



The countdown to Yearly Meeting Sessions has begun!

We are excited about our plenary speakers. Arica Barton, a youth advocate from Evanston, will speak about restorative justice. An innovative offering is a plenary from a panel of healing practitioners. Our Living Witnesses will be Milton and Travis Cook.

We are going to experiment with a healing center at sessions for the first time. We are seeking practitioners to volunteer who are experienced in massage, healing touch, reiki, compassionate listening, or counseling, etc. To offer your services or ask questions, contact Gloria Bruner (gloriabruner@gmail.com) or Deborah Jordan (djordan@fuse.net)

Registration forms are now available on the OVYM website, www.quaker.org/ovym/. This is also where updates will be posted.

Sources: announcements at Miami Quarterly Meeting, OVYM registrar's notes.



Dear Friends:

The time we spend together at Yearly Meeting enriches us and our monthly meetings. The week's activities nurture our spirits, our sense of community, and our understanding of what being Friends means to each of us. Over the years, I've learned so much about my faith and how I can best practice it as I've learned about the history, activism, and organizations that provide the public face of Quakers in the world. Because of Yearly Meeting, I participate more fully in my monthly meeting.

Yearly Meeting weaves us together. The relationships nurtured during annual sessions bring joy to every occasion that bring us back together—whether we visit another monthly meeting, serve on a yearly meeting committee, or attend Quarterly meeting or other larger event. Time spent with Friends from beyond our local circle is especially valuable for youth, young adults, or anyone else who is not in the majority demographic in their own meeting.

If five days hanging out with 80 other Friends of all ages feels daunting (I'm an extrovert, so for me this is heaven!) rest assured there are many ways to participate. Come for just a day or select

**Martha
Viehmman**



only the most appealing activities. Make your own breakfast in the dorm or take lunch outside to get away from the hubbub. Plan time alone or with one other friend for a walk around campus or a visit to the Quaker quilters exhibit at the library. This time is for you.

I experience annual sessions as a Sabbath, a time set apart from ordinary demands. Someone else cooks and washes dishes. Someone else organizes the activities I get to choose among (although I suppose Friends would be disappointed if I did not show up to clerk business sessions). The people, the activities, and the time away from daily responsibilities to focus on being a Friend keep me coming back to annual sessions. I hope you'll join us!

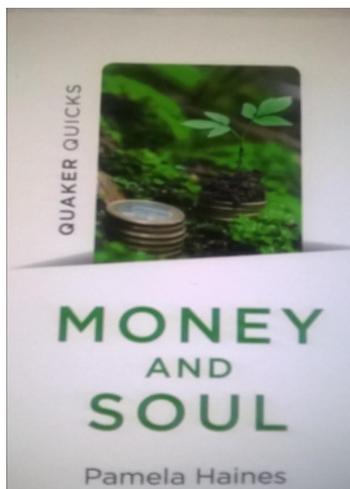
From the Yearly Meeting Registrar

Young Adult Friends and First Time Attenders are especially welcomed to Yearly Meeting, and a 50% subsidy of all costs will be offered to them again this year.

Anyone who has difficulty paying for the cost of attending Yearly Meeting should ask your monthly meeting if assistance is available. Miami Quarterly Meeting also has funds available to support attendance at Yearly Meeting through the Cincinnati Fund. Contact the Committee of Two— Richard Mitchell (859) 277-6101 or Stephen Angell (765) 962-0268 for information about this resource.

Volunteers needed. Check out the options for volunteering on the registration form and let us know so that leaders can contact you. All volunteers who will be alone with children must have submitted a background check to OVYM (contact Deborah Jordan ovymsec@fuse.net for information) and have taken the (Friendly Adult Presence) FAP Training once in the last 5 years.

FAP (Friendly Adult Presence) Training will be offered on Wednesday in the Arts Center, room 150 from 1:30-2:45pm if you have not had the 5-year training. Please see the registration form.



The economy, as we usually encounter it, has nothing to do with values or faith. After all, the “invisible hand” caters to no religious belief. It is all a matter of science, we are assured: economists have mastered the mathematical formulas for growth and prosperity. Our role as individuals is simply to work, consume and save, each adding our bit to the sum totals of economic activity that will keep the system humming along; the experts will take care of everything else.

This breezy values-free story, however, is unlikely to be a comfortable fit for anyone who takes seriously the challenge of bringing our faith into the world. Knotty issues around economics crop up at every turn, especially if we are willing to ask the big questions: What is the economy for? How much is enough? What needs to be equal? How is well-being best measured? Who should decide?

In *Money and Soul* this search for answers, through a Quaker lens, gives a taste of the power of applying faith values to our economic story.

Source: email from Pamela Haines

Proposed Sections in the OVYM *Book of Faith & Practice*

The OVYM Faith & Practice Committee has written second drafts of two pieces for the new book: **Meeting for Worship** and **Civic Responsibilities**. These new sections are largely based on corresponding sections in the 1978 OVYM *Book of Discipline* and earlier versions were sent to the monthly meetings for their review. These sections have been revised to incorporate the meetings' responses and comments and will be brought to the annual sessions in June, hopefully for final approval.

Meeting for Worship

Preparation for Worship. Frequent intentional periods of private reflection, meditation, reading the Bible, Quaker writings or other inspirational texts, prayer, and appreciation of beauty and nature are recommended throughout the week as preparation for the meeting hour. Constant openness to be guided by the Inward Light and a commitment to live with integrity are preparation for worship and ministry. In addition, our ability to hear not just the words uttered, but the spiritual messages underlying those outward expressions is enhanced by our times of preparation.

Waiting Worship. The basis of meeting for worship is silent waiting for direct communion with God. It provides an opportunity to step together into the holy stream, making it a time of expectant waiting for the leadings of the Divine Spirit.

Simply gathering in outward silence is not enough. Each individual must consciously and humbly seek for a renewed sense of the inward power of the Spirit. From the depths of that stillness comes an awareness of the presence of God. In this experience individuals will not only find direction for their own lives and strength for their needs but may also feel an urge to share with others the openings that come to them. As worshippers seek to be led into deeper understandings and to pray to become more obedient to the Light Within, their shared communion with the Divine releases the riches of the Spirit.

True ministry, whether vocal or silent, is offering ourselves—body, mind, and soul—to do God's will. During the silent waiting, the flow of the Divine Spirit from heart to heart is often felt. Worshippers gather in a spirit of silent prayer with a willingness to give, as well as to receive, so that the full possibilities of the meeting hour can be reached and its influence extended throughout the community from week to week.

Vocal Ministry. To awaken and sustain the spirit of worship, spiritual sensitivity must always be the first requirement for ministry. The Society of Friends believes that vocal ministry should arise out of a call to service. Such a call is a divinely inspired revelation of truth that speaks to a need in the meeting. Our conviction is that the Spirit of God is in all and that vocal utterance comes when this Spirit works within us. As each person listens for God's counsel he or she receives the inflowing power of divine love. The Friend must then discern whether this message is for themselves or for the meeting as a whole.

We do not set anyone apart to offer ministry in our meetings. The varying needs of a meeting are best supplied by different personalities, and a meeting is enriched by the sharing of any person's living experience of God. Responsibility rests on all to be ready and willing to take part in worship under a due sense of divine prompting.

The call to ministry is a normal experience. It may come to any earnest seeker for divine help and can be recognized by a persistent inner urge to share religious experience or spiritual aspiration. Those who are timid or unaccustomed to speak should have faith that God will strengthen them to give their messages. Experienced speakers should be watchful not to share at undue length or frequency. It is helpful to allow a period of silent reflection between vocal expressions.

As loving attenders of our meetings for worship, it is up to us as listeners to hear what an awkward minister is attempting to say. We need to attempt to understand the meaning underlying uncomfortable words in order to feel the minister's message. Censoring or dismissing another's message because of their word choice does not build spiritual unity or growth in the community.

Children are a part of the meeting and may be called on occasion to offer ministry to the meeting. Moreover, Friends should be aware of the presence of younger people when choosing what words to use in their ministry.

Civic Responsibilities

Citizenship. Friends have a spiritually grounded conception of citizenship and service to their communities, nation and to humanity. Citizens should encourage their country to cooperate for the betterment of the world. Working to improve the civic, economic, social and moral condition of one's own country is a truer expression of patriotism than exalting one's own nation at the expense of others or supporting and justifying its actions irrespective of right or justice.

Obedience to Law & Civil Disobedience. Our first allegiance is to God and every Friend should act to influence the making and changing of secular laws so that they may more nearly accord with Divine love and justice. Friends have a duty to uphold and obey all legal enactments, unless they violate the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If conditions arise in which civil law appears to be at variance with Divine law, Friends should take prayerful counsel with their communities to discern how they should respond. The community can sustain and uphold those who are impelled by a higher allegiance to take a difficult stand in deliberately disobeying civil laws. Such action is not taken in disrespect of the law nor with intent to evade its consequences, but to live in accordance with the dictates of a higher law. Those who act on the principle of obedience to God must be prepared to suffer for the sake of their convictions.

Treatment of Civic Offenders. Enlightened treatment of civic offenders by constructive methods is an historic goal to those who endeavor to follow Quaker principles. Incarceration should be considered only when an individual is a real danger to society. While condemning unrighteous acts, we should seek to have offenders treated as children of God. The end result of incarceration should be rehabilitation and restoration of a right relationship with the community.

Friends are opposed to capital punishment as contrary to Divine love. The death penalty is spiritually brutalizing and degrading both to the person executed and to the public mind. It leaves no room for the reformation of the individual nor for revision of the sentence in the event of a miscarriage of justice.

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Updated Section in the OVYM *Book of Faith & Practice*

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In addition to the two sections sent to OVYM monthly meetings, the Faith & Practice Committee has reviewed and lightly edited five subsections on **The Monthly Meeting** from the 1978 book. In addition, the sections on the **Quarterly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting** have been updated. Since the changes made in these materials are minimal, our procedure is to print the updated material in the *Quill* and incorporate it into the new edition of the *Book of Faith & Practice* without further review. Please note that the current version of the *OVYM Book of Faith & Practice* is on our website.

The Monthly Meeting

Burial Grounds. Two or more Friends should be appointed to have the care of the Meeting's burying grounds and see that interments are made in accordance with the practices approved by the Meeting which owns the grounds.

Careful marking of all graves for purposes of identification should be practiced and records thereof kept. Our principles of moderation and simplicity should be strictly observed in marking graves.

Meeting Funds. Meetings should raise funds sufficient to meet their responsibilities, to care for their property, and to provide for their obligations to the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

The Yearly Meeting Budget & Finance Committee shall determine the proportionate share of the Yearly Meeting budget for each local meeting and notify each meeting.

Incorporation. It is recommended that all Meetings that own real property should incorporate. The Meeting's address should be provided to the State and not that of an individual Trustee. As required by each state, a certificate of continued existence may need to be filed with the state periodically. To avoid lapse resulting from the death of trustees holding title to meeting properties and trusts, it is advised that such titles and trusts be held by corporations when practicable. The Executive Committee will advise with any meeting contemplating incorporation.

Meeting Trusts and Property Titles. Monthly and Preparative Meetings, as well as Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, are advised to require annual reports of the income, disbursements and of the investment of the principal of all trusts, including the status of titles for Meeting properties and burial grounds. The Trustees' records must maintain accurate statements of the terms of all trusts held for the benefit of the meeting or of the Society at large.

Business meetings are cautioned to see that timely care is taken for the renewal of trusts. They are exhorted to be diligent and particular as to the careful investment of trust funds. The assistance of the Executive Committee may be sought if difficulties arise.

Meeting Records. All Meetings for Business should keep full and correct records of their transactions in convenient form for reference. An accurate record of the membership of each Monthly Meeting should be kept which should include all births, marriages, removals and deaths occurring among members. (See Annual Statistical Report.)

The Yearly Meeting has arranged for the storing of the records of the Yearly Meeting and its subordinate meetings in the facilities of the Quaker Collection, housed in the Wilmington College Library. The following records should be deposited as soon as they are no longer needed for the business of the Meeting, which will normally be within three to five years:

- A. Minutes of the meetings.
- B. Minutes of the preparative meetings, the Committees on Ministry and Counsel, and the like.
- C. Membership, statistical, marriage and burial records.
- D. Official correspondence of the meetings.
- E. Deeds or other similar documents relating to any property held by the meeting.
- F. Newsletters or bulletins.
- G. Any other committee records.
- H. The treasurer's records.
- I. Photographs, slides, tapes, etc. of meeting events.
- J. Correspondence to or from the meeting or the Clerk, except routine printed communications such as annual reports from Friends organizations.

These records will remain available for withdrawal for additions to or updating of the records upon presentation to the Curator of a letter of authorization from the Clerk of the meeting making the deposit or its successor. Thus, meetings are encouraged to store records in the fire-resistant vault at the College even if the records may be needed at some time in the future.

A recorder or statistician should be appointed to carry out these duties and the Meeting should furnish suitable books and provide proper places in which to preserve the records.

The Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting is designed to bring together for inspiration and counsel a larger group, and to consider more varied interests than any single meeting embraces. It is composed of constituent Monthly Meetings, each of which shall appoint representatives to attend it.

Its form of organization should be similar to that of the Monthly Meeting. It is to receive and forward reports from Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting, and to appoint representatives thereto. It may hold property and trusts and appoint for specific services committees over which it shall have original and final jurisdiction. Its most helpful function should be to aid and encourage the Monthly Meetings composing it to greater interest and service, and to give its members an increasing vision of the truth. It should be diligent in seeking opportunities to gather together groups which may be organized into meetings and should always be ready to help Monthly Meetings whenever they ask for advice or assistance.

The Yearly Meeting

The Yearly Meeting shall be composed of its constituent Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Meetings. Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint representatives to attend sessions of the Yearly Meeting. These representatives shall perform (NEXT PAGE)

(CONTINUATION) whatever duties the Yearly Meeting or the Meeting which appoints them may assign. It is advised that they make reports to their respective Monthly Meetings of important action taken by the Yearly Meeting. All members of constituent Monthly Meetings are also members of the Yearly Meeting and have the same privileges as the representatives. The Yearly Meeting shall provide for the appointment of necessary officers, including presiding clerk, assistant presiding clerk, recording clerk, treasurer, and statistician.

The Yearly Meeting may organize its work through the appointment of committees necessary for the effective carrying out of its concerns. It is cautioned against becoming over-organized and thus expending in merely maintaining a mechanical system, energies which should be conserved for the advancement of truth.

It shall annually determine a budget necessary for its expenses and inform each Monthly Meeting its proportional share amount, based on total membership.

It shall receive written reports from its committees and from its constituent meetings, signed by the proper officers. It shall review the state of the Society and consider communications addressed to it. It shall hear and act upon the concerns of its members pertaining to the work and influence of the Society of Friends.

It should exercise a general oversight and care of subordinate meetings in things pertaining to the welfare of the Society in general.

The Yearly Meeting shall provide for the due consideration of epistles and of minutes of Friends from other Friends Yearly Meetings.

All letters and papers addressed to the Yearly Meeting, regarding which the clerk desires counsel, may be referred to the Executive Committee, which should consider them and report whether it is advisable to have them presented for the consideration of the Yearly Meeting.

It is advised that the Yearly Meeting have always available information concerning its constituent Meetings, so that it can aid committees in their work, give a knowledge of conditions and extend sympathetic help to the smaller Meetings which need encouragement and assistance from the larger body.

The Executive Committee

Duties. This committee shall transact business for the Yearly Meeting between its annual sessions in all cases where the welfare of our Society makes this desirable, and shall carry out instructions given it by the Yearly Meeting.

In general its duties should include printing and distributing Friendly literature, furnishing forms to Monthly Meetings for use in keeping records of members, transfers, births, marriages and deaths, maintaining a current list of members with their addresses, endeavoring to extend the knowledge of our principles, rendering advice and assistance to Meetings in the matter of property and trusts, upon their request, and to individuals who feel the need of support in maintaining our testimonies. This Committee shall keep in close and sympathetic touch with other committees appointed by the Yearly Meeting in all cases when that body is not in session, but it shall not make changes in the Book of Discipline or issue any statement of faith.

Meetings. The Committee may fix its own times of meeting, except that its clerk shall call special meetings upon the request of three members of the Committee. The clerk of each Monthly Meeting as well as appointed representatives should be notified of each committee meeting. It is advised that important action be taken only after the judgment of the committee has been obtained.

Minutes. The committee shall keep full and complete minutes and render to the Yearly Meeting reports of all business transacted.

Funds. Drafts may be drawn against the treasury of the Yearly Meeting under proper authorization.

Method of Appointment. Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint one or more members to represent it on this committee. The clerk and treasurer of the Yearly Meeting shall also be members of the Executive Committee by reason of their appointments. The Yearly Meeting, if it wishes to do so, may appoint members at large in addition to those named by the Monthly Meetings.

Nominating Committee

The Executive Committee shall determine the method of populating the nominating committee of the Yearly Meeting, which then nominates all officers, including the clerks and members of committees of the Yearly Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall meet for this purpose after appointment and at least one month before Yearly Meeting begins in that year and at other times as necessary.

Nominating Committee is responsible for offering names to the Yearly Meeting for appointment as representatives to Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee for Consultation, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and other organizations as the need arises.

Annual Statistical Report

Annual statistical reports shall be made by the Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting, containing all needed information on a form provided by the Yearly Meeting for the purpose. The information asked for should include data as to membership (Births, Deaths, Admissions, Removals, etc.), First-day Schools, attenders at Friends Schools, changes in times and places of Meetings, and other necessary information. The Yearly Meeting may from time to time ask for additional information not included on the form.



News from Monthly Meetings

Clear Creek

During the last several months, we continued to celebrate our fellowship in the “spirit of power and love.”

Attendance was as expected, with the regular attenders showing up faithfully. Occasionally, students from the college visit, especially those involved with Quaker Fellows. We are also visited by alumni during special events and by students’ parents who were visiting the college.

Worship tends to be silent during the full hour, and most appear to find this time of deep reflection both helpful and meaningful. We have been happy to have a family with young children attending meeting.

Our unprogrammed, largely silent worship is followed by a time of fellowship, which is usually much rowdier. That in turn is followed by whatever discussion or programming is scheduled for that week of the month.

Once a month after worship, Adult Religious Education and Peace and Social Concerns present a topic for discussion. The other two weeks of the month, there is hymn singing and Business Meeting.

Adult religious education has arranged presentations on/and discussions of among other topics: The spiritual dimensions of the work of the several visual artists who are part of the meeting; over-criminalization and mass incarceration; imagining a parade we’d like to see happen; proposed revisions of OVYM’s Faith and Practice; and Tom Mullen’s book, Laughing Out Loud and Other Religious Experiences.

The Peace and Social Concerns committee stepped up for the rest of us and planned outings and potlucks. There was a trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, a gathering at a local park to commemorate the completion of a playground for disabled children, and “dinner and a movie” evenings: one about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and others about food insecurity in the area, personal carbon awareness, and the devastating effects of climate change.

We were pleased to have a regular attender transfer his membership from Atlanta Friends Meeting. Also we had a memorial service for long-time member, Rusty Sweitzer, last fall. The joyous and memorable wedding of Abbey Pratt-Harrington and Eli Koehn was held under our care on April 13.

One member has been hosting a monthly Quaker guided meditation gathering in her home called, “The Experiment with Light,” and another attender is part of the OVYM task group developing a policy on sexual misconduct within the Yearly Meeting.

Re: The larger Richmond Quaker community: Each year the three local meetings get together for an outdoor summer worship service. We hosted a labyrinth walk on the evening of the winter solstice in December, which was well attended by a larger community, and we finished the year by hosting the annual Three Meeting Christmas Eve Service.

Members have also joined attenders of the other two Quaker meetings in town to form an FCNL advocacy group, engage with the work of AFSC, and/or are involved with the local Indivisible Group, as well as a SURJ (Standing up for Racial Justice) training group to learn more about how white privilege affects us, and to develop strategies for useful ally-ship with anti-racism work.

Amidst all this activity, we have also noted with concern that attendance for Meeting for Worship has diminished over the last few years and are currently seeking ways to discover our new identity. Clearly, the future will be taking us in a direction that will not look like our past.

Submitted by Palline Plum (based on State of Meeting report)

Community

Springtime is a time for planting, and our Unity with Nature committee actively keeps us engaged with issues of local food production. Our front yard now has more berry bushes and fruit trees added to those planted last year, thanks to the help of a Xavier University student, who requested to use our grounds for undertaking his senior project in permaculture. We look forward to enjoying the fruits of this labor, especially some unusual varieties he planted, e.g. goumi berries and honey berries, and also a pluot tree (plum apricot). In April, committee member Dylan Cahalan coordinated a 2nd hour showing of the film, *Unbroken Ground*, which highlights sustainable agriculture strategies that can help solve environmental and climate crisis problems. Also in April, the 12th edition of the Central Ohio River Valley Local Food Guide was published, an important regional resource supported financially by our meeting and coordinated since its inception by member Deborah Jordan.

Our meeting has moved forward in its commitment to safety for all members by approving a sex harassment policy, after much discussion and input. Recognizing that this was just a starting place, Ministry and Counsel conducted a survey about next steps. Based on the results, it was clear that strong emotions and concerns still need to be addressed, so a series of 2nd hours has been proposed, focusing on personal experiences reflected in the surveys and how power and privilege affects our interactions. In the interest of open and safe sharing, these gatherings will be conducted with separate male and female groups, to be followed later with a facilitated discussion among all.

In March, we joyfully welcomed new member Larry Gerke to our meeting with a big lasagna and spaghetti dinner at the meeting house. Susan Gerke, a member now for many years, expressed great delight in her husband’s decision. Larry has been very active in our FCNL lobbying group. When Susan shared her spiritual journey with the meeting recently, we learned of this couple’s lifelong commitment to simplicity and dedication to the struggle for social justice.

Our Adult Religious Education Committee continues to coordinate our 2nd hour programs and in reach groups. Upon completion of a study of Paul Buckley’s *Primitive Quakerism Revived*, the Quaker book study group has taken up reading Thomas Kelly’s classic, *Testament of Devotion*. Of late our First Day School has but a few children who attend irregularly, but the toddlers and infants who grace our Meetinghouse with their laughter and smiles bring us much joy, as so our teens who are active in OVYM youth events. The Funck family often has foster children under their wing,

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(continued from page 6) which our meeting welcomes with open arms. Each spring, the Easter egg hunt in our woods and grassy areas is a big draw for children and grandchildren, and this year's was no exception!

Finally, our FCNL lobby group has been consistently active, with Mary Ann Curtis as clerk. This spring they visited Rep. Brad Wenstrup and Senators Mitch McConnell and Sherrod Brown to discuss the war in Yemen and to request support for the repeal of the 2001-02 Authorization of Use of Military Force. In February, in a visit to Rep. Chabot's office, the aide said that our local FCNL lobby group was the only group to come in and talk about war and peace issues. If we needed incentive to keep it up, that was a clear indication of the need!

Submitted by Paulette Meier

Dayton

A maintenance fund was set aside for Tom Applegate's memorial fund, and the Memorial Minute for Tom Applegate was read aloud, and approved. The meeting briefly discussed ideas for a Tom Applegate memorial also.

Friends were asked if they would be interested in changing the grief group to a more general worship sharing group that could be more open to other topics and needs as they arise.

Ben Griffith from Lexington Meeting led our meeting retreat which had the topic of "Visioning Our Future". Ben was very involved in the building of Lexington's meetinghouse.

Dayton Friends is still planning to continue with the Peace Series. We hope to re-start the community series soon.

Al McGrew also reported that he heard there is a KKK rally being planned in Dayton, and that it might be good if our Meeting could have some sort of involvement in a non-violent response to this.

The committee discussed possibly starting a "little library" outside near the meetinghouse. It was suggested that the committee should follow up with the city and the South Park community.

Phil, Jim, and Nikki helped with snow shoveling, and have started installing a counter top in the kitchen, painting, and putting in a brick patio and picnic table in the back yard. Many future improvements are planned as well.

The music class led by Phyllis will resume in April, and she will hold the class in a neighborhood park when the weather is nice and, whenever the weather is inclement, in the Meetinghouse.

We are grateful to have our own Meetinghouse, and are hoping to have some youngsters enjoy the new space we have made for them soon!

Submitted by Scott Hadley

Eastern Hills

This spring Eastern Hills Friends Meeting welcomed Sue Motz as our newest member and celebrated with a potluck dinner hosted by Dale Hayes and Terry Miller. We greatly appreciate the gifts Sue brings to our meeting. She recently made a pilgrimage to Ireland. She shared her experiences and spiritual journey in one of our second hours.

Other second hours included reflections on the parable of the "The Prodigal Son," a discussion on "Changes in Faith and Practice," and a presentation by Libby Curry from Chester Meeting on Wilmington Yearly Meeting activities in Cuba.

This time of year is one of rebirth and renewal. With that in mind Eastern Hills held a work day to take advantage of some beautiful weather and do some spring cleaning. We have also begun the first stages of our long-planned landscaping upgrades.

Submitted by Eric Heineke



Lafayette

Friends may recall that a trove of old papers were found last year when we insulated the attic. Papers and photos from Hanna Hellinger Meisner, our Friend who left us her house. Her papers were sent to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. We also found papers belonging to the Wildman family. The Wildmans were a Quaker family who lived in Tippecanoe County the 1800s with other Programmed Friends from their original community, moved to Illinois on their own, and ultimately ended up at Stanford University. Their papers were sent to the Earlham Library Archives. A set of stereoscopic slides on the Russo-Japanese War went to a scholar at Austin Peay University. A new trove has turned up in an old suitcase found by a tenant and we are looking forward to seeing the contents. Even if we were inclined to sequester ourselves, the world seems to be turning up in our attic!

Submitted by Michele Tomarelli

Miami

Memorial Meeting for Worship for Terri Furnas. The Memorial Meeting for Worship for former member Terri Furnas, 1st month 5th, was attended by more than 80 people including 35 teachers who had worked with Terri.

Easter Program. April 21st (Easter Sunday Morning), Miami got together for its annual Easter breakfast in the Red Brick Meetinghouse. Worship was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Friends Burial Ground.

Quaker Heights Ohio Living Meeting for Worship. Though no longer a ministry of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Miami Friends continue to provide a Meeting for Worship at Quaker Heights Ohio Living on the 4th First Day of even numbered months, the most recent of which was April 28th. Friends in the Yearly Meeting are invited to join with us to lend their voices to the singing and share thoughts as part of this bi-monthly worship.

Annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic. Our annual worship and picnic at Fort Ancient is scheduled for July 14th. Members of Meetings in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are invited to join us. We will gather at 10 a.m. for worship with the picnic to follow. Please enter via the driveway to the caretaker's house and follow the signs to the pavilion. Those wishing to tour the grounds of this historic Native American site are welcome to do so following the picnic.

Submitted by Lonny Burger

Oxford



We celebrated our annual spring potluck and are grateful that Paul Buckley visited to minister to us based on his book *Primitive Quakerism Revived*.

We held two discussions to provide feedback to FCNL on *The World We Seek*. We have completed one session of writing postcards to our legislators and have others scheduled.

We are making use of two outreach projects—a banner for the front porch of our meeting location, and handouts about Quakerism. At left, Hannah Jones displays our banner.

Submitted by Cecilia Shore

Yellow Springs

Our book discussion group meets regularly to talk about [Seeds That Change the World: Essays On Quakerism, Spirituality, Faith and Culture](#) by Debbie L. Humphries.

Adult religious education has been working on two series. The first is a discussion each month on what's new in Friends Journal. The second is a series on the spiritual dimensions of healing from trauma- with multiple speakers. The children's program has been continuing our Godly Play lessons- segueing from the Parables into the Quaker Faith and Play stories. And of course, we have some seasonally appropriate Easter lessons thrown in for good measure.

We all enjoyed our annual Intergenerational Talent Show, which takes place in the spring each year. We were a packed house! As always, Yellow Springs extends an open invitation to other friends to come and visit with us. We would love to have you!

Submitted by Heather Snediker-Morscheck

FROM OUR OVYM YOUTH SECRETARY

Dear Community,

It is with joy and gratitude for our community's ongoing participation that I reflect on our winter and spring programming with OVYM Middle Youth and Teens.

We kicked off our new year of programming with The Quake that Rocked the Midwest, a teen retreat with Illinois Yearly Meeting high school teens and Scattergood Friends School high school teens held in Evanston, IL, over Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend in January. The weekend of events invited our Quaker teens to connect through interactive activities, shared meals, improvisational song & dance, and more! Our youth bravely jumped into group storytelling activities in a restorative justice workshop facilitated by special guest Arica Barton, and then took many leaps forward (and in every direction imaginable) at a nearby trampoline park (**photo below**). To top it all off, our very own Gloria Bruner facilitated a creative music therapy session for all to enjoy.

This was a hard act to follow, but in February we continued to create spaces that supported social justice learning and skill-building alongside imaginative play. At Miami Quarterly Meeting, hosted by Campus Friends Meeting in Wilmington, OH, a small group of our middle youth and teens enjoyed a lively discussion about race relations with Chris Harmer, followed by a worship sharing of Freedom Songs and freeform painting. And our day wouldn't have been complete without substituting blueberries for missing pieces in a delicious and spirited game of mancala!

In March, Lexington Friends Meeting in Lexington, KY graciously hosted our first Middle Youth Retreat of the year. A sizeable group of middle youth had a blast at this overnight, exploring the theme of "Friendship." Activity highlights included origami, swing dancing, movie time and a First Day school on women in history. Meanwhile, parents met in our first Youth Engagement Workshop to discuss hopes, visions and concerns about youth programming. The next day, our second Youth Engagement Workshop was held during First Hour, and attracted a wide variety of Lexington Meeting members to voice their interests and values in regards to youth programming. We will continue to support this important conversation at Lexington Friends Meeting, as well as to create similar opportunities for other meetings, and within our larger community of Friends. Consider joining us for our Youth Engagement Workshop at Annual Sessions!

As the cherry blossoms bloom, plans are underway for Miami Quarterly Meeting at Dayton Friends Meeting in May with a special focus on racial justice and peacemaking, adventures at Annual Sessions in June, and a Teen Service Trip during a long weekend at the end of July. If you are interested in finding out more about this year's service trip, it's not too late to get in touch, volunteer to be with our youth, find out more and register your teens! Reach out any time with questions, ideas, and requests for a visit from your friendly neighborhood Youth Secretary.

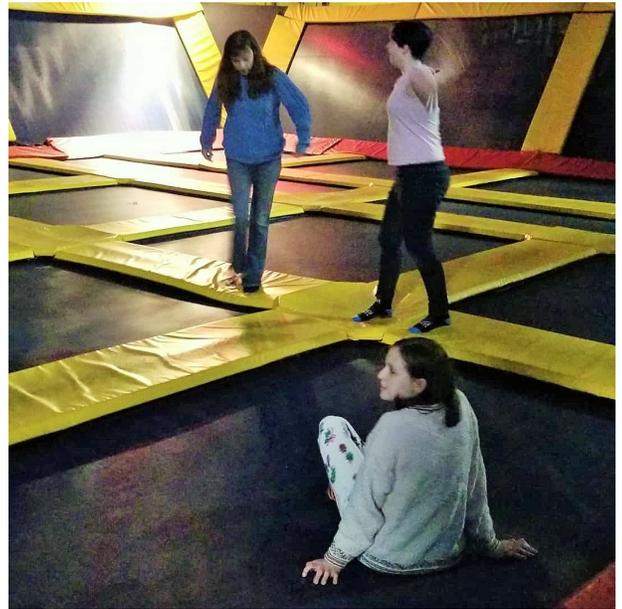
Kaia Jackson, OVYM Youth Secretary, OVYM Youth Services Committee

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(330) 571-7395

Facebook: OVYM Middle Youth and Teens

Instagram: ovym_middleyouthandteens



Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College

The Quaker Heritage Center has recently co-sponsored the following talks:

- Filmmaker Ajani Jackson, "The Human Problem: Blacks in America Cinema," March 20th
- Human rights activist, public theologian and social critic Ruby Sales, "How Can We Start to Heal the Pain of Racial Division Among Us?" March 26
- Pastor Phillip Gulley, "Unlearning God, How Unbelieving Helped me Believe," April 17

Source: *Quaker Heritage Center emails*

Right Sharing of World Resources

RSWR General Secretary Jackie Stillwell will be offering a workshop on "The Power of Enough" at the FGC Gathering this summer. Participants will experience new perspectives through queries, storytelling, games, and singing. Attendees will leave with a deeper sense of self and connection to how our personal choices ripple forward to others. If you are interested in inviting Jackie to offer this workshop at your yearly or monthly meeting, please contact the Right Sharing office at rswr@rswr.org.

Source: *RSWR Winter newsletter 2019*

FWCC SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

The biennial Sessions of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas was held from March 21-24, 2019 at Lake Doniphan Conference Center outside Kansas City, Missouri. 160 Friends from all parts of the Americas attended, including two representatives of OVYM. Home groups and workshops, business and worship, and opportunities for fellowship filled our days in a lovely rural camp setting. Interpretation for Spanish speakers was provided for all committees and activities. Despite difficulties obtaining visas, 21 Latin American Friends from eight yearly meetings and five countries were able to attend. Among these were members of the Executive, Finance, and Nominating Committees, the Convocations Program Group, the interpreters' team, the Traveling Ministry Corps, and yearly meeting representatives. As one attendee commented "I was impressed by the extent to which bilingualism and spiritual/cultural pluralism (including our ability to hear and speak different "languages" of the Spirit) has progressed since I first came into FWCC in the early 1990's." See [Why I Worship With Other Kinds of Quakers](https://tinyurl.com/OtherQuakers), (<https://tinyurl.com/OtherQuakers>) a five minute Quaker Speak video.

Submitted by Foote Lund



Photos from letter from Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary. Above: Foote Lund, Recording Clerk (Ohio Valley YM) and Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, Clerk (New England YM) consult on the minutes



American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) News and Resources on Economic Justice

- [Is your 401\(k\) funding state violence and human rights violations?](https://tinyurl.com/410kjustice) (<https://tinyurl.com/410kjustice>) Find out if you're invested in border militarization, immigrant detention, mass incarceration, or military occupation – and how you can change that.
- [It's time for bail reform in West Virginia:](https://tinyurl.com/Bailjustice) (<https://tinyurl.com/Bailjustice>) "Having hundreds of people doing time in the jails at public expense simply because they are poor only makes things worse all the way around," writes AFSC's Rick Wilson. (Associated Press)
- [AFSC divests from fossil fuel industry:](https://tinyurl.com/AFSCdivests) (<https://tinyurl.com/AFSCdivests>) Our "commitment to environmental responsibility is in part about the social impact of climate change on the communities we work with," says Phil Lord, clerk of the AFSC Board of Directors.
- [What you should know about AFSC's support for BDS:](https://tinyurl.com/BDSAFSC) (<https://tinyurl.com/BDSAFSC>) Economic activism is both an appeal to conscience to raise awareness among those complicit in harmful practices and an effective tactic for removing structural support for oppression.

Sources: AFSC weekend reading emails Feb. 9, Mar. 2, Apr. 27

AFSC Midwest

AFSC Indiana hosted an evening of "Revolutionary Visions & Radical Imaginations: Celebrating Solidarity & Courage" (in Indianapolis) on March 1 and AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny (in Bloomington) on March 20. You can support AFSC's work in the Midwest by making a donation: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCMidwestdonate>

Source: Jon Krieg, AFSC Midwest Digest

Friends Committee on National Legislation Recent Impact

Gun Violence: House Breaks Barrier on Action. The House's passage of the Bipartisan Background Checks Act in February 2019 is the first crack in the barrier that for decades has prevented any sensible gun legislation from passing Congress. The bill requires universal background checks for all gun sales, closing a significant loophole. Through our leadership in the Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence coalition, FCNL coordinated lobbying of more than 50 faith groups to help ensure this bill's passage.

New Law to Prevent Violent Conflict. The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act became law with President Trump's signature in January 2019. This legislation equips the U.S. government with constructive and cost-effective tools to address the root causes of violent conflict. FCNL led the strategy and lobbying that resulted in the bill's passage in the House and Senate. This success comes after more than a decade of FCNL's leadership to build a strong, bipartisan consensus in Congress for proactive peacebuilding investment.

More information at the source for this article: <https://www.fcnl.org/about/impact>

Indiana Yearly Meeting Friends

Annual sessions will be at Quaker Haven Camp, July 25-27. Amos Taylor, CEO of Selah House, a Christian eating disorder treatment center, will be this year's speaker at our evening worship sessions. There will be four Saturday workshops. Greg Hinshaw will lead one on "Our Unique Message as Friends." This workshop will look at the Christian message of Friends, with a focus on the Scriptural origins of Friends teachings, as well as the unique place of Friends in the broader evangelical world. Doug Shoemaker will lead one titled: *Not Your Father's Ministry & Oversight*. It will discuss who should serve on M&O, who's in charge of the church, and what a healthy M&O should look like.

Source: *IYM Communicator emails*



Friends General Conference News & Resources

FGC Gathering offers accessibility support

- In the online Gathering registration form, Friends can **indicate their accessibility needs**. We can also register Friends over the phone.
- Our **Access Needs table** is there for you throughout the week...
- **The Healing Center** provides a space for Friends to explore, practice, and experience healing techniques from many traditions.
- Our evening plenary presentations have **listening devices** for attendees with hearing difficulties.
- The **Wednesday Afternoon Break** to rest our minds and our bodies.
- For more information: www.tinyurl.com/GatheringAccessibility

Edited from: Vital Friends email April

Online Spiritual Deepening Library. You can use Spiritual Deepening Library 2.0 to begin a new spiritual practice in your day-to-day life, or to use in small groups at your meeting or church. You can choose a topic from our expanded resource offerings, and decide when and how often to meet. Best of all, the Spiritual Deepening Library is FREE! [Explore Spiritual Deepening Library 2.0 at: https://tinyurl.com/SDL2-0](https://tinyurl.com/SDL2-0). Source: *Vital Friends email April*

Survey regarding preferences for Gathering. Results can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/Gatheringpreferences>.

FGC Annual Report. In this report, Friends share their journeys of faith and how FGC supported them along the way. *More at the source for this article:* <https://tinyurl.com/FGC2018report>

Anti-Racism Ministry: FGC Central Committee created an Implementation Group to follow up on the Institutional Assessment on Racism, and a final list of members has been completed. The group is enthusiastic about beginning this transformational work. Recently, members of the Institutional Assessment Task Force have also been traveling in the ministry to share their work with Friends interested in FGC's anti-racism efforts. *More information at the source for this item:* <https://tinyurl.com/racismassessment>

Vanessa Julye, Coordinator of FGC's Committee for Ministry on Racism has organized two events under the care of her meeting (Central Philadelphia MM, and the Ghana trip is with the help of Friends at Hill House in Ghana). The first is a trip to Ghana, August 3-16, 2019, for people of all races to better understand Western Africa and its history related to enslaved peoples <https://exploringafricanamericanhistoryinghana.wordpress.com>. Although the stated deadline was April 30, she is willing to accept late registration as space allows. The second is a retreat at Ben Lomond for Friends of Color in Intermountain, North Pacific and Pacific Yearly Meetings. <https://quakerpocoretreat.wordpress.com/2018/12/06/join-us/> Source: *emails from Vanessa Julye and Susan Lee Barton*

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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ovym.quaker.org

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