatherings

Plan now to attend one of the regional gatherings that will take place this fall. Look for more information to come later.

Southeast – September 22-24  
at Jamestown Friends  
Meeting, NC.

Lower Great Lakes –  
September 29-October 1,  
Location tba

Northeast – October 13-15,  
Purchase Meeting, NY

