



Save the Date!
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
 June 14 – 18, 2023
 Mount St. Joseph University, Delhi, Ohio
“Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!”

We come together for our 203rd annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting this June! We will again meet at Mount St. Joseph University in the Cincinnati area. We will gather in person from Wednesday afternoon June 14th through lunch on Sunday June 18th. Please put these dates into your calendar. Details of the full session are still being planned but we have confirmed our two Plenary speakers. We are very excited to have with us Cai Quirk and Gretchen Castle. See bios next page.



See you soon! The Planning Committee
 Submitted by Ben Griffith

For Friends hoping to gather once again at Earlham College, Earlham was unable to confirm its availability to our Planning Committee. Friends can expect similar offerings of in-person and Zoom events as last year with our sincere hope to improve the experience as much as possible. Covid policies will be announced sometime soon but at its heart is the principle that we all respect one another in our differences. So please plan to join us whether in-person or on the Zoom account.

Annual Sessions continued next page.

Dear Friends,

Halfway through my initial year as your assistant presiding clerk, I have gotten deeper into the details of our yearly meeting's functioning than ever before. Many dedicated Friends implement the decisions that we reach during our annual sessions and, in doing so, bring our *Faith and Practice* from printed word into reality. Witnessing and participating in this work reminds me of how much OVYM Friends have to share with the world at large. For example, we routinely have active participation by all of the Friends in a committee meeting, with the insights of all welcomed without regard for their seniority on the committee. We discipline our speech, avoiding diatribes, repetition, and digressions. At the end of a meeting, I look forward to the next opportunity to see and work with all of the others. Just imagine the good that could arise if legislative committees worked more as we do!

Our presiding clerk, Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, has served as a fine mentor in the art and spirit of clerking that extends beyond any given meeting for business. We need to stay alert to challenges and developments within OVYM,

and remind Friends that OVYM exists to serve them. Rachel demonstrates that the clerk stewards the process by which we collectively discern the will of the Divine. We do that by calming our fears and desires, seeking connection with the wisdom that transcends our own, and trusting ourselves and each other to listen for and resonate with the call of Truth that emerges. I need to lay down my practiced identities as researcher, problem-solver, and advocate in order to mind the Light in a meeting for business.

Preparing for our 203rd Annual Sessions on Sixth Month 14-18, I feel enthusiastic. The ad hoc Restructuring Committee will share reflections on the programs and services that would have the most value for our monthly meetings. We return to Mt. St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, whose facilities and staff served us well last year. These Annual Sessions will benefit from a full year of work by our new Youth Secretary, Adam Funk, along with the devoted volunteers of our Children's Committee and Youth Services Committee. I will sit at the Clerks' Table for the first time, absorbing Rachel's good example and building my courage to step into the presiding clerk's role on the day after Annual Sessions!

Barry Zalph

Speaker Bios



Cai Quirk (they/them or ey/em) is a lifelong Quaker with passions for Witness, personal discernment, and diverse methods of spiritual deepening. With a gender that transcends binaries, Cai is practiced at deeply questioning societal expectations and norms and in shifting towards roots of individual and group integrity. Spiritual deepening, Witness, and integrity are expanded in Cai's writing, photography, and music practices. Cai's upcoming book of photography and stories, *Transcendence: Queer Restoration*, connects themes of spirituality, mythology, and gender diversity, nature and storytelling. See more at caiquirk.com.

Gretchen Castle is the Dean of the Earlham School of Religion at Earlham College. She grew up in Iowa, and has served many Quaker organizations including presiding clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and the General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation. Her primary work has been in effecting organizational change, board development and strategic thinking. She carries the concern for the vitality and growth of the Religious Society of Friends worldwide.



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT A WORKSHOP AT OUR SESSIONS?

Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed! Our theme invites us to collectively search for the Way forward while recognizing that each of us have a gift to contribute to this way finding. The planning committee has a few slots left for workshop offerings and ask OVYM Friends for ideas about presentations. If you have an idea, please submit it to planning@ovym.org for our consideration! Thank you!

OVYM Music Ministries

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is blessed with two Friends who are called to music ministry. It is a pleasure as the Quill editor to feature their work!

Gloria Stearns-Bruner, violinist and music therapist from Bloomington Friends Meeting, is currently following a leading in music ministry to facilitate healing for individuals and groups. She offers customized workshops, retreats, and individual consultations using original live music, writing, movement, and discussion. These can be done in person or virtually and include experiential and interactive portions to deepen spiritually and grow as a community. Gloria invites Meetings to look at her new website www.gloriamusic.com and contact her if so led.

Paulette Meier's music ministry took her to Pendle Hill again last spring, for another week-long retreat with Marcelle Martin and Cynthia Bourgeault, called a Quaker Wisdom School. The themes were "The Light Within and the Rebirth of Conscience." Paulette's chants from her 2nd Quaker album, "Wellsprings of Life: Quaker Wisdom in Chant," along with new ones composed for the week from words of John Woolman, Bayard Rustin, and Mary Dyer, served to help deepen and integrate the messages. As one participant said: "The chants do an end-run on the mind and head straight for the heart and body center." Paulette provided many programs over Zoom to Quaker meetings during the pandemic, and continues to lead chanting for two local contemplative organizations. She would love to offer a program to any OVYM meeting as well! Besides chanting, Paulette leads a monthly online practice of the Quaker meditation, Experiment with Light. This is done through a non-Quaker organization which promotes contemplative ways of living. If you're interested, see her website at www.paulettemeier.com, and/or contact her at paulette@lessonsongs.com.

Submitted by Gloria Stearns-Bruner and Paulette Meier

Braddock Trust Fund

The trustees of the OVYM Braddock Trust Fund helped support Catherine Roma, a music teacher from Wilmington College, a year ago as she directed the musical "Hamilton" at Marion Prison in Ohio. Tim and Mary Leonard of Community Meeting took Wilhelmina Branson to see this production. The prisoner who played Hamilton was released from prison last fall, 2022. Antioch College gave him a scholarship to attend college there, so he moved to Yellow Springs. But then he decided not to go to college, but instead to set up a Youth Fitness Camp to help boys ages 8 to 13 get involved in exercise, and not get in trouble like he did. The Braddock Trust Fund did help support this new Youth Fitness Camp. It opened in December, 2022, "with much community involvement," according to Catherine Roma. We are quite excited about this accomplishment! We also supported other prisoners in taking classes to train them to work in fitness centers, so they may work in this fitness center when they are released.

Catherine Roma, after a long pause because of the Corona pandemic, is now back working in the prison, in Chillicothe, Ohio, this time, leading a men's chorus.

The Braddock Trust Fund remains available to assist prisoners with their education, as well as those who help prisoners with their education. The trustees include Wilhelmina Braddock Branson, Christine Snyder, and Stephen Angell.

Submitted by Wilhelmina Branson

Support Committee for Administrative Assistant

Susan Lee Barton (admin@ovym.org) is trying to put together a support committee for her as the OVYM Administrative Assistant. According to our handbook the committee should include a member "who is an at large person selected by the employee..." If you are interested (or just curious), let her know and she can send you more details about what she has in mind.

State of the Meeting Reports

The essential purpose of a religious organization is to foster and encourage the spiritual life and to bring the human spirit into intimate relation with the Divine Spirit. Our spiritual life may and should be developed through works of righteousness and loving kindness. Religious communities also provide organized opportunities for the development of our spiritual natures and for the constant renewal of our strength at the Divine Source. *Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*, p. 3.

This spring, monthly meetings will carry out the practice of discerning the current state of their meeting. These reports are generally the topic of April Quarterly meetings, and will be printed in the Reports in Advance for Annual Sessions. The book of *Faith and Practice* includes an overview of State of the Meeting reports as well as some sample queries that Friends may find helpful on p. 50-51 at <https://www.ovym.org/media/FaithandPractice.pdf>. They are due by the 15th of April at the latest, with a copy to one's quarterly meeting clerk (Christine Carver for Whitewater QM and Peter Hardy for Miami QM) and to admin@ovym.org (collecting them for the Religious Nurture and Education Committee). Early submissions are welcomed. The 15th of April is **also the deadline for directory information** (to admin@ovym.org).



MEETING NEWS

Bloomington

In October, Bloomington Friends reported that, due to the extraordinary generosity of Friends, they anticipated paying off the entire mortgage by the end of 2022. The accelerated payment in full of the mortgage will save the meeting a significant amount of interest charges and will allow the meeting greater financial flexibility in the future.

Bloomington Meeting also collects postage stamps for the Right Sharing of World Resources Quaker Missions Stamp Project, which sells them to stamp collectors. A few weeks ago, they sent in the stamps collected over the last few years—620 in all...from 10 different countries: Canada, England, France, Germany, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, the Netherlands, and the United States! [Editor's note: <https://rswr.org/stamp-program>]

Source: Bloomington meeting newsletters, October, January.

Campus

As Wilmington College geared up for the fall semester, Campus Friends agreed to reach out to students by providing 50 goodie bags for the campus minister to hand out on one of her Thursday Golfcart Ministry days. Each bag contained a fair-trade chocolate bar, a biodegradable pen, a brief Quaker quote, and an invitation to join us in worship on Sundays. We also sponsored a Move-in Bucket drive by inviting the Wilmington Yearly Meeting meetings to provide either a bathroom or a kitchen bucket containing essentials for setting up housekeeping. As of this writing, our meeting closet contains five bathroom wastebaskets and two kitchen wastebaskets filled with cleaning products, a shower curtain and bath mat, containers for left-overs and a sponge mop and broom set. These will be given to women moving out of Hope House or the homeless shelter into an apartment of their own.

Friends continue to participate in Inner Search (we are currently reading *Conversations with Christ* by Doug Gwynn) twice a month at the rise of meeting. Our First Sunday fellowship meal continues to provide a relaxed time for conversation around the table. Friends approved hanging a poster in the meeting room which articulates our stance as a welcoming and inclusive community with a commitment to treat all requests for marriage equally, without regard to gender.

Campus Friends agreed to hire a Quaker Leader Scholar college student to be a child-care provider on the Sundays our family with young children are in worship. With permission, we turn a classroom into a nursery on First Day!

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Clear Creek

Representatives of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Restructuring Committee visited Clear Creek Friends in September for worship and to seek input for OVYM focus.

Some members attended Earlham School of Religion's non-violence training in September. Clear Creek Meeting hosted four weekly vigils in October and November in response to the Quaker Urgent Call. We held a final worship on the Monday before the election, which was a helpful closure to the vigils.

Clear Creek Meeting members reflected on insights and opinions elicited during the meeting retreats earlier in the year and held a final retreat in November on the Earlham campus at Virginia Cottage. One of the changes that has evolved out of these retreats is a shift away from formal committee structure in some cases, and moving toward fostering spiritual nurture through participation in interest groups, beginning in January 2023.

In November, Adult Religious Education committee invited Henry Freeman to share about fundraising and spirituality. In December, Susan Lee Barton led a discussion about presenting our community to others through our website. Our web manager, Susan Lee, is revising and overhauling our meeting website.

Some Clear Creek Friends and friends of Friends attended Joint Quarterly Meeting in October at Happy Hollow, Indiana, filled with fellowship, food, and fun!

Friends agreed in November to change the name of what has previously been called Ministry and Oversight to Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Our co-clerks Erica Pearson and Gwen Halsted will continue to serve in 2023. We have a new recording clerk, Mimi Holland along with assistant recording clerk, Margaret Lechner.

In December, a Solstice Labyrinth Walk experience was provided, and Clear Creek participated in a three-meeting Christmas Eve worship hosted at West Richmond Friends and virtually.

Submitted by Karen Bays-Winslow

Community

The Community Friends meeting had a creative renewal in September called "Prayer Songs: Opening to Ourselves And Each Other." Gloria Stearns-Bruner from Bloomington Meeting facilitated this deeply meaningful day. We were so happy to return to our monthly carry-in meal the beginning of January for those who feel safe enough. We follow the county ratings to decide whether to wear masks during worship. We are now a hybrid meeting. We also had a variety show before Christmas that was a lot of fun and well attended.

Our community has been active in supporting a family from Ghana through the Cincinnati sanctuary coalition. Emmanuel, Dorothy and their son Desmond are safely living in a nearby church apartment. A baby is due in March! We are helping with material goods, financial support, transportation and social opportunities especially for Desmond. It has become an important ministry for all of us thanks to Mary Anne Curtiss' leadership.

FCNL is busy setting up meetings with our new legislators here in Ohio. We are researching our new aim to encourage concrete ways to peacefully resolve international conflicts.

The Quaker book group meets monthly by Zoom. Last fall we studied Daniel Steere and have just begun John Woolman's *Journal*. Everyone is invited to join us.

Several of our members have been in the hospital and are recovering: Eugene Marquis had back surgery, and Harvey Tharp had heart surgery. Tim Leonard spent a week in the hospital following an atrial fibrillation event, and by the end of the week his heart regained its normal pulse. His recovery at home has been slow yet progressing. Several other members are having personal issues. Please hold all of them in the Light.

Submitted by Susan Gerke

Dayton

We are happy to have many newcomers including two new children who have been attending meeting. In fact, the meeting is looking into buying more chairs to accommodate everyone! We had a potluck with good discussions of what brought members and attenders to Quakerism. The meeting was busy with many projects including: designing and making beds for native plants, organizing the kitchen and storage room, extending a gravel path, and staining the picnic table and fence. October 7th was a very special day. We celebrated a milestone: longtime member Marian Alter's one-hundredth birthday! In November we had an Alternatives to Violence workshop, a holiday drive for David's Place (an LGBTQ outreach center), and received a delegation from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The game night we held with Bosnian visitors was so successful that we may plan to have one once a month. Two committee members attended a panel discussion with death row exonerees. We are encouraging the Ohio legislature to pass bills that would abolish the death penalty. The business meeting requested a written proposal to start a Little Free Pantry. In December our donations were delivered to David's Place. The First Day School presented our first Christmas play in well over a decade. The kids wrote it themselves and it involved two dancing candy canes, two witches, and Santa! Afterwards, they handed out holiday wear which some wore for the photo below.

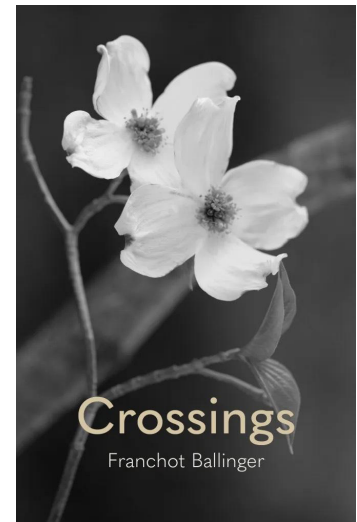
Submitted by Scott Hadley



Eastern Hills

Eastern Hills continues to offer hybrid worship, with several people regularly joining by Zoom and (usually) more attending in person. We've discussed how to optimize the experience for "Zoomers" and also felt the grace of our on-line community who urged those of us at the meetinghouse to schedule a generous amount of time for potluck lunch between worship and business meeting. The return of our potluck lunches is a blessing, but we are unable to sit down to eat with the men we serve at the "housing first" facility Jimmy Heath House. Their fragile health makes gathering for meals too risky; those who bring the meals miss the opportunity to get to know the men with whom we share our abundance. December saw the return of our Christmas potluck, variety show, carol singing, and Christmas collection. Friends shared music, arts and crafts, and bad jokes, and we gave generously to the Sister City organization that will send money to the Red Cross in Kharkiv. Some also purchased buckets of bathroom supplies for families in Wilmington moving from emergency shelter into new apartments. Our women's group is now meeting regularly and finding joy in each other's company. Franchot Ballinger's poetry books are now in print. Wilson Palmer hopes to bring them to the annual sessions bookstore, and *Crossings* is available from the publisher: <http://fernwoodpress.com/2022/09/28/crossings/>. We are grateful to feel Franchot's continued presence among us through his words.

Submitted by Martha Viehmann



Lafayette

Lafayette Friends Meeting has had a good year in 2022 with several new attenders and two new members, one adult and the birth of Logan Weesner, second son of Gloria and Michael Weesner! More of our meeting are spending first First Day with the Farmer's Institute, strengthening the bonds with this historic meeting south of Lafayette. We have a new clerk as Michele Tomarelli takes over this important role. We've continued our commitment to volunteering at a local food pantry and providing meals at Lafayette Urban Ministry homeless shelter. We have continued to have social get-togethers, last fall to share a meal and watch a concert by Tom Neilson. We continue to be grateful for our meetinghouse, which, thanks to the tireless attention of one of our members, is structurally sound and functioning! (Though some of us feel a facelift would do it good!).

Submitted by Karen Atcheson

North Meadow

North Meadow Circle of Friends continues to meet at our Indianapolis meetinghouse on First Days, with some Friends joining us by Zoom. We have been joined recently by a few young new attenders, whose energy and questions have challenged our perspectives on Friends and on the world. For this we are most grateful. We look forward to re-starting First Day School for a pre-schooler. For the first time in almost three years, we recently had our first pitch-in after meeting for worship, a practice we will continue monthly.

Sadly, we had two deaths in our community in October 2022. Our meetinghouse tenant died in his apartment. After an absence, we learned member Lamont Dean had died. We miss his presence and helpfulness around the meetinghouse and grounds; a memorial meeting is scheduled for 5 February at the rise of meeting. Iglesias Amigos continues to meet for worship and fellowship at our meetinghouse.

A few Friends from NMCF attended OVYM's Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Camp. Some Friends attended an annual fundraiser for Rupert's Kids, a ministry for youth in recovery. They continue to paint the exterior of our meetinghouse. Meanwhile we are coordinating with Iglesias Amigos on furnishing part of the first floor of our meetinghouse.

Submitted by Mike Fallahay

Oxford

Oxford Friends have been active this fall in our community and beyond. We met with members of the yearly meeting Restructuring Committee. We approved a minute on reproductive health that we are distributing among other meetings. Several of us participated in the revived "Bread not Bombs" dinner held by Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice: we cooked, worked at the event and attended the dinner. One of our members is a founding member of the Oxford Homelessness network, which has been advocating for the city to provide at least a winter shelter with social services. This served as the focal point for our annual Advent Event. In addition to a potluck and carol singing, we had a quiz on homelessness in Oxford and collected donations for a school district fund for needy students. On New Year's Day, we wrote postcards to our legislators at the state and federal level thanking them (when possible) for supporting social and environmental causes and encouraging them to do so in the coming year.

Submitted by Cecilia Shore



Yellow Springs

During the pandemic, we were thankful to have several very qualified rotating presiding clerks, but we're even more grateful now to have seasoned clerk Susan Hyde, who is committed to 2 years of service.

Throughout the summer, singing continued outside, moving inside when the weather turned cold. Singing seems to draw people to the meetinghouse, offering joy even to those who don't participate. We are still having hybrid meetings, internet power and hybrid setup allowing.

In June, we temporarily laid down our newsletter, until an editor arises. In these times, waiting a month for news can seem too long, so in its place, a weekly Friday evening email is sent to all attenders with the week's news and events.

A Reparations Fund project proposal, first submitted last September by our Peace & Social Justice committee, was recently approved after several months of discussion. As a part of the meeting's commitment to anti-racism, the whole meeting will be donating together to the 365 Project's Retribution Fund, a volunteer group of local professionals, educators, parents & youth promoting diverse African-American heritage, Black culture, and racial equity 365 days a year. In November, a 90-minute workshop regarding how white privilege resides in us as individuals by Judith Skillings was well attended, leaving us wanting more. While it was not specifically about the Reparations Fund our meeting had been working on, it was meant to be an aid for finding unity on the decision.

A memorial service was held for former member, Kathy Hale, in November. She had transferred to a meeting in Texas, but had roots and many f/Friends in Yellow Springs. We are joining together in mourning the very recent loss of Pam Davis, wife of our beloved and very active member, Neal Crandall.

Weather changed our plans for an in-person Christmas Eve program; instead, we had a Zoom gathering with nearly a dozen attending. There were some readings and a lot of Christmas singing, led by Caryn Diamond and family; the three Diamond teens sang a lovely rendition of *We Three Kings*.

This New Year brings us back together with blended meetings, most attending in-person. We are currently having brown bag discussions about how to rejuvenate our religious education program for youngsters. We have been working on a new website to replace the Quaker Cloud website. Although it won't officially open until March, we hope you'll visit it at <http://yellowspringsfriendsmeeting.org> We're also moving ahead with plans for a retreat in the Spring.

Submitted by Annie Blanchard

THE WIDER QUAKER WORLD

Friends General Conference (FGC)

- **FGC website help for meetings.** FGC has created a new resource page for those meetings who are considering building, or rebuilding, a meeting website: <https://tinyurl.com/FGCdevelopwebsite>
- **New book.** Valerie Brown has written *Hope Leans Forward: Braving Your Way Toward Simplicity, Awakening, and Peace* and it is **available for pre-order at QuakerBooks:** <https://tinyurl.com/QbooksHope>.

Source: September and October Vital Friends

- **The Spiritual Deepening program** has a new video about their e-retreats. A Spiritual Deepening offering connects you with other curious seekers in an online exploration of Quaker thought, a deepening of your own spiritual practices, and the sharing of stories from your life and your personal journeys. See the video at: <https://tinyurl.com/Eretreatvideo>
- **The Minutes of Conscience** project is now live at: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/practical/minutes-of-conscience/>. You can use the FGC website contact form or e-mail ecommunications@fgcquaker.org to submit minutes.
- **FGC 2023 Gathering in person!** Friends will gather Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8, 2023 at Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR. The theme will be: *Listen So That We May Live*. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>
- **Support for monthly meetings:** The FGC Development Committee is offering brief online workshops to monthly meetings, e.g., a forum type activity after or before worship, often a spiritual deepening type activity or something that the meeting requested like how to handle conflict in meetings. Contact Faith Josephs, Associate Director of Development (faithj@fgcquaker.org), for more details.
- **FGC is seeking a Conference Director.** Information at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/2023/01/24/conference-director/>

Source: email from Susan Lee Barton

- **Interracial Couples Virtual Retreat** March 24-26. Friends of color who are a part of an interracial relationship are welcome to attend with or without their partners. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/ministry-on-racism/>
- **White Privilege Conference**, April 12-15, Mesa, AZ. The conference strives to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation. Pre-register with FGC at tfaforms.com/5035659 to receive a discount code for 10% off the conference registration fee.
- **Spring Friends of Color Hybrid Retreat** in May. Join us for our spring retreat for Friends of Color in May. Visit our website for updates: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/ministry-on-racism/>

Source: email from Hanae Togami

Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill Quaker Institute: Beloved Community as Prophetic Witness (<https://tinyurl.com/PHPropheticWitness>)

Apr 28 - May 1, 2023

An on-campus gathering of Friends to learn about and practice the art of building community as prophetic witness

In December 2019, Friends came together for the Pendle Hill Quaker Institute, Practicing Our Heritage of Mysticism and Resistance, <https://tinyurl.com/PHHeritage> challenging the false dichotomy between contemplative and activist Friends. This year, we invite Friends back to Pendle Hill's campus to reconnect and regroup after surviving these traumatic and illuminating intervening years.

The long weekend will include workshops and collaborations with a broad range of Friends and Friends' organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Friends General Conference. Registration forthcoming!

Save the Date! Continuing Revolution 2023: Nurturing Experiments in Spiritually Grounded Abolition

June 2-6, 2023

A hybrid space of collective exploration and learning for spiritually curious young adults who are striving to live in ways that reflect their values. We welcome those who are seeking to examine the connections between their spiritual, political, and interpersonal lives.

Learn about last year's Continuing Revolution conference here. <https://tinyurl.com/PHContinuingRev2022> Event page and registration forthcoming!

For a full list of upcoming Pendle Hill education opportunities, see: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>.

Source: email from Anna Hill

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

FWCC Section of the Americas meets in March! The meeting will be online and in person at Haw River State Park, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA, March 23-26, 2023. For more information, please see:

<https://fwccamericas.org/wp/event/2023-section-meeting/>

Source: email from Anne Hutchinson

Save the date! FWCC World Plenary Meeting will be held August 5-13, 2024 online and in person in South Africa. The theme of the World Plenary Meeting is *Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation—and one another*. For more information, see <https://fwcc.world/event/world-plenary-meeting-2024/>.

Source: email from Anne Hutchinson

Epistles online! FWCC now posts epistles online (both from yearly meetings and other Friends' gatherings) at https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles. New epistles are posted throughout the year.

Source: emails from Susan Lee Barton and FWCC

World Quaker Day 2022 took place on 2 October with the theme *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs*. Quaker groups in Australia, England, Bolivia, Kenya, Canada, Finland, the USA and Northern Ireland all welcomed online visitors from elsewhere to programmed, semi-programmed and unprogrammed forms of worship. See more news at <https://fwcc.world/wqd/>

Source: <https://www.worldquakerday.org>

Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL)

- **Spring Lobby Weekend for young adults.** FCNL's upcoming young adult advocacy conference will be Mar. 25-28, 2023. This year, we'll be lobbying Congress for justice reform. Spring Lobby Weekend will be hybrid with options to attend online or onsite in Washington, DC. I encourage you to recommend Spring Lobby Weekend to the young adults in your communities, especially young adult Friends in your Quaker meeting or church. You can learn more and register here: <https://www.fcnl.org/events/spring-lobby-weekend-2023>
- **Weekly worship.** Join FCNL online every Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. EST for a period of silent worship and reflection: Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/FCNLworship>
- **Positions open.** FCNL is seeking candidates for the following open positions:
 - Planned Giving Director <https://tinyurl.com/FCNL-PG>
 - Network Administrator <https://tinyurl.com/FCNL-NA>
 - Legislative Director for Foreign Policy <https://tinyurl.com/FCNL-LDFP>
 - Director of Strategic Advocacy <https://tinyurl.com/FCNL-DSA>
 - Anti-racism and Militarism Organizer <https://tinyurl.com/FCNL-ARMO>

Sources: emails from Clare Carter via Susan Lee Barton

Online Midwinter Gathering on LGBTQ Concerns February 17-20

Below is the information about the midwinter gathering for Friends Committee for LGBTQ Concerns. As you can see, it will be completely online this year, its free (though donations are accepted), all are invited, and you can attend part or all of the weekend gathering. I feel compelled to say that the featured topic of the weekend will be featured in a few, but not all, of the events over the weekend. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Submitted by Beth Rosen

The gathering will be held virtually over Zoom, from Friday, February 17th, to Monday, February 20th. Begin your registration for FLGBTQC Mid-winter Gathering here:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMud--qrDwoH9eC0yCvn6w_NT-UwZx73k4Q. Please register, even if you're not sure you can make it! There is no cost to attend. Mid-winter Gathering is open to everyone: you do not need to identify as queer, or Quaker, to attend. The theme for Midwinter Gathering 2023 is: *Our Queer Hearts: Relationships, Non/monogamy, and More*.

The Midwinter planning committee is looking for folx from our community to speak on a panel during Midwinter Gathering, about different ways we practice dating, sexuality, relationships, romance, and more. This focus arose at meetings for worship in 2022, when there was a strong call for our community to have more conversations around polyamory and non-monogamy. We are hoping to find panelists who can speak to experiences with polyamory, polyfidelity, non-monogamy, asexuality, aromanticism, and more. If you are interested, please contact Mackenzie at mbartonrowledge@gmail.com from the planning committee.

Source: email from Jed Walsh

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Thank you for being part of the AFSC community! **Please take a moment to watch this video highlighting some of the many initiatives that your support made possible this year:** <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-2022>

Together, we called for governments to prioritize human needs during uncertain times. We brought together community leaders working to build lasting peace. And we exposed and stood against militarism in our communities and in international relations.

We worked for a world where all people can thrive. And because of the generosity of this community, people with urgent needs knew they could call on AFSC for help for safe housing, food access, and more.

We amplified the voices of immigrant leaders and provided reliable information to people at all stages of their journey. From city halls to Washington, D.C., we called for an immigration system that prioritizes human dignity.

Source: email from AFSC

AFSC Midwest

Freedom School builds skills, deepens connections. Jonathan Pulphus of AFSC writes that thanks to a number of partners, “We were able to host a beautiful and inspiring training for scholars. We successfully deepened youths’ skillsets around social justice, helped them establish connections among each other, and wrestled with questions around race/racism. <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-10-22>

Source: email from Jon Krieg

Right Sharing of World Resources

RSWR has begun a series of videos about their work with partners. The first video is about the Kenyan women’s group, focusing on Judith, who was empowered to expand her small shop into a restaurant, creating employment for others in her community: <https://tinyurl.com/RSWR-Judith>

This year, RSWR has expanded into their fourth country, Guatemala (joining Sierra Leone, Kenya, and India). Marian Beane, in the RSWR 3rd quarter newsletter, says: “According to the World Bank, the level of poverty in Guatemala is great, at 59.3%. While women in Guatemala, especially poor women, have been the traditional ‘keepers of the home,’ there is a strong desire to begin earning something to help their families out of poverty and into a more sustainable life. There is a strong Quaker presence in Guatemala, involving some 20,000 people.”

Source: emails from RSWR

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

QEW Presents! Do you want to host a workshop on climate change, environmental justice, Quaker faith-in-action, eco-theology, native plants, permaculture, or another environmental issue? *QEW* offers online workshops on a range of environmental topics. Invite our speakers to come visit your meeting, church, or community group. <https://quakerearthcare.org/workshops/>

Browse resources of interest. We invite you to explore the countless articles on our website by choosing a topic that interests you most. <https://quakerearthcare.org/browse-by-topic/>

Source: QEW emails via Susan Lee Barton

Earlham School of Religion

Wilson Lectures on Christian Faith and Racial Justice

- Dr. Xavier L. Johnson, Feb. 2, 6-8 p.m.
- Adria Gulizia, Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m.
- Vanessa Juley, Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m.
- Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m.

For further details and registration: <https://esr.earlham.edu/series/black-history-celebration-wilson-lectures/>

The Quaker Leadership Center will be hosting a follow-up online discussion on March 16 from 7:00-8:30 PM. We will be discussing how we can integrate and implement the insights gleaned from the lectures, particularly in our Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations. We would love to have you join us for a generative discussion about possibilities for greater inclusion and justice among Friends. Register at: <https://esr.earlham.edu/event/qlc-follow-up-to-the-wilson-lectures/>

Source: ESR website

Fall Westheimer Peace Symposium

At the 32nd annual Westheimer Peace Symposium, titled “Regenerative Agriculture for a Just and Peaceful Future,” on Sept. 28 Ohio State University’s Dr. Rattan Lal provided the keynote address, “Toward a More Peaceful Future: Managing Soil Carbon for Global Food and Climate Security”. He is a distinguished university professor of soil science at OSU, and past president of the International Union of Soil Sciences. For five decades, Lal has traveled all over the world researching carbon sequestration, a practice that has been shown to significantly reduce carbon in the atmosphere while simultaneously restoring soil depleted by years of industrial farming. Lal was joined during the day by Ohio leaders of regenerative agriculture, who shared their years of expertise in ecological farming.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/WPS22Agriculture>

Quaker Heritage Center

Donation of collection relating to World War II Conscientious Objector. Generous Conscientious Objector, Edward Roehrs, donated a collection of items related to his pacifist work during World War II. The Quaker Heritage Center is currently reviewing the artifacts and adding them to the collection of nonviolent work.

Local Quaker-made quilts being studied. Roberta Gellner (a graduate student in the Quilt Studies program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln) travelled to Wilmington College in 2021 to research 13 of the Quaker Heritage Center 19th century quilts that were all made by local Clinton County Quaker women. Roberta is working on getting the 13 quilts registered in the National Quilt Registry. The QHC 2023 winter exhibit, in collaboration with the Clinton County History Center will display these 13 quilts and more created by local Quaker women.

Source: email from Quaker Heritage Center

The 2023 Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum

We are proud to announce the 2023 Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum, a groundbreaking exploration of Black Friends who made a difference throughout both USA and world history. From 4 February to 8 April, we will hold screenings, dedicated to Quakers of Color, every other Saturday at 1:00 PM Eastern Time over Zoom webinar.

- Saturday, 4 February 2023: Interview with Bill Sutherland (1999) –Liberation and Non-Violence in Africa & USA
- Saturday, 18 February 2023: *The Prep School Negro* (2012) –Joan Countryman: African Americans in Quaker Schools.
- Saturday, 4 March 2023: *Sisters in Freedom* (2018) –Sarah Mapps Douglass: Women in the Abolition Struggle Against Slavery.
- Saturday, 18 March 2023: *Benjamin Banneker: The Man Who Loved the Stars* (1981) – Early African American Scholar-Activist.
- Saturday, 8 April 2023: *Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist* (1978) and *The Proud Valley* (1940) – Celebrating Paul Robeson’s 125th Birthday

For more information and registration: <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/2023-film-festival-forum>

Quaker Voluntary Service

Quaker Voluntary Service is an experiment at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism, a year-long Fellowship program for young adults. They seek a Development & Outreach Coordinator. Please see <https://tinyurl.com/QVS-DOC> for details.

Regional Friends Indiana Yearly Meeting

Good Morning,

We continue our look at the ‘Questions for Spiritual Growth’ from *Faith and Practice* (starting on page 40 in the IYM F&P, 2018 version). Let us consider these:

Spiritual Gifts

Do you endeavor to recognize and develop your special talents and gifts for service in the Meeting and do you pray for divine guidance in their use? Do you cultivate the spiritual gifts of the members of your Meeting? Are you always ready to encourage and advise those who engage in the vocal ministry or in other Christian work?

Consider also these words from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

As we all lean into the ministry our God is calling us towards, may we gain new understanding and insight into the gifting He has placed in us in order to do His work effectively.

-Pat Byers

Source: *IYM Communicator* 9-28-22

Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Wilmington Yearly Meeting recently published a post *Finding Ourselves in Chaos* By James R. Newby. An excerpt follows:

Friends, it is no secret that we are living in a transitional time, and religious institutions, including our Quaker Meetings, have not escaped the existential trauma that we are all feeling. Our culture is in the process of making new wineskins, and as Quakers, I believe that we need to be about the task of preparing the new wine. In transitional times such as these, even though religious institutions are struggling, *the spiritual hunger that people are feeling is very intense...*

All of us here today are involved in a spiritual journey, or spiritual quest. The question for us as a Yearly Meeting is, “How do we share what we have experienced as Quakers with the wider community?” “What can we offer this spiritually hungry world that will make our religious institutions relevant?”

Source: <https://wilmingtonyearlymeeting.org/finding-ourselves-in-chaos/>

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

An excerpt from LEYM’s 2022 Epistle follows:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered virtually for our Annual Sessions, July 27 through July 31, considering our theme, “Many Roots, One Tree.” More than 130 Friends met for Bible study, expectant worship and worship sharing, business sessions, workshops, panels on various Quaker organizations, a plenary on our theme led by Christian Acemah, Head of Olney Friends School in Ohio, lunchtime chat groups, and a family- friendly evening of entertainment...

The theme of new growth and our deep, inter- twined roots unfolded in various ways during the week. In the keynote talk on Friday evening, Christian Acemah asked us to think together about “What Lies within this Tree with Many Roots?” He encouraged us to explore with him the questions: “What makes a nourishing, vibrant inside? What do we need to cultivate Spirit-led approaches to address apparent, latent, and emergent threats to the tree’s internal health?”

The ten workshops on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday offered opportunities to stretch and expand our exploration of the theme, from the physical roots of gardening to exploring Quaker family trees; re-creating our “grounding roots” of public safety, conflict resolution, and peacemaking; exploring the roots of our personal spiritual journeys; considering the health and integrity of the whole “tree” – individual or organizational...

Our ad hoc Site Committee has worked faithfully this year to identify a new location for our Annual Sessions, and we’re excited to share our plans to hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University in Ohio, June 15–18.

Source: *The Bulletin* LEYM Fall 2022

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
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We're on the web:

<https://www.ovym.org/>

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Contact: quakerquill@gmail.com
Cecilia Shore, editor.
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The want of faith in the word and power of God within, and the neglect of hearing the still, small voice thereof, is the ground and cause of all ignorance, errors, darkness, and confusion among men, of all sects and sorts of religion upon the face of the whole earth.
William Shewen

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