



FROM REVELATION TO REVOLUTION: WALKING TOGETHER IN RADICAL LOVE

The 201st annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

The Planning Committee for OVYM's 2021 annual sessions, to be held online June 16-20, is excited to present this year's schedule and plans for plenary sessions and workshops. **Registration is now open and available on the OVYM website <https://www.ovym.org/events/2021-annual-sessions/> which will be updated regularly** in the coming days and weeks with more information and greater details about our 201st annual gathering, including programming for children and youth.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Thursday, June 17, 7 p.m.

"Stories of Radical Love," a panel of OVYM Friends sharing their experiences of radical love.

Panelists include:

- **J. T. Taylor**, of North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis, who took the Alternatives to Violence model into prisons while working with the Peace Center in Indianapolis;
- **Melissa LeVine**, of Lexington Friends, who is actively involved in supporting a refugee family from Afghanistan; and
- **L. C. Hyde**, a social justice activist who grew up in Yellow Springs Friends and is currently pursuing graduate studies in Philadelphia after spending two years serving in Thailand with the Peace Corps.

Friday, June 18, 7 p.m.

Carl Magruder, a member of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, in Berkeley, Calif., will offer a presentation guided by Spirit. A lifelong Quaker in the waiting worship tradition, Carl has a master's of divinity degree and works as a palliative care chaplain in northern California. His speaking engagements among Friends recently included providing the half-hour Bible session each morning during last summer's online FGC Gathering.

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Dear Friends:

Once again, I write to invite you to our upcoming virtual annual sessions. A year ago, I hoped that we would be able to meet in person by now, but even as vaccines provide more opportunities to be together, it's clear that our path out of the pandemic remains slow and uncertain. I pray for the physical health of each of you and the spiritual health of our meetings.

The schedule for our annual sessions provides a patchwork of activities throughout five days, which means that most people can take ample breaks. That puts more of the onus on each of us to cultivate connections with each other and to nurture our spirits. We are all part-time attenders. We will not be immersed in community, so we will miss the deep connections even as we avoid taxing travel. We all risk trying to fit too many other activities into this time for us to be together. I will strive to limit my other commitments so that I can focus more on being present and being aware of the Divine Presence. I invite you to do the same.

Last year during business sessions, I asked Friends to use a color coded system to signal their response to items before us. It worked well, so get your colors ready (white—I have a question; black—I have an answer; yellow—I

Martha Viehmänn



wish to comment on/discuss the issue; green—I approve; red—I have a stop). I still remember the crayon, scarf, and pillow that made the show of approval more fun. Creativity is good for the spirit, so let's get creative!

Please also prepare by looking over the Advance Reports (the agenda at the front will tell you what we will cover each day). Since time for business is limited, we will not hear most of the reports. Reading the reports is the best way to be informed about the work of our Yearly Meeting. Any business that cannot be resolved during Annual Sessions will go before Executive Committee.

Finally, I hope we will gather with a good store of patience and gratitude. Much hard work makes our annual sessions possible. It won't be perfect, and I will keenly miss gathering with Friends. Approaching our time together in a spirit of gratitude, I hope that I can glean spiritual riches from our virtual gathering. I hope you do too.

(Plans for Annual Sessions, continued from page 1)

WORKSHOPS

We are expanding our workshop presentation days this year to include two offerings on Wednesday, June 16, to highlight Quaker organizations seeking to incorporate a Friends perspective in national and global issues and foster a world of equity, justice and peace.

Wednesday, June 17

—1 p.m.: Friends Committee on National Legislation, presenting on “F/friends in Unlikely Places: Engaging with Those Who Don’t Agree with You”

—2:30 p.m.: American Friends Service Committee, presenting on “Bystander Intervention”

Friday, June 18; each workshop is from 1-2/2:30 p.m.

—“Leadings: Discerning Divine Opportunities,” facilitated by Diann Herzog, of Fall Creek Meeting, and Gloria Bruner, of Bloomington Meeting

—“Facing Friendly Fences in Radical Love — Building Our Toolkit with the Practice of Effective Listening,” presented by Gail Koehler, of Lexington Friends, and Buck Bunner, of Clear Creek Friends, on behalf of the OVYM Religious Nurture and Education Committee

—“Regeneration and Radical Love,” presented by Al McGrew on behalf of the OVYM Earth Care Committee. Al, of Dayton Friends, is also OVYM’s representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Saturday, June 19; each workshop is from 1-2/2:30 p.m.

—“Pastoral Care in Difficult Situations and Times,” offered by Carl Magruder, Friday night’s plenary speaker

—“An Introduction to Alternatives to Violence,” presented by Buck Bunner, a member of Clear Creek Meeting and a founder and organizer of Indiana’s AVP program

—“Reflecting on Race through Art Journaling,” presented by L. J. Boswell, an interfaith chaplain who leads sessions across the country on transformation, spirituality and justice.

Submitted by Carol Simmons

Minute on Nuclear Weapons to be considered at Yearly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting 1/17/21

Seventy-five years ago, the United States became the only nation to use nuclear weapons, destroying the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This act caused incredible suffering to the civilian population and ushered in an age of fear.

This was not just the fear of a bomb blast killing humans and destroying cities. It was also the fear of radiation poisoning air, earth and water miles from the bomb craters, leaving living things with no way to eat, drink or even breathe that would not cause radiation sickness and slow death.

Still, nations raced to pour precious resources into creating a “doomsday machine” that could destroy their enemies, in spite of the fact that this would trigger retaliation in kind. The U.S. and the Soviet Union embraced as part of their national security policies the doctrine of “Mutually Assured Destruction,” saying in effect, “If we both know we can utterly destroy each other, neither of us will do it.”

And yet the catastrophe has almost happened more than once. Many accidents and misinterpretations have edged close to disaster, and the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis nearly led to open war.

Fortunately, world leaders drew back from that brink. The Nuclear Freeze movement grew; in 1982 a million people gathered in New York’s Central Park to call for an end to the nuclear arms race. Every U.S. President from Eisenhower through Obama respected the need for limits on nuclear weapons. President Reagan declared, “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” Over the decades, diplomatic negotiations resulted in treaties and agreements that de-escalated the arms race and cut the global nuclear stockpile by 80%.

But now, the danger of nuclear war has risen as high as ever. The Trump administration backed out of a number of agreements despite the fact that these agreements provided us with useful information, resulted in the destruction of dangerous weapons, or reduced nuclear proliferation to other nations. The Trump administration re-opened the possibility of resuming nuclear test explosion, and maneuvered in a way that threatened to derail the much-needed New START treaty. Congress has authorized spending \$1.2 trillion for a new generation of nuclear weapons, including “usable” nuclear weapons—as though “low-yield” nuclear weapons (which are almost the same size as the Hiroshima bomb) could be employed without provoking a cataclysmic nuclear response. But as the late Senator Richard Lugar, together with other high-ranking former officials, warned: “It is unlikely there is such a thing as a ‘limited’ nuclear war; preparing for one is folly.”

Experts warn that nuclear war is just as likely today as it was at the height of the Cold War, whether it begins on purpose, through an accident or cyber attack, or because of a miscalculation of other powers’ reactions to deployment of “usable” nuclear weapons. Even a “small” nuclear war between India and Pakistan, with 3% of world nuclear arsenals, would kill two billion people—over a quarter of the world’s population—as the clouds of debris would block sunlight from reaching food crops. War between the United States and Russia could well extinguish life on Earth.

The bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, was the first time nuclear weapons were used in combat. Let us make sure that the bombing of Nagasaki on August 9 was the last.

(Continued p. 4)

SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL SESSIONS

| | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 7:00 - 7:30 | | Morning Worship | Morning Worship | Morning Worship | |
| 7:30 - 7:45 | | | | | |
| 7:45 - 8:15 | | Yoga | Yoga | Yoga | Yoga |
| 8:15 - 8:30 | | Technical Help | Technical Help | Technical Help | |
| 8:30 - 9:30 | | Worship Sharing | Worship Sharing | Worship Sharing | |
| 9:30 - 10:00 | | | | | |
| 10:00 - 11:30 | | Children's Program | Children's Program | Children's Program | Meeting for Business |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | | | | | Meeting for worship |
| 12:00 - 1:00 | | Anti-Racism Drop in | Anti – Racism Drop in | Anti-Racism Drop in | |
| 1:00 - 2:30 | FCNL workshop | Meeting for Business | Workshops | Workshops | |
| 2:30 - 3:00 | | | | | |
| 3:00 - 4:00 | AFSC workshop | | | Memorial Meeting | |
| 4:00 - 5:00 | | Healing Center | Healing Center | Healing Center | * Please note that details of the program for middle youth and teens have yet to be worked out. Once they are determined they will be added to this schedule. |
| 5:00 - 5:30 | Welcome | | | | |
| 5:30 - 6:00 | Worship | | | | |
| 6:00 - 6:30 | | Newcomer Welcome Dinner | | | |
| 6:30 - 7:00 | | Hymn singing | Hymn singing | Hymn singing | |
| 7:00 - 8:30 | Meeting for Business | Plenary: <i>Stories of Radical Love</i> | Plenary: <i>Carl Magruder</i> | Talent / Variety show | |
| 8:30 - 9:00 | | | | | |
| 8:30 - 9:30 | | Worship sharing / Interest groups | Worship sharing / Interest groups | Worship sharing / Interest groups | |

(Minute on Nuclear Weapons, continued from p. 2)

This is the time to take action. The people of the world have awakened to the fact that we face the existential threats of global warming and a mishandled pandemic, and that these threats are driven by systems of oppression that must change. In our nation, movements to save the climate, achieve racial justice, and protect voters' rights are beginning to coalesce, and abolition of nuclear weapons needs to be part of the world-saving work.

Therefore the Whitewater Quarterly Meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends encourages all who hear or read these words to consider how to forward the cause of peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. We ask you to do all you can to support these actions:

Urge the government of the United States to **restore the network of agreements and the process of diplomatic negotiation that brought us a measure of shared security** over past decades. Specifically, the U.S. should:

- Indicate readiness to extend the New START treaty, returning to bilateral talks with Russia whether China chooses to be involved or not
- encourage open discussion among all nations of steps toward reducing nuclear arsenals, building on New START
- Affirm commitment to the spirit of our agreements, where possible repairing and re-entering the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA), and the Open Skies treaty.

Urge the government of the United States to adopt **a better nuclear policy**:

- Adopt a No First Use policy
- Take land-based Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles off launch-ready alert, and in fact rid ourselves of the vulnerable and dangerous land-based ICBM system altogether
- Ensure that any decision to launch nuclear weapons is reviewed by designated officials in addition to the President
- Eschew any future nuclear test explosions
- Close the door on the notion of “usable nukes”
- Replace plans to “modernize” our nuclear arsenal with plans to work toward eliminating it
- Sign and seek ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Call upon Members of Congress to **radically reduce the military budget**, especially nuclear expenses:

- Deny appropriations for “usable” nuclear weapons, new nuclear weapons and nuclear test explosions
- Channel saved funds into meeting human needs and increasing peace-building efforts

Encourage voters to **explore candidates' positions on the use or abolition of nuclear weapons and to vote and support candidates as led by conscience**

Support the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a campaign that won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. ICAN describes itself as “a broad, inclusive campaign, focused on mobilizing civil society around the world to support the specific objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons” in accord with the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW has been ratified by 50 nations and thus entered into force on January 22, 2021. The U.S. has yet to ratify the TPNW. While the treaty is only legally binding on nations that have ratified it, it still became an instrument of international law on that date.

ICAN's U.S. partner, NuclearBan.US, offers the Treaty Compliance Campaign, by which individuals, businesses, faith communities, schools, organizations, cities and states can align themselves with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons and the Paris Climate Agreement by undertaking to disconnect and divest, as far as possible, from both fossil fuels **and** the nuclear weapons industry.

- Learn more about these partnered campaigns (see <https://www.icanw.org/> and <http://www.nuclearban.us/about/>)
- Consider joining as an individual
- Encourage your meeting or faith community, other organizations to which you belong, your city or town, and your members of Congress to join the campaign

These actions may bring us to a new era of shared security and hope.

Source: email from Martha Viehmann





OVYM Administrative Assistant Part-Time Position Announcement

PURPOSE: To perform clerical and administrative support for OVYM officers, representatives, committees, and volunteer administrators. To support communication within the yearly meeting.

EXPECTATIONS: This position requires a total of approximately 350 hours annually, with more work during some weeks (when preparing for annual sessions in May and attending this meeting in June, for example). Anticipate an average of 6.5 to 7 hours per week. The Administrative Assistant is expected to work from home (or in donated office space) and may submit reimbursement for travel expenses when travel is required.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Establish and maintain a Yearly Meeting office either at home or in a donated space which may be a Meetinghouse.
- Maintain OVYM files, both electronic and hard copies.
- Manage OVYM correspondence. Create, receive, and appropriately distribute mail (email and hard copy) to officers, representatives, committee clerks, and volunteer administrators. Manage other routine correspondence, such as preparations for annual sessions and executive committee meetings.
- Maintain the OVYM data base compiled from Monthly Meeting member and attender lists and produce an annual directory for distribution at annual sessions.
- Maintain email distribution lists for the use of OVYM clerks, treasurers, committees, and the Quaker Quill editor.
- Assist in maintenance of OVYM's on-line presence, working with the website administrator and posting updates on Facebook.
- Update the OVYM handbook when revisions are approved. As needed, produce and distribute paper copies.
- Assist the OVYM newsletter editor. Take on all functions when there is no editor.
- Assist publications coordinator with Advance Reports and Minute Book for annual sessions.
- Schedule meeting rooms and Zoom conference calls for Executive Committee meetings. Assist Friends by distributing instructions for setting up Zoom calls.
- Attend Executive Committee meetings and Annual Sessions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Basic computer skills including word processing; experience with data bases, spread sheets, web publishing, email communications, and Facebook. Experience with or ability to quickly learn to use Mail Chimp and to update events on our website.
- Ability to work independently. Organized, self-motivated, and attentive to details.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and willingness to reach out to Friends via email or phone as needed. Ability to adapt to the variety of communication styles of a changing roster of volunteer leaders.
- Knowledgeable about the Religious Society of Friends and Quaker practices and organizational structure. Knowledge of OVYM and membership in the Society is preferred.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Personal transportation
- Computer equipment and internet access
- Weekend availability to travel to quarterly Executive Committee meetings and Annual Sessions

COMPENSATION:

- \$500 per month, with step increases after one and two years of service, followed by annual cost of living adjustments applied on July 1.

SUPERVISION:

- Presiding Clerk provides direction for this position.
- Support Committee is highly recommended.

TO APPLY:

- Please send a resume and cover letter with contact information for 3 references to
Martha Viehmann MarthaViehmann@fuse.net
Wilson Palmer Wilson3cp@gmail.com
Source: email from Martha Viehmann

OVYM Youth Secretary Job Announcement

A Youth Services Secretary is sought to nurture and provide programs throughout the year for young Friends from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) of middle school and high school ages. Youth in the Middle Youth group include those 10-14 years old and those in the Teen group include those 14-18 years old. The work of the secretary includes offering new experiences, spiritual nurture and opportunities for service and leadership. The secretary will work with the Youth Services Committee, part of OVYM, to determine the exact work to be performed. This is a part-time position offering up to 1040 hours per year to be determined in a discussion between the Youth Services Committee and the secretary.

The position is available starting August, 2021. Applications should be submitted by June 30, 2021 for consideration. Please submit your resume to youthsecretary-job@ovym.org.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities to youth

- Assist as a mentor and lead in the spiritual nurture of Young Friends in OVYM. Uphold Quaker values of simplicity, honest, integrity and community.
- Directly assist young Friends in OVYM to work within their communities to: network with each other in the Yearly Meeting and to attain an understanding and vision of Quakerism.
- Organize and attend middle youth and teen activities for youth to be determined in consultation with the Youth Services Committee. These might include retreats, workshops, work camps, service projects and other special opportunities.
- Encourage OVYM youth to participate in wider Friends youth activities and help coordinate these activities with other nearby Friends youth workers.

Reciprocal Responsibilities to the Yearly Meeting

- Work with Youth Services Committee and with designated youth leadership in Whitewater and Miami Quarterly Meetings to organize and promote youth activities at the Yearly Meeting level and attend such sessions and youth activities.
- Maintain communications with religious education clerks in monthly meetings of OVYM and be available to assist and visit monthly meetings to develop youth programs within the yearly meeting.
- Maintain contact and build relationships with families of middle youth and teens in OVYM through email updates, phone check-ins, etc.
- Maintain contact with the larger OVYM community through writing (*Quaker Quill* articles, social media posts, etc.)
- Attend OVYM Executive Committee quarterly meetings and prepare a written report in advance with action items as needed.
- Attend OVYM Annual Sessions Planning Committee meetings.

QUALIFICATIONS

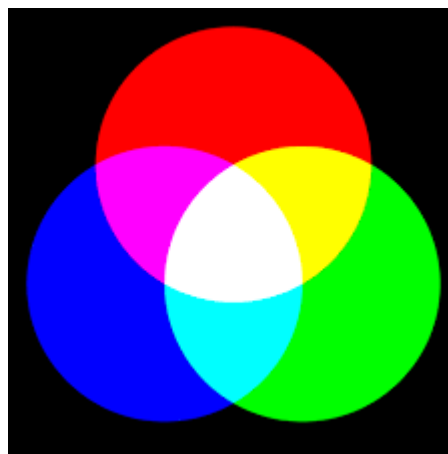
- Leadership qualities are essential. The candidate should be able to nurture a warm and supportive environment for the youth in her or his care.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of and respect for diversity of religious belief and experience.
- Be adept at understanding the concerns and aspirations of young Friends aged 10 – 18.
- Be aware of Friends' social concerns and Friends organizations.
- Experience with all major Friends' traditions and an understanding of religious diversity. While active membership in the Religious Society of Friends is desirable, it is not an absolute requirement.
- Have access to an automobile and possess a valid driver's license; be willing to travel for occasional weekend retreats and be willing to accept overnight hospitality.
- Be willing to travel about 2 times per month on Sundays to visit OVYM-affiliated monthly meetings for Meeting for Worship, First Day School, and lunch with families and youth.
- Minimum age 22 years old. Bachelor's degree or equivalent course work and experience.
- Submit to periodic background checks as designated by OVYM.

Source: Email from Kaia Jackson



In a [business] meeting rightly held a new way may be discovered which none present had alone perceived and which transcends the differences of the opinions expressed. This is an experience of creative insight, leading to a sense of the meeting which a clerk is often led in a remarkable way to record. Those who have shared this experience will not doubt its reality and the certainty it brings of the immediate rightness of the way for the meeting to take.

Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (Section 3.06)



A Ministry After Death

Since the last millennium the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting has handled the disposition of the bodies of those meeting members and associates who have passed. No funeral home is used. This is an expression of Friends' testimony on simplicity. In our meeting this practice was initiated by Arthur Morgan. His son Ernest wrote a pamphlet titled "Manual for a Simple Burial." Several Yellow Springs Friends have served on what was called the Burial Committee and is now called the Memorial Committee.

For this process, living Friends must first register with the Memorial Committee, by filling out a registration form. When someone dies, some members of the committee plus other volunteers gather to go pick up the body. After a moment of silence, the body is placed in a cardboard box designed for cremation and transported to the morgue at Greene Memorial Hospital in Xenia. A Transit and Burial Permit is obtained through the county registrar in the appropriate county and submitted for approval by the Ohio Department of Health. Once this is done, the body can be picked up from the morgue and taken to the crematory at the Woodland Cemetery in Dayton. After cremation, ashes can be buried, scattered, kept in an urn, or whatever the family wants or the deceased Friend has requested. The other responsibility of the Memorial Committee is to facilitate a memorial service for the Friend who has passed. This is done after the manner of Friends with accommodation for the family's wishes. Unlike a traditional funeral, the person's body is not present.

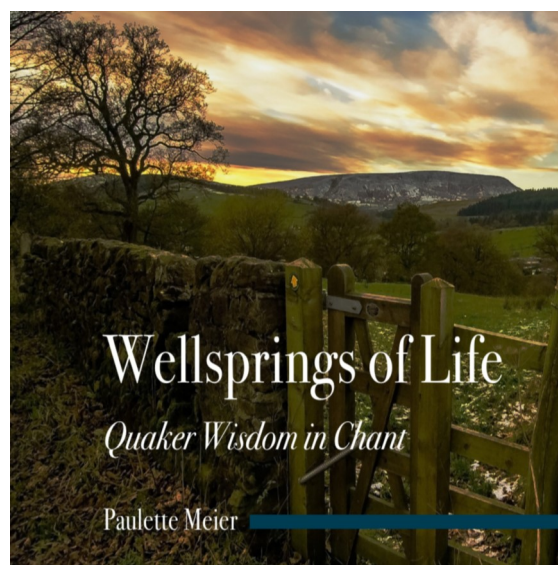
Submitted by David Hyde, clerk, Memorial Committee (members: Neal Crandall, Diane Chiddister, Alan Palmer). Originally published in Yellow Springs Quaker Shaker, November 2020.

Paulette Meier Offers Programs on Quaker Chants to OVYM meetings

Paulette Meier's music ministry has taken off in recent months, thanks to Zoom! She has been accepting invitations from many Quaker meetings, from Toronto to North Carolina, providing programs based on her 2nd album of Quaker chants, *Wellsprings of Life: Quaker Wisdom in Chant*. For a weekend chanting retreat at Pendle Hill, she mixed in others' voices with harmonies to the album tracks, so when participants necessarily sang with mics muted over Zoom, they would hear their voices blending with a chorus of other voices. Although the full vibrational experience of chanting happens best in person together, the pre-mixed recordings worked pretty well to approximate group singing. Also, the new chants are much shorter in length than the first album's quotations and are accompanied by music instrumentation, making them much easier to sing without need of scores.

Paulette would welcome invitations to provide programs for OVYM meetings! These are contemplative, with singing interspersed with silence and some brief commentary on the texts. Most meetings have scheduled them to last for an hour or so. If interested, Paulette can be reached via her website at www.paulettemeier.com or email at paulette@lessonsongs.com. She is also providing a day-long workshop for the FGC Gathering on July 3rd and would love to have some OVYM Friends participate!

Source: email from Paulette Meier



News from Monthly Meetings

Bloomington

Bloomington Friends Meeting has continued with regular meetings for worship on Zoom on First Day and on Fourth Day mornings. We are making plans to reopen our meetinghouse for hybrid worship giving preference to those who are not able to join us via Zoom. We are also providing an opportunity for outdoor worship for parents of young families and free play activities for children.

We have had several new attenders join us for Zoom meetings on a regular basis as well as former members/attenders join us from other states where their Quaker meetings are not being held. With great joy we have admitted a long time attender, Amanda Page, to membership. Most recently we have been saddened by the passing of a long term attender.

We continue our efforts at strengthening our community with a focus on building resilience. Our “walks in the park” have resumed with nicer weather. Our book discussion group has moved on to reading Krista Tippett's *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*. Some of us are meeting face-to-face now that many have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, but phone calls and sending cards continue also.

Our Peace, Earthcare and Social Concerns committee is keeping us apprised of FCNL and IFCL activities. We have an ad hoc committee on “How We Talk About Race” which is working out a process for exploring what the meeting means by “anti-racist” and how to move forward with a shared vision. By the time you read this we will be holding an outdoor Spring Retreat on the grounds of the meetinghouse.

Submitted by Christine Carver

Campus

Campus Friends continue to meet in the Canby Jones Meetinghouse on the campus of Wilmington College faithfully observing the social distancing and masks required by the college (and good sense). Our visitors have included a handful of students from the college who are taking the “Introduction to Quakerism” class taught by Stephen Potthoff who worships with us.

We have introduced a reading near the beginning of worship – sometimes a query and sometimes an inspirational passage from Quaker writers. The “greeter/breaker” chooses and reads the selection. Our hope is to encourage a spoken message, not necessarily in response to the reading. We have written memorial minutes for two of our members: Bob Powell and James Ramsey, both of whom have been absent for several years because of personal limitations, but when active were vital, energetic and loving Friends.

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Clear Creek

Clear Creek Meeting initially planned on resuming in-person meetings at Stout Meetinghouse this spring; however, continued COVID-19 precautions at Earlham necessitated a move back to online meetings. Most recently, we resumed hybrid meetings in late April with Friends gathering in the front yard of Erica Pearson's home for worship, followed by second hour activities via Zoom, after participants had a chance to return home to connect with technology.

We were saddened by the deaths of members Paul Kriese and Hugh Barbour this spring.

Our anti-racism group has been very active, and members report feeling challenged and enriched by all that they are learning. Peace and Social Concerns and Adult Religious Education committees facilitated thought-provoking programs and discussions. Clear Creek Book Group continues to meet and discuss books of interest.

A family from Clear Creek meeting with young children enjoyed the socially distanced Easter art activities and egg hunt hosted by First Friends of Richmond. Many residents at the nearby assisted living center gathered around the pond for the event, making it a joyous multi-generational experience.

Clear Creek Meeting hosted Whitewater Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on April 18th, which included a focus on “Self-Care and Empowerment through Listening to Others and Speaking our Truth.” This session featured exercises from the Alternatives to Violence Project workshops.

Submitted by Karen Bays-Winslow

Community

Community Friends, like the cicadas emerging from the ground, are coming out of our houses to meet in person outdoors! We have a regular outdoor meeting at 4:00 p.m., weather permitting, and we're planning on our annual June outdoor worship at 10:00 am together.

We held our traditional Easter Egg hunt for the children at the meetinghouse, with face masks and social distancing. There was a good number of children, and it was a wonderful time for the children and families to finally be together in person again!

We have been blessed with enriching and enlightening “second hours.” Among them was an opportunity for recent new attenders to share about themselves, what drew them to us, and their perspectives on their Quaker experience thus far. The sharing was well received, and a sequel is planned soon. Also, Sunny and Jim Rhein facilitated a warm and wonderful sharing



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(*Community news, continued from p. 8*) of remembrances of past Community members who have been important to our meeting, but who have died or re-located to another town, and Paul Buckley led a reflection on “Faithful Living in Desperate Times.” Videos and films have been featured as well, including *Regeneration: Reweaving the Unravelling Web of Life* presented by Unity with Nature Committee and *Walk in the Light, A History of the Waynesville Quaker Historical District*.

Our book group continues. We finished a book called *Lives that Speak*, short biographies on modern Quaker activists. Now we are discussing Paul Buckley's book *Elias Hicks*. A member of the group reports: “It’s really a blessing to have the author as part of our number. We always have deep discussions on what is in our hearts and how the readings touch our individual spiritual lives.”

Community Friends have been providing a monthly meal at Tender Mercies for about twelve years. This agency provides housing and services to persons who were formerly homeless and also have mental illness. According to a regular member of this ministry, “The residents say we have the best meals of any other group because we bring down-home meals with dishes they don't usually get such as greens and scalloped potatoes. No Subway sandwiches or pizza from us. Some of us enjoy cooking and we have a theme each time. We are thankful to our members who make monetary contributions each month to allow meat, fish, cheese and fresh vegetables to be served. We really miss being able to serve and talk with the folks there because of the pandemic. We hope to begin again soon.”

Submitted by Paulette Meier



Dayton

Most Dayton Friends members have now been fully vaccinated, and we are discussing how we can safely return to in-person meetings. Plans are being made to hold an in-person retreat this fall. Volunteers have returned to serving at St. Vincent's, which signals that members are beginning to feel safer!

Al McGrew held a Second Hour discussion discussing the Crossover Development Organization that he works with. The second hour book discussion for April was *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The M and O committee is urging members to volunteer for service to any of the many committees of Dayton Friends Meeting.

This month we have been pleased to see newcomers transition from Zoom to in-person worship. Don (who is a fraternity advisor) even brought members of that fraternity from Wittenberg to help cut the grass, and paint the meetinghouse! Dean Parmelee presented information about three requests for membership! Trent Applegate has been approved, Carol McMann is up for approval, and a third is pending.

Phil Henry reported purchases for the children's room, general cleaning of the meetinghouse, and about repairs to the alleyway alongside the meetinghouse.

We are pleased that Tim Fleet had success with his heart procedure and is back in town for worship. We continue to hold Sue Brezine in the Light through her health challenges. Also, we continue to pray for Barb Robinson's family as they help her brother John with his health issues.

Submitted by Scott Hadley

Eastern Hills

In April, Eastern Hills Friends resumed hybrid worship, with some gathering at the meetinghouse, others remaining at home, and Zoom connecting us all. Friends we haven't seen in too long have joined the group at the meetinghouse, which brings us much joy. While it is difficult to feel connected to little squares on a screen, which are hard to see from distanced seats, and while masks inhibit ministry for some, the increased sense of connection for those who can gather is a boon to our spirits. We have also resumed our service of a monthly meal provided to residents of Jimmy Heath House. This has required some ingenuity, for the building is still closed to outsiders. Friends gather at the Coppocks' home to load compostable containers with homemade food, and Jim delivers 25 containers to this Housing First facility for formerly homeless men. A small group is now working through AFSC's self-study anti-racism course "Radical Acting in Faith for White People," which other OVYM meetings recommended

Photos: Left, Lunch for Jimmy Heath House residents from Eastern Hills Friends, Right: JP Lund and Linda Sears dole out veggies and meatloaf

Submitted by Martha Viehmann



Lexington

The Lexington Anti-Racism Coordinating Committee has been very active. They shared the following article about Mahala Dickerson.

Love, Betrayal, and Reconciliation

The Mahala Dickerson Quaker story is a story of Quaker love, Quaker betrayal, and Quaker reconciliation.

Mahala Dickerson was born in 1912 and died in 2007, at 94 years-of-age. Mahala was a civil rights lawyer, a homesteader, and a mom of triplet boys. She was the first Black woman lawyer in Alabama, Indiana, and Alaska.

Mahala fell in love with Quakers when spending a summer at Pendle Hill. That experience led her to dream of creating a Pendle Hill of the North. Mahala and her three boys moved to Alaska in the late 50's to pursue this dream. Her attempt to purchase land met with some resistance but eventually, with the help of a stranger, she prevailed. The 160-acre property was near Wasilla, a small town near Anchorage.

After visiting several Quaker meetings, including those in Fairbanks and Anchorage, and having Quaker meetings in her home, she decided to donate 11 acres of her property to the Quakers in Alaska to build a meeting house. She was inspired and proud to see this accomplishment come to fruition.

Mahala's quest led to much contentment for her and the Quakers, until another act of racism caused a split between the two – not just because of the incident itself, but because of the lack of support she received from her fellow Quakers. This split lasted seven years until there was a meeting of young Quakers at her home. This opened the way for reconciliation.

Note: You can find more details in an article about her in the January 2021 edition of *Friends Journal*,

<https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/>, and *Quaker Speak* videos.

Submitted by Princess Nelson

North Meadow

Here at North Meadow Circle of Friends, we continue to worship in separate meetings one week, and a joint Zoom and meetinghouse meeting the next. We are having meeting for business in a joint format, and the joint meetings are working fairly well. More and more people are fully vaccinated, and returning to the meetinghouse for worship, with masks and social distancing. We have restarted our Spiritual Deepening conversations one meeting/ month. It has been a pleasure to attend the quarterly meeting via Zoom, and also the front porch conversations and workshops. We are also moving forward with our plans to have Iglesias Amigos share the meetinghouse space in the near future. We are also thinking about resuming the outdoor meetings we had last summer and fall, as the weather improves.

Submitted by Jane Rapinchuk

Oxford

We have been blessed by the ability for distant Friends to meet with us virtually. Now that all our small group of local Friends have been vaccinated, we are beginning hybrid meetings again, with local Friends gathering in person and welcoming others by Zoom. We had been sharing imaginary treats after meeting, but now, at least some of us are able to enjoy actual baked goods in a social time after worship. (See photo, right). We are delighted to welcome a new attender.

We were saddened by the death of Paul Kriese, who was a member of our meeting for a time, and whose commitment to social justice inspired us.

A second hour on the work of Friends Committee on National Legislation encouraged us to set aside a quarterly time to learn about current issues and write postcards. We are engaged with the Interfaith Center where we meet, and are looking forward both to providing a program for them on Quaker worship and also planting zinnias in their garden.

Submitted by Cecilia Shore



Yellow Springs

Our meeting is in the process of discerning two large issues. The first is one that we are sure that we share with all other meetings: now that most of us are vaccinated, when do we return to in person use of the meeting house? And when we do, under what safety guidelines?

The second issue is a larger, more fundamental one. For a generation Yellow Springs Friends Meeting has rented our meeting house building from Antioch College. Over the years we have maintained, enlarged and improved the building with the college's blessing. Now Antioch tells us that they are no longer prepared to keep ownership of the building. We are currently in the discerning process of what this means for our meeting and how we would like to proceed. Do we attempt to purchase the building outright? Do we move to a new location? If so, where? What does any switch mean for the other Yellow Springs organizations who currently use our space throughout the week?

We will gladly accept any Light that you wish to send our way as we navigate these questions.

In the meantime, we did erect a giant outdoor tent so that we can have outdoor worship and other group meetings. Then the snow knocked it down. But just like the little engine that could, we have pushed forward and erected another one.

We very much look forward to seeing the faces of other OVYM members as soon as possible. Take good care of yourselves.
Submitted by Heather Snediker-Morscheck

Friends come back from their worship
with a new sense of ordination, but not
the ordination of human hands.
Something has happened in the stillness
that makes the heart more tender, more
sensitive, more shocked by evil, more
dedicated to ideals of life, and more
eager to push back the skirts of darkness
and to widen the area of light and love.
Rufus Jones, 1863-1948



Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas

The FWCC Section of the America met in sessions held virtually from March 12-21, 2021. Although the in-person meeting was missed, it was wonderful to have a much larger attendance than in the recent past, and a larger number of Friends from South and Central America. Preparation for the virtual sessions was exemplary, allowing us to have home groups, business, music, worship in many forms, and Bible study, as has been our custom. Hangout spaces based on two different platforms offered opportunities for one-on-one and group chats in the evenings. Interpretation was provided to permit full participation by Spanish-speaking Friends.

Requests for affiliation from Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends and Friends Church of North Carolina, two recently formed Yearly Meetings, were approved. The strategic plan as described in "Weaving the Tapestry" has been completed. The underlying goals remain pertinent, but specific objectives set to help us attain these have served their purpose. Work is beginning on new ways to connect Friends of all traditions in the Americas. New ways of planning are being used that will help the organization respond agilely in the current world. These were evident in many of the reports and advance documents. As the executive Secretary Robin Mohr stated in her report, "So stay tuned. A change is gonna come."

Submitted by Foote Lund

Friends World Committee for Consultation Seeks General Secretary

Mission Statement:

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

Job Purpose: The General Secretary is a spiritual and organizational leadership position, responsible for the governance and care and good operation of the World Office in collaboration with the four Sections, which operate independently and work together in cooperation. The purpose of FWCC is to gather Friends together in a variety of ways, offering a convening function that assists Quakers in sharing their faith, learning from each other, and working together. FWCC provides an international profile for Quakers and supports the overall vitality and engagement of the Religious Society of Friends around the world.

<http://fwcc.world/about-fwcc/general-secretary-search>

Deadline for applications: June 4

Source: email from Kim Bond

Friends General Conference News and Resources

Clerking Resources and Interviews. The clerk of a meeting or committee has a vital role in nurturing Quaker process and community. If you are new to clerking or interested in going deeper in your experience of Quaker clerkship, these resources can help. The links include a screening tool for anti-racist clerking, and an article for children on Quaker business practice. <https://tinyurl.com/FGCclerking>

The **Spiritual Deepening Library** is filled with free lessons and activities that teachers and parents can use in person and in online meetings. You'll find activities you can do outdoors, or spiritual, social, and emotional enrichment for a rainy day inside. Plus, there are book lists and lessons for addressing difficult topics in the news.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/spiritual-deepening/library>

On behalf of the **2021 Gathering Committee**, we invite you to join us for a Spirit-filled week of workshops, plenaries, worship, music, fun, fellowship and more as we come together virtually for FGC's annual Gathering June 27th - July 3rd, 2021.

<https://tinyurl.com/Gathering21> Tara Houska will be our Friday Evening Plenary Speaker. Tara (Couchiching First Nation Anishinaabe) is a tribal attorney, founder of Giniw Collective, and is currently engaged in the movement to defund fossil fuel use.

<https://tinyurl.com/FGCplenary21>

Source: Vital Friends Newsletters February, March, April

Friends Committee on National Legislation

At the November 2020 Annual Meeting on "Fierce Love" Cherice Bock delivered a powerful message entitled, "Friends, Racial Justice, and Policing: A Biblical Economy of Care." A pdf of that talk can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/FCNLRacialJustice>

For latest updates and position statements, see <https://www.fcnl.org/updates>.

Source: FCNL website

Right Sharing of World Resources

The spring newsletter includes:

Overcoming Adversity: Learn about the Happy Women's Self-Help Group in Sierra Leone.

Reflections on an American Worldview: How a Journey to India changed Lisa Graustein's life.

The Power of Enough: How does community play into our understanding of what is enough?

<https://tinyurl.com/RSWRspring21>

Source: email from RSWR

American Friends Service Committee

Why we need a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants. “Jorge and Christina’s story is just one of the millions of people the government has separated from their loved ones in the U.S. over the past decade. Their story is echoed in the estimated 11 million undocumented people in the U.S. who are vital parts of our communities—but struggle every day because they are denied the opportunity to obtain citizenship in the country they call home.”

<https://tinyurl.com/AFSCcitizenship>

Source: Peniel Ibe blogpost 3-1-21

Building sustainable and equitable Black communities. In New Orleans, AFSC provides support to young people and community members working to increase fresh food access and create community safety for all.

<https://tinyurl.com/AFSCBlackCommunities>

Source: Dee Dee Green blogpost, 4-28-21

Confronting anti-Asian violence. Anti-Asian attacks and harassment are once again on the rise, ranging from xenophobic rhetoric to several cases of physical violence. Mary Zerkel of Chicago recently joined AFSC colleagues Joan Marshall-Missiye and Joelle Lingat for a conversation about what has been fueling the uptick in racist hate and what we can do to intervene. (Ed. Note: This is a recording stored on Facebook Live. You don’t have to be a member of Facebook to view the video.)

<https://tinyurl.com/AFSCAnti-Asianviolence>

Source: Jon Krieg email April

Quaker Heritage Center

This spring, Wilmington College hosted two panels, one on “Moving Forward in a Changing Climate: Democratic Stewardship” and the other on “Moving Forward in a Changing Climate: Environmental Stewardship.” These are the first two of a four-part series that consider key social, political, economic, and environmental issues of our times through the lens of Wilmington College’s core Quaker values. The others will take place in the fall.

Stay tuned for upcoming exhibits next academic year. The first will relate to the Westheimer Peace Symposium. The second will relate to 19th century Quaker quilts, and the third will be related to the life and work of recently deceased faculty emeritus, Larry Gara.

A grant from the Clinton County Convention & Visitors Bureau will support a Quaker Scenic Byway website and digital map to 55 Quaker sites in Clinton and neighboring counties. <https://tinyurl.com/QByway>

Source: emails from Quaker Heritage Center, including spring newsletter



Indiana Yearly Meeting

As Indiana Yearly Meeting prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary, the *Indiana Yearly Meeting Bicentennial History, Directory, and Scrapbook* will be released this summer and includes more than 250 pages of information with hundreds of photographs. It will be hardbound and printed in color. The IYM Bi-Centennial committee would like to encourage all local meetings to prepare a tri-fold display about their meeting to be set up at IYM this year at Quaker Haven, July 29 – 31. The committee also encourages everyone from each meeting to plan to attend IYM this year. There are several special events planned to celebrate 200 years of history.

Source: IYM Communicator 2-3-21

Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Wilmington Yearly Meeting approved a minute on Election Integrity. <https://wilmingtonyearlymeeting.org/election-integrity/>

Wilmington Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions will be July 29 - August 1. All events will be held via Zoom.

- Thursday – pre-Yearly Meeting retreat
- Friday – business session, USFW Speaker
- Saturday – business session, Peace Lecture
- Sunday – final business session, recording of Ray Geers, all Yearly Meeting worship

Source: WYM website

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3960 Winding Way

Cincinnati, OH 45229

We're on the web:
ovym.org

The Quaker Quill is published three times a year by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The next issue will come out September 15, so the submission deadline will be August 15. The following issue will come out February 15, so the submission deadline will be January 15. The third issue will come out June 1, so the submission deadline will be May 1.

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admin@ovym.org

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