

2010 Sessions of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting



Dear Friends,

2010 has arrived and, as we look forward to Spring, we can also look forward to the 190th Sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting that will take place from July 28th to August 1st at Earlham College. The theme this year will be “Celebrating Friends as Family: Nurturing the Future.” The Planning Committee is already at work trying to create a program where young people and families will feel included, newcomers will feel welcome, and everyone will feel they are coming home. We look forward to business meetings, hearty laughter, new and old friendships, workshops, evening plenary sessions and interests groups, Living Witness, and to finding stillness in the silence.

Your Planning Committee, Tunia McClure, Clerk,
tmccclure@rtccom.net



Clerks' Notes

Ben Griffith reminds us:

Feb. 6th — Executive Committee on conference call at 12 pm

Apr. 3rd — 9:30 am Budget review then everyone is invited to the 12 to 4 pm Executive Committee meeting at ESR, Richmond, Indiana

June 5th — Executive Committee 12 to 4 pm at North Meadow MM, Indianapolis

Assistant Clerk's Note

When I came into Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in 1972 I was easily recognized as a Friend who was involved in politics and social justice. I have been involved in most movements for equity and openness since my childhood. I was involved in the election of Barack Obama for president. I continue to be involved in the current fight for Obama's health care program for all people in the United States who require this care. I am quite the liberal Democrat. Or am I? I would say no. As long as I can remember I have taken as my focus our Discipline which states that the core of Quaker worship and daily life is 'Faith AND Practice'. One without the other does not speak to the core of Quaker belief as I know it in my heart and in my experience as a Friend. I am to be a steward of God's creation in my daily life. I am to nurture that of God in all of God's creation in my daily acts. There are, for me, many stories which connect these two realities. George Fox (accurately or just a good religious story) admonished William Penn to 'wear thy sword as long as thou canst' when asked of his dual sense of his role in the world. George Fox suggested that we not 'hide our Light under a bushel'. Janet Scott, in her Swarthmore Lecture on faith and practice concludes her pamphlet reminding us that 'God is in the silence waiting...' for us to rise and be faithful. And my favorite "continuing revelation" which points to the reality that God's work for us in the world is ever changing and ever needing new perspectives. FCNL, and other Friend's organizations, are our corporate beacon for these spiritual and religious realities. We are called to be faithful to God in the world. We are called to practice this faith in the world. Micah tells us that we are to 'seek justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy Lord'. Susan Stark, our own Quaker songstress beautifully says to us that 'we are God's hands and we are God's feet'. I hope to be a good steward during my humble awe-filled service to our Yearly Meeting as Presiding Clerk. I hope to immerse myself in the faith and the practice of our Yearly Meeting and become filled with both from us all and from God's Presence in our Midst.

Paul Kriese, 1st Month, 10, 2010, pkriese@iue.edu

News & Announcements

Youth Secretary, OVYM Teens

The Teen group has a busy 2010 ahead

First, we will have a winter retreat at the Lexington (Ky.) Meeting on President's Day weekend, Feb. 12-14. Plans include working in a local soup kitchen and exploring the theme: "What are Quakers not doing?" The topic follows the November retreat theme at Fall Creek (Ind.) Meeting: "Where are Quakers, and what are they doing in the world?" The conversation should be interesting!

We're also putting in place plans for the summer service trip, for which teens from Alaska Yearly Meeting will be joining us, completing an exchange that began last year when some of our teens had an intense and rewarding experience in the Alaskan wilderness. Dates for the service trip are June 26 through July 3. The individual fee will be \$75-\$100, though the teens will be doing fundraising to assist in the costs for themselves, and to

Young Adult Friends

Hey Friends! 'Tis I, the dorky and intrepid clerk of the college-aged and the recently graduated Friends (otherwise called YAFs) of OVYM! I continue my labors to get us all together to chill and reflect on the nuances and intrigues of life. The last retreat I tried to plan didn't happen because I tried to plan it too late. So this time I'm writing to you all way ahead of time. Our retreats have been great when we've been able to come together, so I hope to put together another couple before yearly meeting Sessions. There are also a few gatherings of interest that some of you might be interested in attending, so I'm writing about those too. There's a better than even chance that I'll be attending all of them and I drive a minivan. Write me back if anyone's interested in carpooling.

For general timeframes for a couple retreats, I'm going to put forth late February/early March and mid-June-ish as possible dates for our gatherings. They'll be chances to get together and catch up, cook for each other and talk about our lives and insights from college and beyond. Heck, now that I've done a couple and have sort of a feel for how some of the logistics work I might be able to come up with a program! I need input from you to make it happen, though. What dates will work for your schedules? Is there something in particular you'd like to do with other YAFs in OVYM? I've had some luck with what I call the dude (or babe)-on-the-ground system. Basically, I ask someone at the retreat site to talk to their meeting, hold on to the keys for the place while we're there, and generally be in touch with other Friends on the ground. Are you willing to be a babe (or dude)-on-the-ground? Do you know of a place that'd be fun (and cheap) to hold a retreat?

I've been in contact with Nikki Tousley and Gail Koehler about doing an intergenerational retreat with the middle youth and high school students.

help bring the Alaskans to Ohio. Much of the service trip will be in the Cleveland area, where we will explore urban diversity while taking part in several local projects. The dates and location of the trip were chosen to correspond easily with this year's FGC Gathering, which begins July 3 in Toledo, so that our Alaskan guests can participate in both events.

We're also planning to have a spring retreat, though the dates and location are not yet determined as we hope to coordinate a multi-age retreat along with the Middle Youth and the Young Adult Friends groups.

And then, of course, is Yearly Meeting on the Earlham College campus at the end of July!

Respectfully submitted, Carol Simmons, OVYM Youth Secretary, (937) 232-4250, ovymyouth@yahoo.com

Right now I have no idea what the programming will entail, but I'm guessing they'll be interested in hearing about college, and maybe life after. Nikki and Gail are stoked about this and I think it'll be nifty too. The time they proposed to do this retreat is late April or early May. What dates will work for people?

Now, gatherings of interest (besides retreats):

There is a gathering of Quaker authors at Quaker Hill Conference Center from April 21-25 in Richmond. Those who go will develop their gifts as writers and learn about authorship in the 21st century. There will also be a publication party for the Quaker Youth Book. QUIP (Quakers Uniting in Publication) has spent the last couple years putting together this book, asking YAFs from around the world and from all strains of Quakerism to write about their faith. I've got a piece in the book, so I'll be there.

Micah Bales, a YAF and scholar from Earlham School of Religion, is putting together a gathering in Wichita, KS for YAFs from all varieties of Quakerism. It'll be hosted by Great Plains YM, a yearly meeting which boasts a membership that includes evangelical Friends, moderate programmed Friends and unprogrammed Friends. The gathering will run from May 28 to May 31, and will be a great chance to meet YAFs from all over the nation and make friends with Friends from all walks of Quakerism. For those who can stay a little longer there will be a few days of service (June 1-3), where our volunteers will work for the betterment of Wichita. Any and all YAFs are welcome to stay and participate in Great Plains Yearly Meeting Sessions from June 4-6. If you can't come at the beginning, feel free to show up for any of the later events. I'll be going at least for the first part. If you're interested, email me and I'll send you an invite on Facebook.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Ben Griffith, Presiding Clerk
Paul Kriese, Assistant Presiding Clerk
Deb Kociszewski, Recording Clerk
Stephen Angell, Treasurer
Wilson Palmer, Assistant Treasurer



Comments for the Quaker Quill are appreciated. Find me and tell what you think.

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

Finally, the big mack daddy of unprogrammed gatherings: FGC!! And it's close this year! In fact, OVYM is hosting it in conjunction with Lake Erie YM! It'll be held in Bowling Green, OH (a straight shot up Route 75) in northern Ohio from July 4-10. I went last year, and I gotta tell ya the energy of 1,500 Friends all in the same place is incredible. They have workshops on everything from Friends history and practice to meditative healing to ultimate Frisbee. YAFs traditionally have their own dorm, and their own program. Check out the website (www.fgcquaker.org/gathering). It's a little pricey, but there are scholarships available, and it is a helluva time with Friends of the unprogrammed persuasion.

Well, that's all I got for now. Newell and I will do what we can to make these retreats happen! Newell Pledger-Shinn (pledgne@earlham.edu) is our Coordinator, which means he's the one with experience in networking and he's helping me get a handle on all this. Send us your preferences for dates and locations, and your ideas for activities. We can only plan for what you call for, so write us back!

Howie Baker, Louisville Friends Meeting
Clerk of OVYMYAFs, socratesonfire@gmail.com

P.S.: Write me if you're interested in carpooling to any of the gatherings!

Can the FGC 'Friends Journal' Survive? What can Friends do?

The following is taken from the <http://www.friendsjournal.org/> 'Friends Journal' web page and is the featured article for December 2009. The length of the letter does not allow reprinting in its entirety here and the whole letter can be found there. What follows is the headline and then the concluding segment of the letter, which has been abridged, which outlines the way the staff of the Friends Journal feels that the Journal can be helped. The rest of the letter details the Journal's circumstances. QQ D.C.

Is It Time to Lay Down FRIENDS JOURNAL?

An Open Letter from Janet Ross, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, Friends Publishing Corporation and Susan Corson-Finnerty, Publisher and Executive Editor

...(see <http://www.friendsjournal.org/it-time-lay-down-friends-journal> for the complete text)

There are several ways that readers of this letter could assist us:

First, you can write to us and tell us what you think. ... You can contact us at publisher_exec_ed@friendsjournal.org or FRIENDS JOURNAL, 1216 Arch St., Ste. 2A, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Second, you can share this letter with others, encouraging them to share their views with us.

Third, you can make regular gift donations to our work. ...

Fourth, you can subscribe to FRIENDS JOURNAL if you value its ministry or just enjoy its contents, especially if you've been reading someone else's copy. You can renew your subscription promptly when you receive your first notice, saving us time, mailing, and postage costs

Religious Education

As Clerk of the OVYM Religious Education Committee, I have been traveling to monthly meetings in both Quarters, talking with and listening to Friends involved or interested in Religious Education for their meetings. Adult RE seems to be active and vital in all meetings and Friends feel no lack of interesting and useful materials to study and discuss. I haven't found any really pressing needs or concerns about adult RE; if there are, please let me know. The RE Committee is here to serve you.

What I have discovered is that there are some common and recurring challenges around children's religious education. First of all - how blessed our meetings are where there are children, or even one child. Many meetings pray for the blessings and challenges they bring, along with the light, life, and energy that come with them. Children are such a valuable part of our Society;

to retain you as a reader. For us, every reader has great value as a participant in a community that ministers to itself. Our writers are not paid journalists—they are our readers, members of our community. Your participation is important to us on many levels.

Fifth, you can become a sustaining subscriber or ask your meeting to become a sustaining meeting, giving regular monthly donations above the price of your subscription, at a level that is right for you. Regular monthly gifts enable larger yearly donations from modest donors and help us greatly with cash flow.

Sixth, you can volunteer your time. This letter can be shared, and discussed at your meeting or with friends. Members of our Board and staff would be happy to respond to invitations to speak about the JOURNAL, and to hear the views of your meeting or community. You can let us know if you might be willing to be a volunteer fundraiser, if our Board decides to undertake a capital drive.

Finally, there are a few people reading this who have the ability to make or help secure a transformative gift for the JOURNAL. That is to say, a significantly large gift that would build our endowment. We do not expect such a gift to arrive in the mail, but if you feel led to consider such a step, we would be grateful to hear from you.

In the end, our decision is your decision—you who are reading this now—whether through the pages of the JOURNAL or through the Internet, or through letter, or photocopy. Is FRIENDS JOURNAL vital to the Religious Society of Friends? Is its ministry to the various branches of Friends, and to fellow seekers, worthy of significant support? We think that it is. We hope that you agree, and that we will hear from you.

Yours in peace, Janet and Susan

no less qualified to minister than anyone else. Their wisdom is pure and unaffected.

These are the challenges and concerns I've heard:

- Small numbers of children, or only one child
- Wide range of ages
- Irregular attendance
- Feelings of isolation of children and parents from other children and parents
- Limited resources; time, money, space, materials, teachers, energy
- The feeling that children are a disturbance or imposition
- Finding interesting and engaging curriculum that can be multi-generational
- Finding ways the meeting can share responsibility for

children's education

- Making sure parent's spiritual needs are filled
- How to teach Quaker faith and practice; raising Quaker children in an un-Friendly world
- Helping children grow spiritually and morally

There are answers to every one of these concerns and we can find them together. There is a wealth of materials and ideas to be shared among the meetings. A parent's retreat is in the planning stages, which would give us time set aside and opportunity for sharing with each other. I encourage you to contact the Clerk of your child's OVYM program for information.

The Religious Education Committee is ready to visit your meeting to facilitate discussion, share resources, provide a day of multi-generational activities or simply for a Friendly visit.

Do you share a concern for Religious Education, to "help establish right relationships with God, to build right attitudes, and to influence right conduct . . . that leads to a way of living . . . laying the foundations for a life long realization of the rich gifts of the spirit"? (OVYM Book of Discipline p28) If so, contact anyone on the Nominating Committee and share your leading.

Diann Herzog, Clerk OVYM RE Committee

Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship

It Is Time for Friends to Learn and Understand Our Complete History

by Vanessa Julye

Sarah Mapps Douglass, an African American woman, shares an experience of her mother's, Grace Mapps, among Friends in letters that she wrote to Sarah Grimké, a Friend of European descent, in 1838:

While her children were in their infancy she had a great concern to become a member of Friends Society not only because she was fully convinced of the excellence of the principles professed by that society, but because she earnestly desired that her children should receive the guarded education Friends give to theirs. She mentioned her concern to a Friend who said "do not apply, you will only have your feelings wounded. Friends will not receive you." Thus admonished, and feeling that prejudice had closed the doors against her, she did not make her concern known to the Society. There was nothing but my mother's complexion in the way to prevent her being a member, she was highly intelligent & pious; her whole life blameless.

Sarah writes in another letter some of her own experiences among Friends:

As you request to know particularly about Arch Street Meeting, I may say that there is a bench set apart at that meeting for our people, that my mother and myself were told to sit there, and that a friend sat at either end of the bench to prevent white persons from sitting there. And even when a child my soul was made sad with hearing five or six times during the course of one meeting this language of remonstrance addressed to those who were willing to sit by us. "This bench is for black people." "This bench is for the people of color." I have not been to Arch Street meeting for four years, but my mother goes once a week and frequently she has a whole long bench to herself.

Yes, these experiences occurred 164 years ago. However, some of my experiences within the Religious Society of Friends have been just as hurtful. Unlike Sarah and her mother I was able to join the Religious Society of Friends, I can sit anywhere I like in the meetinghouse, and my son attends a Quaker school. However, I still experience prejudice from Friends of European descent. I find that some Friends make assumptions about me and act on these assumptions based solely on the color of my skin. I, like Sarah Mapps Douglass, have been the recipient of words from some Caucasian Friends that were hurtful and made me angry. I have had Friends of European descent call me by another Friend of Color's name. Many times I did not look anything like the person whose name I was called. The only similarity between us was that we were people of African descent. I have been told by Caucasian Friends that they no longer see the color of my skin and they forget that I am African

American. I see the color of my skin everyday and everyday I have contact with someone who reminds me that I am African American and therefore inferior in their eyes. There is nothing wrong with noticing the color of my skin. It is a part of who I am. What is wrong is making assumptions about me because of my skin and treating me differently based on those assumptions. When a Friend calls me by another Person of Color's name and tells me that they don't see my color I feel invisible, invisible in an environment where my ancestors also are and were invisible. I don't see pictures of Friends of African descent on the walls of our meetinghouses and churches. We are not taught about Friends of Color in our religious education classes. The knowledge I have acquired about my ancestors has been through personal research. Yes, Friends were abolitionists, but we were also slave owners. Friends, as citizens of the United States did not always see or treat Africans and African Americans as equals. As we look back at our history, we cherish and honor the Friends who participated in the Underground Railroad. Many of those Friends were read out of their meetings for this work.

This summer I participated in the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. I went as a released traveling minister supported by my meeting, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, and a delegate for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. It was a fruitful, exhausting, exciting and very emotional experience. As a Friend of African descent it was very important for me to participate in a conference where people from around the world came together to talk about the many different forms of racism and share strategies for addressing racism. I am a member of the Religious Society of Friends and also a citizen of the United States of America, a country that has been built on racism. Racism is a part of my daily life including my religious community.

After being exposed to Quakerism as a teenager and student in a Quaker school I returned to the Religious Society of Friends in 1994 and began my ministry. I travel among Friends sharing my experience as an African American Quaker, serve as a resource for Friends regarding issues related to Friends of Color and support isolated Friends of color within the Religious Society of Friends. I conduct workshops, write articles, helped establish and facilitate the Center for People of Color at Friends General Conference Gatherings, convene a monthly worship group for People of Color at my meeting, travel to yearly meetings sharing my experience and concern for Friends of Color, joined the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent where I have helped plan and attend their

biennial gatherings and serve on several Quaker organizations diversity committees. However, it took me several years to realize that I had a ministry. It was not until I was asked to join Friend General Conference's Traveling Ministries Program that I went through a clearness process with my meeting and consequently received my minute.

I do this work because I have been called by God to help Friends hear the voices of Friends of Color, those of our ancestors and of us who are struggling within the Religious Society of Friends today. It is important to hear the voices of those who came before me within Quakerism who were called, as I have been, to the Religious Society of Friends by God,

This essay was taken from the FGConnections web page www.fgcquaker.org/connect/spring02/1.html.

Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and History of Slavery **by Paul Kriese**

Friends in the Ohio Valley take just pride in our positive history of race relations. We can easily point to the Underground Railroad, Levi Coffin and many unsung Friends who sacrificed so that African Americans could either escape to Canada or to a Northern state where chattel slavery did not exist. Friends in the Ohio Valley (Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky) settled land which was carved out of the Western wilderness by statutes such as the Northwest Ordinance which forbade slavery in the states which were to be carved out of this territory. Many pioneers, Quaker and non-Friend alike came to this area for the very reason that slavery was not uniformly practiced here. Friends from places like North Carolina and Pennsylvania led the way bringing former (and some who were still) enslaved here to help them set up free communities and to be able to live as free people. Places like Richmond, Indiana even made sure that land was available to build African American churches. And families such as the Charles' (Mary Lane Hiatt was a direct descendant here) were active along with the Coffins in acting as 'stationmasters' on the Underground Railroad. A noble and important chapter in race relations in the Ohio Valley.

A chapter which was (and maybe still is?) not so positive indicates that Friends, like many American citizens were born, grew up, worked, married, and died, within the dominant social-cultural reality of race relations which was there at the beginning of this nation's history and is still here now, negative. Friends increasingly lived in the world. Friends therefore were involved in the activities of the American culture in regard to race. Regardless of whether Friends were involved in, or cast a blind eye towards racial segregation, the reality still exists. Regardless whether Friends were adverse to breaking the law, this reality made no difference

but were not welcomed by the European members of the religion.

Racism has been a part of the Religious Society of Friends for over 300 years. It is time for Friends to learn and understand our complete history. We need to talk about it with one another and begin a dialog on how this history is affecting us today. There is a reason that People of Color do not participate in the Religious Society of Friends in greater numbers. As it was stated in the opening exercises of the World Conference Against Racism: "You cannot go into the future if you don't know your past." We need to begin having these discussions if members of the Religious Society of Friends want to be right with God.

to those whose very lives, and the lives of their spouses and children, depended on breaking such laws. Yet there were Friends who freely participated in racist organizations such as the KKK. In the 1920's and the 1930's members in Friends Meetings also held membership in the Klan and other whites-only Indiana-based groups. Friends in Meetings in Muncie, Richmond, Lynn, Lafayette, and others in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio held high office in the Klan. Friends who thought the African Americans were acting too quickly in asserting rights not previously held by these groups, were often vocal about the need for African American to sit down and shut up. Incidents at Earlham College involving African American students and faculty, even those such as George Sawyer who were brought to campus specifically to begin programs for African Americans, were openly chastised for trying to discuss how African American Quakers felt excluded by well meaning but patronizing Europe-Centric Friends. Membership was held up or never provided to Friends of Color. We can justly ask why there are no more Friends of Color than there are today in OVYM and in all of Quakerdom in the United States. (See Angell, Kriese, Weaver in an upcoming primary source book which documents some of these issues as well as that wonderful book by Julye and McDaniel).

If Friends are to truly make way for the 'Coming of the Lord' and to "trample out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored", we must see where we have fallen short of the 'glory of the Lord' and make sure that we are aware that we are not immune to racism and actively educate ourselves to these evils and work against them in our midst. In such ways we will be all the more ready to bring all people to the table of God's bounty.

Quarterly Meeting News

Miami Quarterly Meeting

The next gathering of Miami Quarterly Meeting is scheduled on Second Month, 21st, 2010. This gathering is hosted by Oxford Meeting and will be held at Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville, Ohio. Oxford Meeting will also coordinate the youth program for this session. Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting will develop and present the program portion at 1:15 pm. Meeting for Worship is scheduled for 10:30. This is an important session as nominations for officers and one member of the Committee of Two will occur. There will be vacancies in a number of officer positions this year. In addition to designated monthly meeting representatives, all Friends are welcomed and encour-

aged to attend this opportunity for corporate worship and fellowship. We were blessed during our last session during Tenth Month, 2009 to review the history of Miami Quarterly Meeting and Miami Center Quarterly Meeting of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. A number of Friends from Miami Center joined us in worship and discussion. Hopefully way may open for more contact and fellowship.

I look forward to seeing Friends at the next gathering of Quarterly Meeting.

Tom Nowel, Presiding Clerk, Miami Quarterly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting session, First Month 16, 2010

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends gathered at Fall Creek Friends Meetinghouse in Pendleton, IN, on First Month 16, 2010. The day's activities included opening fellowship, a meeting for worship, a meeting for business, a pitch-in lunch and period of open fellowship, worship sharing, and closing worship.

In the meeting for business, Friends united in endorsements of traveling minutes for Fall Creek Friends Diann Herzog and Rex Sprouse. Diann has a leading to travel among Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends, and Rex plans to travel among Friends in the Midwest, primarily in Indiana and Illinois. The Clerk reminded Friends that State of the Meeting reports were anticipated at the next session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, scheduled to be held on Fourth Month 17, 2010, at Lafayette Friends Meeting.

Friends also expressed concerns about discerning the best way forward for the Quarterly Meeting to offer Hopewell Friends loving support, while they are facing a number of difficult challenges, and about the need for clarity regarding the timely laying down of Maple Grove Friends Meeting.

The afternoon's worship sharing session focused on the quality of spiritual community in our meetings, actions taken by our meetings to deepen the spiritual friendships that underlie and support spiritual community, and consideration of how we can better build genuine spiritual community based in a shared seeking for the will of God.

There was a general sense that the day was a time of centering, deepening, and joyful fellowship.

submitted by Rex Sprouse, Clerk, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Monthly Meeting News

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting decided this summer to begin Meeting for Worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. after College Meeting switched to an afternoon time. We have been blessed with the attendance of a new family with three young children and by more regular participation in silent and vocal worship by several Earlham School of Religion students as well as by an Autumn visitor. We continue a regular schedule of third Sunday Adult Education and fourth Sunday Peace & Social Concerns worship sharing sessions.

This past year we reflected on our passions and gifts and discovered a common interest in supporting our local Habitat for Humanity; we have provided food for their workers several times. In Summer we visited each other's gardens. In Autumn we surveyed and examined our carbon footprints, learned about a meditation process practiced by Rex Ambler, and heard about a listening project focused on the concerns and philanthropic interests of another meeting's members. One member reached out to students with a Bible study series following Meeting for Worship in September.

Groups meet monthly for book group discussions, poetry & other writing as a spiritual practice, and storytelling. Mid-week meeting meets weekly at Friends Fellowship. Our First Day

Dayton Monthly Meeting

In October several Dayton Friends attended Englewood Friends Meeting for joint worship. Englewood Friends will be joining us for worship at our meeting room on January 31.

Congratulations to Gordon Starr and Melanie Neher on the birth of their second child, a son, Charles Gordon Starr, on October 31.

Dayton Friends were very pleased to see Dean Matthews at meeting on November 1. Dean had been unable to attend meeting since his surgery the previous summer. He continues to recuperate and we look forward to seeing him again in the coming weeks.

We were also happy to see David and Virginia Wood while they were in town during the holidays. The Woods' coordinated our

School class which now has up to six children (ages 2-9) continues with volunteer teachers from the meeting plus an Earlham student for child care assistance; missed is one family with a seven year old moved to Utah in August. Most of our teenagers have now finished college.

In the first half of the year we experienced the deaths of two members and an attender. Mary Morrisett Mullin, an early Clear Creek member and creator of lovely quilts and active in peace concerns into her 90's, died in January. Evan Farber, attender and retired Earlham librarian, also died a natural death in February. Member James Lacey was tragically killed in a car accident in June.

In December we enjoyed our intergenerational simple gift making, children's Christmas play, caroling, hosting Richmond's Three Meeting Christmas eve semi-programmed worship and our own un-programmed worship in front of a fireplace on Christmas morning. In January we will learn about "Lecto-Divino" and view and share about "Life in Occupied Palestine". In early February we look forward to an all-day Quaker Quest session. We are also setting up two marriage clearness committees and hope to celebrate two weddings of members this coming year.

Submitted by Jane Telfair Stowe

annual intergenerational Christmas program. Our newest and youngest attender, Charles Gordon Starr, played the Baby Jesus and slept through his theatrical debut!

We are proud of the various accomplishments of our young adult attenders.

Alex French is a junior at the Ohio State University where he is majoring in Economics. He interned last summer with the law director of the city of Lima. Brandon French is a senior at Lima Central Catholic High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society. He plays golf and tennis and has played in State Championships for both sports. He plans to attend Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey where he has earned a 4 year golf scholarship.

Anna Henry is a junior at University of Dayton, is majoring in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Biology, and is working in research with Carbon nano fibers and also research in Bio Medical Engineering. She also volunteers with the UD student run Emergency Squad as an EMT. William Henry is a junior at Northmont High School, runs Cross Country and track, and is preparing for the SAT and applying to colleges.

Julie Scarpelli will be attending graduate school for Occupational

Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting

On Oct. 17 Jim and Linda Coppock celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by hosting a potluck dinner followed by folk dancing at the Wyoming fine Arts Center. This was an opportunity for their family and friends to share in the joy they have brought to everyone touched by them over the years. Attendees expressed the hope that Jim and Linda would continue to celebrate their union in such a fun way throughout the coming years.

On Nov. 14 EHFM hosted the Peace Church Brunch at our meetinghouse. This group includes Brethren and Mennonites as well as all three Cincinnati Friends Meetings. The goal of the group is to reduce the violence that occurs in Cincinnati's inner-city neighborhoods. Everyone enjoyed the food which was followed by singing, prayers, and team-building exercises.

On Dec. 6 a Best Wishes Party was held for Tom and Barbarie Hill

Fall Creek Monthly Meeting

Fall Creek Meeting simply continues to grow in love and grace. "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Psalm 42:1-2 submitted by Diann Herzog

Hopewell Monthly Meeting

Hopewell has spent a hard winter, with cold, ice and snow. The roads were sometimes too bad for attendees to drive. We missed two or three meetings during the bad weather. January 16, we convened amidst fog but warmer.

We are reading and discussing *The Sun and the Umbrella* by Nels F.S. Ferre in second hour discussion. The youth group is listening to updated versions of Esops' Fables, with a more kindly approach and enjoying their time in Meeting. We are collecting money for Haiti.

Our Intergenerational Gathering was a ride, Dec. 12 on the Polar Express. 17 attendees and family thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the North Pole and time with Santa Claus.

We were saddened by the death of the last of our Founding Members, Edith Dahl, who has been ill for a very long time. She was always happy, lively and set a good example of being busy and keeping the Meeting house organized and spiffy, that we try,

Lexington Monthly Meeting

Surely every periodic review of meeting activity will demonstrate challenges and joys. An on-going concern for our meeting remains our Meeting House and our need to renovate it. Most recently, Friends took sledge hammers and crowbars to several walls in the meeting house that had suffered water damage from a leaking roof. The deconstruction uncovered further damage to our roof which can only thoroughly be repaired by a complete replacement. We labor over this decision or whether to demolish the entire wing of the Meeting House this roof covers. Our

Therapy starting in June. She will be attending either University of Pittsburgh or the Ohio State University. Lisa Scarpelli is a sophomore at Earlham College. She currently is studying in Valencia, Spain where she is participating in Earlham's Off Campus program there. She tentatively plans to major in Peace and Global Studies with a minor in Spanish.

Terri Scarpelli, correspondent

who are moving to Charlottesville, NC. We certainly wish them all the happiness that having three grandchildren there entails but their empty chairs at meeting and as F/friends leaves a big hole in our hearts.

Our traditional Christmas Party and Talent Show did not disappoint anyone. After a fine and festive potluck lunch, Friends gathered to share music, poetry, handiwork, stories, jokes and Christmas carols at the meetinghouse.

The second hour discussion on Jan. 10 was led by Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson. Rhonda shared information and insights on "What is Black Theology" from a course she had enjoyed at Xavier University as part of her Masters program. A series of follow-up discussions were suggested by those in attendance.

submitted by Darlene Palmer

and fail sometimes, to follow. Edith and Gene were the cornerstone of our Meeting for a long time. Their children attended here. We extend our sympathy and love to the family and friends. We shall continue to hold her and her family in the Light as we always have. They were part of our beginning Meeting and worked hard to repair and complete the building we cherish. Edith was ill for a long time and now is at peace. Thank you Edith and family. The memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 1:00 pm, at Hopewell. All are welcome.

Underneath the snow, the labyrinth rests. We wait for spring and flowers to grow as everyone does. We continue to hold in the Light all who suffer, are ill and work and die for peace and an end to hunger in the world. We hold in the Light the country of Haiti and the people suffering after the horrible earthquake. Peace be with you, and may Spirit bless.

Respectfully submitted, Sherita Saffer Campbell

Building committee charged with fundraising for building renovations brought in a consultant (who was himself a Quaker) to help us determine the feasibility of raising sufficient capital to begin a large renovation. The results of that initial survey were encouraging, and our building committee has developed a proposal for fundraising to finance the renovation. We will be considering this proposal over the next few weeks.

We held memorial services in the past months for two friends

who had struggled with long-term illnesses just before their deaths. In both cases, we heard from their families that visitations and practical helps such as sitting with the friend and helping with transportation offered by the Meeting were appreciated by family members. These memorial services, though sad events, were times to reflect what great gifts these two friends brought to our meeting.

Our now-annual winter theatrical production by young friends was again well-received; we have a number of original scripts available to interested enquiries: contact our co-clerk Peter Hardy

Lafayette Monthly Meeting

Lafayette Friends are excited to be growing in our out-reach to groups in our community who share our testimonies on peace and social justice. In the fall we joined with the Lafayette Area Peace Coalition and a group of peace churches to present the AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit for the second time. This time we were on the campus of Ivy Tech where we believe we reached a different audience than at the earlier exhibit at Purdue. Shortly thereafter, we worked with the same groups to present a community forum on health care reform, also at Ivy Tech. Just before Christmas we were part of a consortium of some 30 churches in Lafayette that puts on Jubilee Christmas each year. We were able to host 4 families, providing gifts for a total of 7 children. Recently we have joined with the Church of the Brethren to provide a Sunday mid-day meal for the homeless at a downtown Methodist Church, and we continue to provide the Easter Sunday meal on our own for the same group.

We are proud of Friend Erik Cleven, who will be presenting a workshop on conflict resolution at Friends General Conference this summer. We are delighted to have Summer Cushman worshipping with us for several years while her husband works on a Ph.D. at Purdue. This summer she is finishing her degree at the Earlham School of Religion and is working as an intern for FGC, introducing meetings all over the country to Quaker Quest. As a result of Summer's presence among us, we are taking the first baby steps toward considering Quaker Quest for our own meeting.

Miami Monthly Meeting

Friends gathered this past fall to complete a major grounds keeping project around the White Brick Meeting House. Honeysuckle and thick bramble were removed from the front of the White Brick, and the results are wonderful. The Meeting's Christmas program was held on the First Day prior to Christmas Day. Friends enjoyed singing Christmas carols and enjoyed the fellowship of a pot luck lunch following Meeting for Worship. The following First Day, Friends entertained residents at Quaker Heights with Christmas carols and holiday readings. A number of Eula McDermott's family members, who were visiting for the holiday, joined in the celebration. Oxford Monthly Meeting will host the next session of Miami Quarterly Meeting at Miami Meeting in Waynesville. Miami Friends look forward to the session at the White Brick Meeting House and assisting Oxford. Lonny Burger's mother passed away during First

for subjects covered.

The meeting continues to suffer from a crisis which occurred at our annual Holiday Party held in the home of one of our Members. After the event the host discovered some of her heirloom jewelry was missing. Our attempts to discover what happened and offers to have the items returned anonymously have so far not resulted in the return of the items and the loss remains an unresolved hurt to the sense of trust and community within our meeting.

submitted by Gail Koehler

In February, we will begin a series of discussions of "Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship." Friends are looking forward to the challenge of examining honestly how we as individuals as well as our Society deal with issues of race. We also have plans to discuss President Obama's Nobel Prize acceptance speech as a means of clarifying our own beliefs with respect to the Friends' peace testimony.

On two occasions Lafayette Friends have traveled to Indianapolis to worship with Irvington Friends, who are leaving Western Yearly Meeting and are in the process of discerning whether they wish to remain a pastored meeting and how they wish to affiliate with other meetings. We received a loving welcome and feel a sense of community with them.

Even as we see ourselves growing in our faith and in the Light, we are concerned about our First Day School, which we believe needs to do more to engage the entire Meeting in the task of helping our small group of children understand and grow in our Quaker faith. To that end, we are eagerly anticipating a visit from Diann Herzog from the OVYM Religious Education Committee in late January.

Our lives are full as we grow together in our shared faith.

Ann Pellegrino, Clerk

Month. Friends held Lonny's family in the Light. Woody Stone came home to the United States during the Christmas holiday. His primary interest is searching for an engineering school, and he visited Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Woody came home to the Meeting on a First Day in mid-December. He spent time with the Nowel family and other friends from the Loveland area. Katie Stone and her friend Ben are working in a medical facility in the Sudan during First and Second Month. Ben is a medical student in Tasmania, and he and Katie are providing medical services in this poverty stricken and desperate part of the world. Gretchen and Phil report that all is well in Tasmania. Friends are always welcome to visit with us on First Day, 9:30 for adult discussion and 10:45 for Meeting for Worship.

submitted by Tom Nowel

Oxford Monthly Meeting

Oxford Friends has been involved in several charitable efforts, all of which are annual occurrences for the group. In August we filled five school bags with supplies, and 8 hygienic kits for Church World Service. The local Church Women United, with its national group, distributes these throughout the US and worldwide. In October Friends supported a member in the CROP walk for hunger relief. One-fourth of the funds raised stay in our local community, with the rest of the proceeds used for international food relief. Our member raised almost 1/5 of the total money raised this year! Also in October the Friends participated in the

local Empty Bowls luncheon, together with many local church communities. In December as part of our "Advent Event" we gathered materials for a local no-kill animal shelter and donated several bags of animal food and supplies. Our youngest member, in elementary school, is a volunteer at this organization. We also gathered recycled materials for an environmental education mobile unit that visits local schools.

Second hours have included talks on a member's visit to Iran, and on children and their engagement in peacemaking skills.

submitted by Helen Sheumaker

Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting

Longtime member Joan Brucker came to the end of her life in October. Friends met to celebrate that life on November 28. Other losses include resignations by Leila Eastman Peterson and Ann Koppelman.

New members include Mark Browne-Middleton, (who is already functioning as recording clerk); and Ben and Eva Thornber, who transferred from New Burlington Meeting. We are also pleased to be joined in worship by the Snedeker-Morschek family, who drive from Columbus to be with us.

In December, First-day school members held an "Eco-fair," selling crafts and baked goods. \$500 was raised to be given to organiza-

tions working to preserve the earth.

Ministry and Advancement has structured the ten o'clock hour on First-days, scheduling singing, worship-sharing and discussion of the query as preparation for worship at 11 AM.

The local Jewish group, Havurah shares our worship space on Seventh day and contributes financially to the building maintenance. It is a very warm and mutually satisfying relationship.

Our relationship with the newly restored Antioch College is a work in progress.

In the Light, Carl Hyde, correspondent.

News From The Broadacre

Accepting Gifts of the Spirit

2010 FGC Gathering



2010 FGC Gathering

I have never been to FGC Gathering. My better half has, with youngsters in tow some years ago. This year's Gathering is going to be at Bowling Green State University on the 4th of July through the 10th of July. It may be a good year to go, it is closer this year than usual. Below is an edited kernal from the Gathering site. *D. Cartmell*

It is part conference and part family camp. It provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together. There are workshops, programming for children and teens, inspirational evening programs, and a program for young adults.

Workshops

Open to All: Approaches to Prayer, Becoming a Storyteller, Bringing Nonviolence into Everyday Life, Call to Discipleship, Chant: A Channel to Deepen Our Worship, Conversations About Clerking, Crisis, Vision and Community, Daily Extended Meeting for Worship, Dancing the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, Ecology as Spiritual Practice, Elias Hicks, A Traditional Kind of Quaker, Exploring the Myth of Racial Justice, The Foundations of Liberal Quakerism, Friends Testimonies in Everyday Life, Holding In the Light, Framing the Sacred, Listening for Muses, Living the Spiritual Life, Meeting for Bicycling, Playing In the Light, Promoting Conversations About Racism, Prophets from Prison, Quaker Quest and Meeting Outreach, Singing Our Souls, Speaking My Truth, Hearing Yours, Spirit and Imagination in the Classroom, Spiritual Dimensions of Gender Variance, Tai Chi, Lao Tsu & Quaker Worship, Teasing Apart Quakerism's White Cocoon, Universalism, Christianity and Quakerism, Walking In the Light, Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself", Wool Gathering, Written Ministry from Rising Generations, You Want Me to Do What, God?

Women Only: Travel in the Ministry – Birds in Flight

Intergenerational: Book as Verb: Creating Your Soul's Kitchen, Nontheist Friends, Quaker Workcamp Experience, Quakers and Social Class, Yoga – Union with the Absolute

High School and Young Adults: Keeping Physically and Spiritually Fit

High School Only: Ministry with Children, Organizing the Hope – Leadership for Peace, Youth Oppression, Youth Power

Adults Only: Abandon All Weariness; Blessing, a Way of Life; Jesus: Revolutionary or Mystic?; Milk for Babes... Nayler's Last Ministry; Parenting Guided by Quaker Faith and Practices; Quaker Approaches to Conflict Transformation; Quaker Views of Sex After Fifty; Revitalizing & Rethinking Our First Day Schools; Right Relationship: Economy, People and Earth; Telling Our

Stories; Weaving Community and Welcoming the Soul

Couples Only: Couple Enrichment, Tending Spirit in Your Relationship

Evening Programming

George Lakey, "Conflict as a Gift of the Spirit"

Phil Gulley, "Universalism: A Hope for Humanity"

Showcase of Quaker Talent

Amanda Kemp and Theatre for Transformation, "Show me the Franklins! Remembering the Ancestors, Slavery and Benjamin Franklin"

See <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/> for more information

Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat, 2010 Workshops on the theme of Connecting with Spirit

Mindfulness & Integral Meditation by Rev. David LeBeau

(Location: Friends Meeting House, \$25) • Saturday, March 27 • 9-11:30

Cosmic Creativity by Janette Shetter, Deborah Hutchison, and Kelly Carson

(Location: Mt. Gilead Retreat, \$25) • Saturday, April 10 • 9:30-1:00

Spring Celebration and May Pole • Saturday, May 1 • 12:30-3:00

Re-writing our Losses by Beth Lodge-Rigal, Deborah Hutchison & Donna Eder

(Location: Mt. Gilead Retreat, \$50) • Saturday, May 8 • 9-3:30

Exploring the Gift of Possibility in Times of Transition by Gracia Valliant

(Location: Friends Meeting House, \$45) • Saturday, June 19 • 9-3:30

July and September TBA

The Rule of Benedict by Sr. Julie Sewell

(Location: Friends Meeting House, \$25) • Saturday, November 6 • 9-12:00

Exploring the Gift of Possibility- Part II by Gracia Valliant

(Location: Friends Meeting House, \$45) • Saturday, December 4 • 9-3:30

For more information call (812) 679-6835, or e-mail

mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us



www.mtgileadfriendsretreat.org/

Quaker Heights Care Community Identifies Critical Assumptions for Strategic Goals



While Quaker Heights has been in existence for more than 100 years and is financially and operationally sound, the future is uncertain.

Trustees understand the viability of the mission rests with visionary leadership and calculated planning. Charting a course for future sustainability is why an evidenced based strategic plan was developed by the Trustees. Part of the planning process required an examination of assumptions. Trustees outlined the following as important to the four main goals of financial solvency, clinical excellence, effective fund raising and strong board governance:

- 1) The organization's living character and subsequent reputation are rooted in testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends.
- 2) QHCC, a mission driven organization, has a history of adapting and changing, balancing the needs of the organization's desire to minimize debt while successfully responding to needs in the community, which it has done for over 105 years.
- 3) The organization's Board of Trustees governs based on Quaker principals for business decision making. The Religious Society of Friends believes that right and satisfactory

decision is dependent upon full mutual understanding and agreement. Therefore it transacts its business by united decision under Divine Guidance, rather than by divisive majority vote, striving to reach its conclusions in a spirit of reasonableness and forbearance

- 4) The organization has a strong and consistent executive management team which understands these principals.
- 5) The current organizational business model is not sustainable due to decreasing sources of revenue from governmental programs.
- 6) Continuing the status quo, doing nothing and operating "as is", creates a high risk for organizational failure, and the potential for closure of the operations.
- 7) The organization is facing unprecedented changes in the market with immediate competitors offering brand new small scale skilled nursing homes (called Green House's or Small Houses) with all private rooms, and resident centered care staffing models; this development outdates the current skilled nursing services organizational model that does not adequately meet consumer demand for short term rehabilitation (Medicare, inpatient and outpatient services) accommodations and amenities.

8) The organization faces a compounded impact on Assisted Living due to recent economic downturns, which influence private pay admission decisions; this negative influence, which delays or derails admission decisions to private pay units, will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

9) Transparency and Servant Leadership will be required of the both management and the board to navigate the field of full accountability for organizational success; this will require performance metric analysis as well as new skills and competencies in management and trustees.

10) The organization is in a relatively good financial position, but this stability is projected to decline; effective fundraising should be implemented to seek to increase the foundation's fund balance and maximize capital resources.

These assumptions have guided the actions of the Trustees to seek opportunities to ensure Quaker Heights survives into the future. The end of year appeal to the OVYM yielded donations to Quaker Heights and the Trustees and staff are thankful for the generous giving. This will be one of many efforts to ensure the largest ministry of OVYM continues to acknowledge that all persons are children of one God, whose love and care are shared by all. Working toward achievement of the goals with a concrete understanding of these assumptions, and their respective implications, is how the mission will thrive for future generations.

If you would like more information or have questions or comments, please contact Wendy Waters-Connell at wwatersc@quakerheights.org or call at 513.897.6050.

The Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College Presents

“Friends in Film”

Exhibit Opening Reception: January 14, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Exhibit Dates: January 15 through February 19, 2010

Gallery Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment

Exhibit Description: Quakers in Hollywood?! Come check out the good, the bad, and the sometimes totally incorrect way that friends have been portrayed in film.



Film showings in association with “Friends in Film”:

“Angel and the Badman”

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

“Restoration”

Thursday, January 28, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

“Nixon”

Thursday, February 4, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

“Iron Jawed Angels”

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

“Bridges of Friendship: How Children Learn About Other Cultures”

Exhibit Opening Reception: March 3, 2010, 6p.m.

Exhibit Dates: March 4 through October 1, 2010

Gallery Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment

Exhibit Description: Ellen C. traveled from Wilmington, Ohio, to Nagasaki, Japan, in 1927. She is coming home to help tell the story of the Japanese-American Friendship Doll Exchange program. In this special exhibit, co-hosted by the Peace Resource Center, the Quaker Heritage Center, and Watson



Library, visitors will see dolls, hear music, and read children's books from around the world. Join us to discover the stories of Barbara Reynolds, Ellen C. Wright, and others who worked to help children build bridges of friendship.

“Pieces of War”

Last Performance of the 2009/2010 Issues & Artists Season

March 25, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Heiland Theatre, Boyd Cultural Arts Center

Kenny Carnes' one-man show delivers a rapid-fire cadence of rhyme and rhythm to weave a portfolio of stories from three generations of American heroes, capturing the narratives of American soldiers from World War II, Vietnam, and contemporary conflicts based on interviews, observations, and personal experience.



“Ellen C.: Welcoming a Traveler Home”

April 22, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College

In 1927, Ellen C. left Wilmington, Ohio, headed for Japan as one of thousands of American Friendship dolls who journeyed across the Pacific as ambassadors for cultural understanding. Ruth Dobyns, Curator of the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College, will tell the story of this ambitious project and the amazing story of Ellen C.'s return home.

Ruth M. Dobyns

Curator, Quaker Heritage Center

Chair, Heritage Advisory Council

Coordinator, Issues & Artists/Westheimer Peace Symposium

Wilmington College - 1870 Quaker Way - Pyle Center 1182 -

Wilmington, OH 45177

(937) 382-6661 x 719

qhc@wilmington.edu, <http://www2.wilmington.edu>

“Grant me the serenity to prioritize the things I cannot delegate, the courage to say no when I need to, and the wisdom to know when to go home.”

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
11774 South Springboro Road
Brookston, IN 47923

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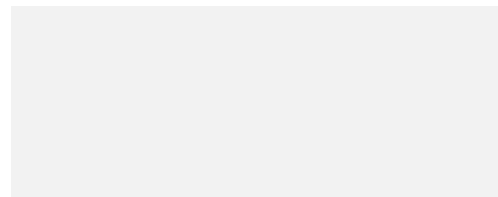
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OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



Quaker Quill



Bridges of Friendship

How Children Learn About Other Cultures

March 3 - October 1, 2010
Pence Resource Center, Quaker Heritage Center, Watson Library

Wilmington College



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

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

Calendars and more can be found at these
web sites.

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