



Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 203rd Annual Sessions

June 14–18, 2023

Mount St. Joseph University, Delhi, Ohio

“Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!”

The Planning Committee is excited to welcome our OVYM community back to the intimate setting of the Mount St. Joseph campus in Cincinnati. Together, we will share our joys, face grief and uncertainty, celebrate each other's gifts, and deepen our ties to each other and Spirit. Take part in our usual programs—workshops, worship sharing, and more for adults; field trips, service, and other activities for youth; swimming, stories, crafts, and outdoor play for children; and our talent show for everyone! Bring your musical, poetic, and other gifts! We will also have opportunities to participate by Zoom. A healing center will again provide a space to lay down your burdens and give and receive healing gifts. Browse our bookstore, enjoy coffee throughout the day, and make some wonderful new friends. We hope you will complete a survey to make next year even better. We also ask everyone who arrives on Wednesday to bring a small wrapped gift (gently used or homemade) for the welcoming program.

Please review the COVID Safety Policy, which is posted on the Annual Sessions section of the OVYM website. (Here's the short version: vaccines are encouraged, masks are welcome, and we ask anyone who is sick to please stay home.)

OVYM's room and meal reservations need to be finalized soon with The Mount. So please register now if you will attend in person (registration deadline for meals and rooms is May 25). To register as an on-line only participant, please complete your registration by June 12. To see the schedules, find information for children and youth programs, access the registration form and other details, go to our Annual Sessions web page at <https://www.ovym.org/events/2023-annual-sessions/>.

Submitted by Martha Viehmann on behalf of Planning Committee

Annual Sessions continued next page.

Dear Friends,

As Quakers, we often share our experiences of listening in silence, listening for a still small voice. We encounter the divine in quiet moments. I wonder what other sounds bring us closer to the sacred throughout our days. For me, Spirit sounds like birds chirping, water running over rocks, the quiet flicker of a candle flame, the buzz of a bee, the swelling of music. What sounds spark your connection to *That Which is Eternal*?

As I think about coming together for Annual Sessions in June, I remember the sounds of years past. I hear the delight of Friends reuniting, the murmur of conversations, the enthusiastic “Approve!” of an action item, Young Friends laughing under a tree, a dog barking in the background of a Zoom call, dishes clinking in the dining room. Annual Sessions are rich with sacred moments and I can't wait to be surrounded once again in 2023. What a blessing!

In 2022, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting formed an ad hoc committee to assess the organizational and committee structure of the yearly meeting, and the committee spent the past year engaging in listening sessions with Friends across the yearly meeting. This year in our business sessions we'll be discerning



Rachel Ernst Stahlhut

together some new possibilities for organizing ourselves to best help us live faithfully as a community. Please come join us in shaping our future.

Annual Sessions provide a time for us to gather as a full yearly meeting community to listen to the will of God, nurture each other's spirits, and deepen our connections as a spiritual community. I'm so grateful to the Planning Committee, Registrars, Children and Youth Committees and for all the Friends who have been busy preparing programs and coordinating schedules and details to create deep and meaningful opportunities for all of us. I'm looking forward to seeing you there! (Also, please bring your families – my 8-year-old daughter would love to spend time with some young Quaker Friends!)

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Thursday June 15

Cai Quirk: *A Rainbow of Spiritual Gifts*



Imagine a rainbow with red blending to orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet... all colors coming together to reflect the beautiful array of this world. Blue is no more or less important than yellow or green, and just because red is on the edge doesn't mean rosy hues are forgotten. The colors come together in harmony, just like the various songbirds at twilight or the many instruments of an orchestra, each individual part creating a vibrant divine whole. What would the rainbow be like without blue, or the orchestra without the woodwinds? Many people cherish spectrums in color and music but begin to hesitate when it comes to celebrating the vibrant diversity of humanity. What do our communities lose when we only support some of the gifts and identities Spirit has given people among us? More specifically, how does supporting and nourishing the people most often marginalized by society truly help us all grow, both as individuals and as Quaker meetings?

Cai (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 music and photography practices. Their photography series and book [Transcendence](https://caiquirk.com/photography/transcendence/) (<https://caiquirk.com/photography/transcendence/>) connects themes of spirituality, mythology, and gender diversity as related to global and timeless patterns. See more at <http://caiquirk.com/>.

Friday June 16

Gretchen Castle: *Finding Our Way...Through God All Things Will be Made New*

Finding our way out of COVID continues....and it is by using our gifts and living by our faith that we will find new ways towards more healthy, inclusive communities. The life of the church has changed, not only for Friends, requiring meetings to be responsive to what people need. There is little tolerance for that which is not immediately relevant. What has COVID taught us? What is spiritually relevant for us? How able are we to change? What do we have to offer the world?

Gretchen 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.



*****Please Register by May 25th attending in-person *****

***** Zoom registration by June 12th *****

All youth under 18 are free, all newcomers and YAF (19-35) are 50%. But Friends can pay more and give if they choose. It will support the yearly meeting.

Please try to register by the deadline. The food service at MSJU needs firm numbers for purchasing food for our sessions but does have some flexibility with adding late registrants. After May 25th, please contact the registrar for in-person registration. You may call Registrar Eric Wolff at (513) 378-8730 and leave a message, or email registrar@ovym.org and put "OVYM" in subject line.

Reports in Advance are useful in understanding business sessions. They will be posted online at the following website: <https://tinyurl.com/2023AdvanceReports>, or you may request paper copies using this form: <https://tinyurl.com/PaperAR>.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Children's Program at OVYM is for children ages 0-10. We have activities planned for all children to partake in at any time they are at OVYM. We will have arts and crafts and singing and games and playdough and bubbles and sewing. We will go on walks in the parks and go swimming on hot afternoons. We will lead worship sharing discussions and plan a service project that the children can choose and maybe go visit an animal shelter and take them some treats. We hope everyone will join us for all or part of OVYM. We will have staff and committee members interacting with the children and leading them through the wonderful experience of the annual yearly meeting gathering of Friends. Parents can expect to meet with the staff of the Children's Program when they come to drop off their child / children on Thursday morning.

YOUTH PROGRAM

At Yearly Meeting, youth ages 11 to 18 (10-year-olds with permission; contact Adam Funck at youth@ovym.org) are served in the Youth Program which is run by staff and supported by the Youth Committee.

OVYM's youth program focuses on building a sense of community, introducing Quaker concepts and practices, and nurturing the spiritual development of each young person. Each day begins with worship sharing and a youth-led business meeting during which the group plans their day and addresses any concerns. The group is visited by guests, including plenary speakers or visitors from Quaker organizations, who provide age-appropriate activities to inform and foster reflection.

A highlight of annual sessions for youth is the rafting trip, held on Friday (bring a bathing suit and closed-toe shoes), and the preparation of a skit for the Saturday night variety show. All of the Yearly Meeting activities will be held in Seton Hall while we are on Mount St. Joseph's campus. Middle Youth share rooms with their families. Teens are housed together, with staff, in one part of Seton Hall. The group has a designated lounge area on the 3rd floor of Seton, where they have plenty of space for hanging out, making music, crafts, and playing games. The youth will engage in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities each day.



All youth must have a parent/guardian/or sponsor. A parent or legal guardian must complete the [OVYM Youth Information Form](https://tinyurl.com/OVYMYouth2023) (<https://tinyurl.com/OVYMYouth2023>) for every youth attending. Send the completed form to youth@ovym.org.

Also, all youth need to complete the Whitewater Canoe Rental waiver, which you must print from the website and bring (send with your child) to Annual Sessions. Find it here: <http://www.whitewatercanoerental.com>

Remember, youth attend OVYM Annual Sessions at no charge and are encouraged to bring friends! We look forward to seeing you soon!

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS PROGRAM

- PLEASE JOIN in with the youth rafting trip on Friday! (Contact: youth@ovym.org). Bring a bathing suit and closed-toe shoes. Please print, complete and bring the Whitewater Canoe Rental Waiver: <http://www.whitewatercanoerental.com>
- Friday night 9:30 p.m. Hang out and meet up (Contact: u-brewington@hotmail.com)
- Saturday at lunch. Meet up and discuss future plans.

YOUR GIFTS ARE NEEDED!

- Bring a **small wrapped gift** (a homemade or gently used item) for the Wednesday Welcoming Activity.
- Are you a **healing practitioner** with gifts to offer during Annual Sessions? Please contact Deborah Jordan to assist with the healing center. Djordan@fuse.net or 513-328-8178 (cell)
- **Photographers** needed to capture images of our Annual Sessions! Send any photos to OVYM's Administrative Asst. Susan Lee Barton (admin@ovym.org). Photos may appear in a future *Quill* issue or on our website.
- **Zoom assistants** needed to operate cameras, assist virtual participants, etc. for business meetings, selected workshops and more. Contact Ben Griffith at BenOVYM@icloud.com.
- If you love attending Annual Sessions, **extend a personal invitation to someone else**. Help others find their way to Mt. St. Joseph University for OVYM!
- **If you attended last year, please assist newcomers** by answering questions and helping people find their way around campus.



WORKSHOPS

Friday June 16

Cai Quirk – *Queer Restoryation: Weaving New Narratives*

We grow up with many narratives fed to us about how the world is supposed to be, but so often these tales are limited or false versions of deeper truths. Oppression has narrowed gender to a binary, but together we can weave new narratives to invite healing and freedom for us all.

Using poetry and photography from Cai Quirk's series [Transcendence](https://caiquirk.com/photography/transcendence/) and 'Beyond Pink and Blue' as catalysts, we will explore aspects of gender that are far more expansive than the binary. Visual and written metaphors use new ways of thinking to help people reach deeper into their subconscious to stretch and expand limiting beliefs that hold us all back, no matter our gender. These methods can then be used to heal other such wounds caused by various forms of oppression. Restoryation — creating and learning healing narratives to replace harmful ones — is imperative for communities that want to be truly welcoming. People of all genders are welcome in this workshop.

There will be a section of the workshop with themed small groups. If you would like to do the following prompt for taking self-portraits ahead of time, you're welcome to (don't worry, it can be fun!), and if you don't wish to do the prompt, there will be an alternative theme for small groups at the same time in the workshop and you don't have to read any further.

Self-portrait prompt: with any photo-making device (a phone, digital camera, disposable camera, grandkid's phone), please make two self-portraits (or as many as you need until you like two of them)... one that includes your body in some way (could be your whole body, only head and shoulders, even just your hand), and one that is representative of you but doesn't have your body in it (the photo may include favorite clothes or items, a place that is special to you, several objects arranged together, etc.). If you would like additional guidance, you may consider the following: "What color in the rainbow does my deepest self connect most with right now in this moment? How can this color become part of my photo?" Please bring your photos with you to the workshop in some format (on a device or printed).

Cindi Goslee, Religious Nurture & Education committee- *Coming to Unity the Quaker Way*

As Friends we believe that Spirit-led meetings for business are a path for finding our way and for identifying and using our gifts. Cindi Goslee, a member of Louisville Friends Meeting, will facilitate.

Rhonda Pfaltzgraff Carlson - *Faithfully Bringing Forth Justice in Organizations*

Institutionalized injustice fuels conflicts that arise in organizations creating multi-dimensional conflicts. While eradicating structural and institutionalized injustice may appear impossible, Friends can use their gifts to make a difference by understanding and addressing these conflicts in the contexts where they work and serve.

The purpose of this workshop is to help leaders, staff members, and volunteers understand and address the multi-dimensional conflicts that institutionalized injustice creates in organizations. The workshop will begin with a presentation that provides a broad overview of structural and institutionalized injustice. Then, it will discuss the ways that institutionalized injustice influences and manifests itself in organizations. Next, pathways that help people understand and respond to multi-dimensional conflicts in organizations will be shared so these conflicts can be meaningfully resolved. After the presentation, participants will be encouraged to test, critique and develop the proposed pathways through consideration of examples of the multi-dimensional conflicts that they have witnessed or experienced.

Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, PhD is a convinced Friend and member of Campus Friends Meeting, which is dually affiliated with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM; FGC) and Wilmington Yearly Meeting (WYM; FUM). In this workshop, Rhonda will share knowledge from organizational studies that she believes will add value to the on-going call for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace and society. She believes this conversation is consistent with Friends' testimonies of integrity, equality, peace, and community. Rhonda carries a multi-faceted concern for spiritual well-being and religious wounding. She provides spiritual direction for people who seek to deepen their relationship with the Divine.

Diann Herzog – *Community Stewardship of Our Spiritual Ecosystem*

We will examine what is needed for a healthy and well-functioning spiritual ecosystem, including the gifts and talents provided by Spirit. We will begin with large group reading and presentation, move into break out groups for discussion, have quiet time for writing and reflection and regather for group sharing. Diann encourages Friends to bring any book or writing that they have found inspirational on the subject of stewardship. She also encourages Friends to bring a pen or pencil and some paper or a journal in which they can write.

Diann Herzog, member of Fall Creek Meeting (through thick and thin) for 23 years and affiliate member of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Conservative for 20 years. She has served on several YM committees, including Children's Committee, Planning, Religious Education and Nurture, and Nominating. As well, she has also served as clerk of Whitewater Quarter, Joint Quarterly Planning and FGC Worship Committee.

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Workshops continued
Saturday June 17

Gretchen Castle – *Quaker Diversity: To Know One Another Across the Theological Spectrum and Across the World*

Our Quaker communion is small, yet theologically diverse. Having worked at Friends World Committee for Consultation in the London world office, Gretchen traveled extensively among Friends. We will view a slide show and a video in order to bring the diversity of Friends into the room.

We will focus on the value of our openness to one another, to cultural differences, and the variety of ways we express our Quaker faith. We will consider what we have in common. We cannot afford NOT to know each other in that which is eternal. Our theological diversity is our strength, but how do we get there?

Come share your experience among Friends and find yourself in the pictures of Friends around the world. Consider together some of the barriers to loving one another just as we are, as we open ourselves to seeing that of God in each other. In the spirit of generosity, let us call one another Friends.

Karen Francis - *Lectio Divina: An Ancient Approach to Reading Scripture*

Lectio Divina enriches our ability to deepen the way we “sit” with Scripture to enable us to “hear” the Word as it directly relates to our life and how Spirit may be leading us here and now. Workshop will consist of Quiet reflection; Journaling; Faith sharing.

Karen Francis is a member of Oxford Friends and on the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. She has been a spiritual director and workshop/retreat leader for 35 years. Karen is also an editor and writer. Her book, [On the Edge of the Known World: Prayer and PTSD](https://tinyurl.com/PrayerandPTSD) (<https://tinyurl.com/PrayerandPTSD>), tells of her spiritual journey following a nearly fatal car accident in 2005. Karen holds a master’s degree in transpersonal psychology.

Sharon Goens-Bradley – *AFSC, Finding Its Way- Past, Present and Future*

This workshop will provide an overview of AFSC’s history, current work in the Midwest region and will detail future plans for the implementation of AFSC’s strategic plan and how Friends can engage with AFSC. This will be an interactive workshop with opportunities for Friends to share ideas and ask questions.

Sharon Goens-Bradley is the Regional Director of AFSC’s Midwest Region. She has been with AFSC for 10 years. Sharon has a background in counseling psychology, mediation and restorative practices. She has traveled extensively and loves to cook. Sharon lives in Minneapolis with her wife, dog and cat.

Al McGrew - *We Belong to the Earth: Finding our Place in the Living World*

The workshop will involve a mindfulness walk through the beautiful and biodiverse environment of Bender Mountain near the site of the Yearly Meeting’s gathering on Mount St. Joseph’s campus. The workshop will focus on noticing the beautiful diversity of our Earth and its many beings and nurturing a spirit of belonging, gratitude and reciprocity with the gifts of our natural environment. We will explore the colors, shapes, smells, sounds and patterns of nature, both animate (birds, mammals, insects, flowers, trees) and inanimate (land, water, rocks), and use our human gifts of creativity and consciousness to respond to these gifts of the natural world to which we belong.

I envision an active and participatory workshop of 90 minutes with a blend of small group “break-out” type activities and larger group “report-backs.” People of all ages from children to our elders will be welcome and able to participate. Though the workshop will involve a nature walk, breaking into smaller groups will make it accessible to the physically challenged who may wish to participate. As the first part of the trail is road, workshop participants who are entirely unable to walk may also be able to participate by being driven or wheeled to the first stop by a helpful f/Friend.

Welcoming Activity

A welcoming activity will be held during Wednesday evening directly after dinner, the first day of annual sessions. Please bring a small, wrapped, gift (or two) to share anonymously with other Friends. The gift can be new, home-made or a gently used, recycled item from your home.

Healing Center

The Healing Center is a space to lay down your burdens and Lighten your heart. Whether you are new to yearly meeting or a longtime Friend, we invite you to come and sit or move or - we’ll see what the offerings are this year. What would you like to offer? We need healing practitioners, Friends who want to hold the space in prayer, and, of course, those who want to receive. Giving and receiving often co-mingle as we open ourselves to channel the Divine. Friends who serve the yearly meeting or their monthly meeting are especially welcome to partake. The times will be: 4:30 to 5:30pm Friday and 3:15 to 4:15pm Saturday in the Interfaith Chapel. Gloria Bruner and I first organized the Healing Center at Yearly Meeting in 2019. I have started a Healing Circle at my meeting which is now in its second year. Please contact me, Deborah Jordan, if you are interested in being involved with the Healing Center at Annual Sessions: Djordan@fuse.net or 513-328-8178 (cell).

Schedule Overview

<p>REGISTRATION Registrar: Eric Wolff e-mail: registrar@ovym.org Tel: 513-378-8730 Wednesday 1:00 - 6:00 PM Thurs - Sat: 8:00 - 8:30 AM, & other hours TBA. If you expect to arrive after 5:00 PM contact Eric.</p> <p>YOGA* A gentle yoga led by Liz Virgo from Community Meeting, held daily 7:35-8:05 AM in the Interfaith Chapel</p> <p>BOOKSTORE In the Aretz room, Thurs - Saturday; Hours to be announced</p>	<p>MEALS The Dining Hall of Seton Center. Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30 PM Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>COFFEE Available in the dining area all day. Coffee service ends at 6:30 PM.</p> <p>DAILY MEETING FOR WORSHIP 7:00 - 7:30 AM, Interfaith Chapel. The interfaith chapel is open daily between 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM for meditation and private worship.</p>	<p>WiFi available. Network information available at the registration desk.</p> <p>INTEREST GROUPS 8:30 PM Thursday & Friday, Info & sign-up posted at registration desk.</p> <p>EXHIBITS Lobby of Seton Center</p> <p>HEALING CENTER Available Fri & Sat afternoon see schedule</p> <p>REMINDER: Turn in room keys by 2:00 PM Sunday to MSJU staff at Seton Center desk.</p>
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* Please bring a mat as the Chapel's floor is ceramic tile.

<p>Living Witness: Peter Burkholder & Doug McKinney, Molloy Room, Thursday 1:45-3:15 PM</p>
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WORKSHOPS (locations TBA)	
Friday 1:45-3:15 PM	Saturday 1:45-3:15 PM
<p>① Queer Restoryation: Weaving New Narratives Leader: Cai Quirk</p> <p>② Coming to Unity the Quaker Way Leader: Cindi Goslee (RNE)</p> <p>③ Faithfully Bringing Forth Justice in Organizations Leader: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson</p> <p>④ Community Stewardship of Our Spiritual Ecosystem Leader: Diann Herzog</p>	<p>⑤ Quaker Diversity; To Know One Another Across the Theological Spectrum and Across the World Leader: Gretchen Castle</p> <p>⑥ Lectio Divina: An ancient approach to reading scripture Leader: Karen Francis</p> <p>⑦ AFSC, Finding Its Way- Past, Present and Future Leader: Sharon Goens-Bradley</p> <p>⑧ We Belong to the Earth: Finding our Place in the Living World Leader: Al McGrew Location: meet for walk at the entrance to Seton</p>

PLENARIES	
Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 PM (Recital Hall)	Friday 7:00 - 8:30 PM (Recital Hall)
<p>Cai Quirk <i>A Rainbow of Spiritual Gifts</i></p>	<p>Gretchen Castle <i>Finding Our Way...Through God All Things Will be Made New</i></p>

WEEK AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY:	Day Coordinator: Peter Hardy Tel: 859-351-3475	
1:00 PM	Registration open	
1:45 - 2:45 PM	Child Sexual Abuse prevention training	(Clifford Rm)
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	(Molloy Rm)
6:30 -8:00 PM	Welcoming activity & worship	(Interfaith Chapel)
8:30 PM	Parent/Guardian/Sponsor meetings with Youth Programs	(Dorm Lounge)
THURSDAY:	Day Coordinator: Peter Hardy Tel: 859-351-3475	
8:30 AM	Parent/Guardian/Sponsor meetings with Children Program	(Dorm Lounge)
8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	(Molloy Rm)
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch	
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Living Witness: Peter Burkholder & Doug McKinney	(Molloy Rm)
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	(Molloy Rm)
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	(Recital Hall)
7:00 - 8:30 PM	PLENARY – Cai Quirk “A Rainbow of Spiritual Gifts”	(Recital Hall)
8:30 -10:00 PM	Interest Groups topics posted in Seton; see registration desk for locations.	
FRIDAY:	Day Coordinator: Beth Lewis Tel: 937-760-5140	
8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	(Molloy Rm)
12:30– 1:30 PM	Lunch	
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Workshops (titles and leaders on p. 4-6; locations/descriptions near Registration desk)	
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Memorial Meeting	(Interfaith Chapel)
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Healing Center	(Interfaith Chapel)
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	(Recital Hall)
7:00 - 8:30 PM	PLENARY – Gretchen Castle - “Finding Our Way...Through God All Things Will be Made New”	(Recital Hall)
8:30-10:00 PM	Interest Groups topics posted in Seton; see registration desk for locations.	
SATURDAY:	Day Coordinator: Martha Viehmann Tel: 513-324-8953	
8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	(Molloy Rm)
12:30- 1:30 PM	Lunch– Simple Meal with savings donated to Right Sharing of World Resources	
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Workshops (titles and leaders p. 4-6; locations/descriptions near Registration desk)	
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Healing Center	(Interfaith Chapel)
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	(Recital Hall)
7:00 - 8:30 PM	VARIETY SHOW	(Recital Hall)
9:00-11:00 PM	The Afterthoughts Café food and socializing	(Cafeteria)
SUNDAY:	Day Coordinator: Gloria Stearns Bruner Tel: 812-320-2679	
8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-11:00 AM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business & reading of epistles)	(Molloy Rm)
11:15–12:15 PM	Worship	(Interfaith Chapel)
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Lunch and committee meetings	
2:00 PM	CHECKOUT. Return keys to MSJ staff at the Seton Center desk by 2:00pm or when leaving	

Lexington Friends Meeting's Anti-racism Minute

In November 2022 Lexington (KY) Friends Meeting approved an Anti-racism Minute (see below). The minute was drafted by the Meeting's Anti-racism Coordinating Committee over a period of months. Drafts were reviewed and thrashed by the Meeting, and the final draft was approved at the November meeting for business. We have further committed to conduct an annual review to see how well we are doing on the values and goals outlined in the minute.

Approved Meeting for Business November 13, 2022

Anti-racism Coordinating Committee (ARCC) Anti-racism Minute

At this time of racial reckoning in the United States, Lexington Friends Meeting commits itself to becoming an anti-racist faith community. We recognize that there is a profound contradiction between our fundamental belief that there is that of God in every person and the everyday bias against people of color that pervades our society, including our Meeting.

To this end, we educate ourselves about the history and causes of racism and our white supremacy culture. We educate ourselves to recognize and understand white privilege and the ways it exhibits itself in our broader community, as well as in our own everyday attitudes, words, and behaviors. We educate ourselves about the ways racism and white supremacy hurt us all but especially people of color. Believing there is that of God in all of us, we commit to listen openly, with empathy, to people's stories without interrupting or interpreting. Friends of color have a story that those of us who are white have never experienced and will never experience because of our privilege.

We recognize that working to become an anti-racist meeting is a continuing spiritual journey, and it will entail times of discomfort and changes in the meeting's culture. We commit to loving, nurturing, and supporting each other through the challenges. This journey is also one of growing in right relationship, expanding our awareness and intentionality to become a community that is multi-generational, multi-cultural and inclusive of many identities.

Becoming an anti-racist community involves self-education and awareness, but it also means action. Specifically, we commit to

- hold discussions that allow us to better understand ourselves and each other
- look within to uncover the seeds of our own racism (conscious and unconscious) planted and nurtured by the racism in our society
- discern new leadings to see what love can do beyond our meeting community
- stand in support of those who have faced racist attacks and abuse both inside and outside our Meeting, including disparaging and demeaning remarks and bullying.
- Practice accountability for our work, on a continuing basis, holding annual discussions to evaluate our anti-racism work.

As Quakers we are particularly called to take a stand against racism if we are to live in accordance with our testimonies of equality, integrity, and community and with our Covenant of Community*. Our Covenant says in part, we "*strive to build a social order free of violence and oppression in which no person's development is thwarted by poverty, warfare, or the lack of health care, education, or freedom.*"

Note: The Covenant of Community was approved in 2012. It will be reviewed and updated in 2023.

Announcements from OVYM Administrative Staff

1. Deadline: May 15 to request **paper copies of publications** (directory, Reports in Advance)!
If you would like a paper copy of the Reports in Advance and/or the OVYM directory, those need to be ordered in advance (whether you plan to pick it up in person or want it mailed). There are three ways to do this.
 - Fill out an [online form \(https://tinyurl.com/PaperAR\)](https://tinyurl.com/PaperAR).
 - E-mail admin@ovym.org with details.
 - Telephone Susan Lee Barton at home (765-960-0175, NO texting).
2. Calling **young adult Friends** (ages 18-35)! Are you interested in connecting with young adult Friends in other monthly meetings? Please send your preferred contact information to admin@ovym.org.
3. The **announcements page on our website** is underused. It is updated at least weekly, often daily, as information comes in from monthly meetings and the wider Religious Society of Friends. To find it, scroll over "News" on our homepage, then click on "[Announcements](#)." Please help spread the word!

Report from Working Group on Queries on Inclusion in Monthly Meetings

1/20/2023 (per 11/5/22 Executive Committee)

On November 5, 2022, the Executive Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (EC) discussed a request from Friends General Conference regarding collection of demographic data from Monthly Meetings. FGC suggests that such data, which would include age, gender, race and ethnicity (to be included in monthly meetings' annual statistical report) would serve as a benchmark to measure Friends progress in becoming more inclusive.

At that time Executive Committee members had a number of questions and concerns regarding the collection of such data. Rather than proceed with FGC's suggestion, EC approved the following minute:

4. We were urged to be open to change and to center ourselves in love as we work toward becoming an anti-racist community. A suggestion was made to develop a few queries to encourage and support meetings in addressing the questions of becoming a more inclusive community. Friends APPROVED this suggestion. Barry Zalph, Chris Harmer, and Betsy Neale volunteered to draft these queries. The three Friends mentioned above, along with Cindi Goslee (EC representative from Louisville Monthly Meeting) drafted the document below for Friends' consideration:

QUERIES TO MONTHLY MEETINGS REGARDING BECOMING ANTI-RACIST

Excerpts from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (2020 edition, pages 16-18) state the following regarding our testimony of equality:

"The roots of racial prejudice lie deep within us, and in seeking a solution to the evil results of racial tensions we need to search our own hearts. Our belief in the significance of every individual in the sight of God and his need for an abundant life can guide us even when we shrink before the fastness of the problem" (London Yearly Meeting).

"Continuing revelation led Quakers to see that believing in spiritual equality carries implication for how we live our outward lives... Living out the testimonies requires reexamination in each era. We believe humble, faithful discernment in community will reveal what love requires of us."

"It is easy to be lulled into believing racism and unearned privilege have been overcome. This can render Friends oblivious to the ways such attitudes influence behavior. Facing these uncomfortable realities and assumptions can reveal hidden, unfair, and harmful biases."

"To be faithful, Friends must be willing to confront anything in our lives, in our religious society, and in the surrounding culture that unjustly holds one person up and holds another back."

The following queries are suggested for Monthly Meetings' discernment process in becoming more welcoming and inclusive to people of all races/ethnicities. Meetings may choose to address each query in the order most pertinent to their need/current situation. The *ad hoc* committee which drafted these queries consists only of white Friends; therefore, we strongly encourage Monthly Meetings to include persons of color in exploring (and as needed, adding to) these queries.

A. How do we practice the equality of all people before God, as expressed in our Faith and Practice? How does our practice of the testimony of equality (see above) influence our individual lives, our meeting, and our work and witness in the society at large?

B. Do we sense the Spirit leading our Monthly Meeting to be more racially diverse and inclusive? Do I personally feel misgivings as we contemplate racial diversity and inclusion in our Meeting?

C. How do we open ourselves to changes in our Meeting's culture because of increased racial diversity and inclusion? How do we address discomforts and disappointments (among Friends of all races and ethnicities) that arise as we pursue diversity and inclusion?

D. How does our Meeting become more inviting? How do we create safe space for our members, attenders, and guests to share aspects of their identities that they feel led to share? How do we recognize and remove cultural barriers that might inhibit people of color from feeling welcome?

E. How does our spiritual growth and community benefit from greater diversity?

Submitted to Executive Committee by: Barry Zalph, Betsy Neale, Chris Harmer, Cindi Goslee



MEETING NEWS

Campus



Campus Friends continue to strengthen our sense of community and support of each other with the monthly fellowship meal on the first Sunday of the month, hearing our *Fifth Sunday Friend* share personal stories and Inner Search discussion twice a month at the rise of worship. This year we have been reading Douglas Gwynn's book *Conversations with Christ*.

We hung our Welcoming and Inclusive Meeting poster on the wall of the meeting room. We are planning a spring retreat in May 2023.

Campus Friends were participants in a program on Quakerism which included a meal together, and a panel discussion followed by a question-and-answer session. Wilmington College students were invited to attend.

We joyfully accepted the transfer of a family of four Friends into our fellowship, and approved a clearness committee to meet with a long-time attender who is seeking membership in the Religious Society of Friends.

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Clear Creek

Continuing the practice begun in 2020, Clear Creek provides hybrid worship. We typically have one to three online participants who sometimes have difficulty hearing any vocal ministry from those assembled in person.

Based on much reflection, listening, focused queries, and work/study sessions within four retreats conducted over the course of 2022, Clear Creek Meeting has decided to radically restructure its committees, responsibilities, and overall priorities for focus in 2023.

In response to the desire for greater simplicity, Peace and Social Concerns, Adult Religious Education, and Hospitality Committees were laid down at the end of 2022. In their place, we have opted for two new structures. The first is *ad hoc* committees which function for a short time for specific purposes. The second is coordinators who keep lists of volunteers for specific weekly jobs during First Day activities. Short term interest groups have also been formed so that those with similar interests in exploring the life of the spirit can more spontaneously and organically gather for mutual support and inspiration. Current interest groups include: Bible reflection group, Movie night, Green team, Music & Spirituality, Singing group, and Mid-week meditation.

For example, Clear Creek's new environmental interest group, aka Green Team, has been up and running since January, and has chosen to focus efforts on several areas: 1) environmental advocacy in the Indiana state legislature while it is in session through April; 2) nature walks; 3) local environmental service projects; 4) educating ourselves and Clear Creek Meeting about topics such as renewable energy, climate change, solid waste management (e.g. composting, reusing and recycling), and conservation--in ways that are hopeful and empowering.

Other highlights include Paul Buckley leading a discussion on Revitalizing Quaker Meetings, and in March some members attending a presentation by Paula Palmer, of Earlham School of Religion, entitled "Towards Right Relationship with Indigenous People." We also read and discussed the Oxford monthly meeting minute on reproductive health. In March, a draft of the Clear Creek 2022 State of the Meeting was presented, revised, and will be presented again at the April 2 meeting. Much work is being done on our web page, and we approved using ClearCreekFriendsMeeting.org as our URL (coming later in 2023).

Submitted by Karen Bays-Winslow

Dayton

We have a wide variety of ages of First Day attenders, with that in mind, Dayton Friends Meeting is considering separate First Day School for younger and older kids who have been attending regularly. We are also considering purchasing a better microphone and possibly installing it overhead to counter issues of audibility for Zoom participants at home. Newer attendees have expressed a desire to learn more about Quakerism. Dayton Friends is looking into some flexible teaching approaches for them.

Book discussions continue with the latest focus being on "In Step with Quaker Testimony" by Joanna Godfrey Wood.

Members pitched in with the upkeep of the Meetinghouse inside and out. Tasks included Phil Henry repairing the vent pipe and members laying mulch under trees, cutting back honeysuckles, extending the gravel path, and constructing rain barrels. The meeting is looking into plaques to place under the apple trees in honor of Tom and Carolyn Applegate.

We hosted Quarterly Meeting on 2/23 with a healthy turnout of guests. Many gave us positive feedback about the meetinghouse and the plantings surrounding it. Regarding the curb plantings, Quaker Earthcare Witness provided a grant for the native plantings, with many members planning to attend the Native Plants Training at the Marianist Educational Environment Center.

Dayton news continued p. 11

Dayton news continued from p. 10

On March 4th, a clearness committee was held for Sandy Wisch-Felt. We enthusiastically recommended her application for membership in Dayton Friends Meeting. The Meeting continues to grow. We are happy to celebrate our sixth year here this month!

Submitted by Scott Hadley

Eastern Hills

Eastern Hills is delighted to welcome two new members, Susan Krug and Susan Reutman. Both the Susans are long-time attenders, and both have brought their training in science to bear in serving (with Alice Palmer) on the committee that advises us on COVID safety policy. We are looking forward to the welcome gatherings for our new members—really any excuse to be together again! In March, our second hour discussion focused on the queries from FCNL regarding reproductive health and abortion. The discussion showed a divide in our positions on abortion, yet we were able to share openly, without rancor, trusting in the spirit of love in our community.

Submitted by Martha Viehmann

Lafayette

The last year has been calm yet eventful for us. We have a new clerk, Michele Tomerelli, and a new trustee, Evan Rocheford, who are earnestly learning the skills needed for their new roles. We have been blessed with the attendance of a few new people and young families over the past few years and welcomed baby Logan to the family of Michael, Gloria and big brother Vincent Weesner.

We are still working on our old house; thanks to the skills of one of our members, we have a new roof and the garage doors and the front door are mended, along with some other minor repairs. Due to some issues with our basement tenant, we changed the locks for the first time in years. Minor repairs, paint and a good cleaning are still needed.

Our meeting is in the process of sitting with Oxford's freedom of choice minute, as we seek discernment on the issue of reproductive health. Though many of our Meeting work either professionally or as volunteers with members of our community experiencing homelessness and mental illness, we as a Meeting are also continuing to partner with local service providers to further their work.

Submitted by Karen Acheson

Miami

Miami Monthly Meeting has expended considerable effort on our physical plant in the past year. We keep reminding ourselves that the people and the Spirit make up our meeting, much more than any historical building.

The White Brick (the oldest house of worship in continuous use west of the Alleghenies!) was built in 1811, large enough to seat 500 or so at quarterly or yearly meeting. Such a large building requires upkeep that has been challenging for our small group.

When Hicksite and Gurneyite Friends went their separate ways in the 1820s, the Red Brick was built just across the street. Since Wilmington Yearly Meeting gave the Red Brick to Miami Monthly Meeting in the 1940s, it has been used as a social hall. We held meeting there during winter months to save on heating. But, with a dozen attenders on a good day, we hardly need two large buildings.

Meanwhile, water and mold damage at the Red Brick hastened our decision to cut back on real estate obligations. When we closed the sale of the Red Brick in March, mold and all, we breathed a collective sigh of relief. We can still use it for gatherings, and we shed responsibility for its upkeep. Whew!

How doth Truth prosper among us? With less worry about building maintenance, we are freer to focus on spiritual concerns, and feel refreshed when we meet. We are few in number, and thrilled when newcomers and visitors enrich our gathering.

A memorial meeting for our beloved Dr. Bob Findlay was held on March 18. The White Brick was full, with many friends expressing gratitude for his spoken messages and the way he lived his beliefs by providing surgical education in both Ohio and China.

We took advantage of having out-of-town Friends there in person to hold a meeting of the Futures Committee, helping discern the way forward for our meeting. Visitors, especially those at the wedding of Travis Cook and Becky Selzer in October, express awe at the Spirit moving amongst us. Our challenge would seem to be reaching out to more potential Friends, to share the grounding and community that we find here. We feel the responsibility of caring for the White Brick and the history of area Quakers; that weight lightened significantly when the Red Brick was sold. We appreciate your prayers, support and visits to help carry it on.

Submitted by Gretchen Stone

Oxford

Oxford Meeting has been actively engaged in in-reach and outreach. We have held several “Sandwich Sundays” for discussions about Quaker beliefs and practices following meeting. (See photo.) We are grateful to Karen Francis for facilitating a book club in March on Marcelle Martin’s *Our Life is Love*, which enabled us to learn about Quaker history and share reflections on our spiritual journeys. Cecilia Shore visited Clear Creek Meeting to provide context on our reproductive health minute and to encourage discussion in that meeting of these issues. We are planning to have a table at Oxford’s EarthFest April 22. We ask other meetings to hold us in the Light, as the building where we have met for 42 years is in financial crisis, and we may find ourselves seeking another home.



Yellow Springs

Brown bag discussions have been important in raising the meeting out of pandemic isolation. There will be one in May on whether or not to lift our restrictions on mask wearing, and whether it is time to return to much missed potlucks. While we have yet to find unity during a brown bag discussion on reproductive rights, our Peace and Social Justice committee continues to work on reparations, hosting 4 monthly brown bag discussions on reparations from February through May. Earlier this year the meeting had agreed to their plan to raise \$5,000 to donate to a local group’s reparation fund by June Nineteenth of this year - so far more than half of that amount has been raised.

A memorial service will be held in May for a beloved member, Susan Street Carpenter, wife of Berch Carpenter, who died in March.

The meeting made a short video singing “Happy Birthday” to long distance member and Zoom attendee Ellen “Kitty” Newton Duell, who turned 94 on March 27th, at the invitation of her family.

Submitted by Annie Blanchard

Singing in the Light Joanna Dales

Paulette has taught the Quakers how to sing -
Us Quakers who for more than twelve-score years
Have stilled our voices and made deaf our ears
To music lest it hinder focussing
Upon the Light within, life's seed and spring.
We were mistaken you have stilled our fears,
By opening a way to joy and tears,
Setting our hearts budding and blossoming.
Would Fox or Fell or Nayler have found fault
With us, that in a dark and frightening stage
Of the earth's life we seek to temper rage
By singing words they taught us so to assault
Evil and hate with love, acting as salt
Of the world, as they did in their different age?

Joanna first met Paulette Meier at a Pendle Hill Wisdom School on Quakerism in 2017 with Cynthia Bourgeault, Marcelle Martin and Paulette co-leading. She loved the chanting and arranged to attend Paulette’s chanting workshop at Woodbrooke the next year, when she was back in England. This sonnet was written at the end of that workshop.

THE WIDER QUAKER WORLD

Friends General Conference (FGC)

The **2023 FGC Gathering, “Listen So That We May Live”**, will be held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR, from July 2-July 8, 2023. All of us, the staff and volunteers of FGC, hope you will come. Each evening at the Gathering, Friends gather for speakers, performances, or to explore topics in depth. Evening Programs will be led by eight unique speakers and panelists as well as a DJ! Click here for more about Evening_Programs at 2023 Gathering: <https://tinyurl.com/FGCEvening2023>
Source: *Vital Friends February 2023*

FGC's **Ministry on Racism** announces the Spring Friends of Color Hybrid Retreat, May 19-21 in Scottsdale, AZ. Friends of Color programming is pay-as-led. Register online at: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5042270>. Financial assistance for travel is available to Friends of Color: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4601965>
Source: *Email from Hanae Togami*

Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill (<https://pendlehill.org>) is a Quaker center, open to all, for Spirit-led learning, retreat, and community in Wallingford, PA. For a full list of upcoming Pendle Hill education opportunities, including our free First Monday Lecture Series and bimonthly reading groups, visit our events page (<https://tinyurl.com/PHEventsSpring>). Sign up for our e-newsletter <https://pendlehill.org/enews-opt-in/> and follow us @pendlehillusa on all social media platforms to stay connected and hear about new opportunities!

The Seed: Conversations for Radical Hope. Listen now to season two of Pendle Hill's podcast, <https://pendlehill.org/learn/podcast/>, where Quakers and other seekers explore the worlds growing up through the cracks of our broken systems. On season two, we're exploring the Quaker testimony of integrity: What does it look like to meaningfully live out our deepest spiritual truths with authenticity and grace? Join the conversation by listening and subscribing on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, or wherever you get your podcasts, and follow @pendlehillseed on all social media platforms for updates!

Continuing Revolution 2023: Nurturing Experiments in Spiritually Grounded Abolition June 2-6, 2023. (<https://pendlehill.org/learn/continuing-revolution-2023/>) Join us online and on Pendle Hill's campus for our annual conference for young adults ages 18-35! This is 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.
Submitted by Anna Hill

Friends World Committee for Consultation

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas met in person at Haw River State Park in Greensboro, North Carolina and virtually March 23-26, 2023. The theme was “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs” and the Bible study focused on the great commandment to love God and one another. Upcoming events in the Section of the Americas can be found here: <https://fwccamericas.org/events/>

Planning for the 2024 World Plenary Meeting is ongoing. It will take place August 5-13 2024 in Gauteng province, around an hour from Johannesburg in South Africa, hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, which brings together Friends and Quaker Meetings in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It will also be possible to participate in the plenary virtually, including via virtual “hubs” where three or more people join the event through a single internet connection.
Submitted by Anne Marie Hutchinson

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

FCNL is seeking guidance from Quaker communities across the country to assist in a recommendation regarding whether to change FCNL's policy statement around abortion and reproductive health care. Information about how your community can take part in FCNL's discernment on abortion and reproductive health care policy is in the mail and available online: <https://tinyurl.com/FCNLdiscernment2023>. Please share the results of your discernment by May 1, 2023.
Source: *Email from Clare Carter*

In March, the Senate voted for the first time to repeal the outdated and overstretched 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), which was passed more than two decades ago to authorize the Iraq war. The Senate vote follows years of incremental progress towards repeal—progress that FCNL advocates have been a crucial part of. FCNL's constituents worked for many years to build bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress for repealing the Iraq War authorization. Support for repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF now goes all the way up to the White House. It is now up to the House to send a bill (HR 932) repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF to the president's desk. Critically, Speaker Kevin McCarthy (CA-20) has indicated an openness to repeal. You can use FCNL's Action Center to encourage your representative to pass the bill: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/44689/>
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/FCNLAUMF2023>

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Building grassroots leadership in immigrant communities: Across the U.S., many immigrants confront injustices in their daily lives. For over 19 years, Pedro Sosa has helped immigrants in Oregon and Washington understand their rights. He also helps them develop leadership skills and advocate for more humane immigration policies. (<https://tinyurl.com/AFSCImmigrants2023>)

Honoring a leader for healing justice: Last month, Larry White, the founder of AFSC's Hope Lives for Lifers program, passed away at the age of 87. Since 2018, the program has provided support to more than 200 people serving long sentences in New York prisons. Read more about Larry and his decades of work from AFSC's Lewis Webb Jr. <https://afsc.org/news/honoring-larry-white>

Source: AFSC email March 4

Earthquake relief update: We're grateful to everyone who has donated to support our response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Last week, AFSC staff visited some of the most devastated areas to assess community needs and coordinate relief efforts with local organizations. See the latest update from AFSC's Bilal Olimat: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCearthquake>

Source: AFSC email Feb 25

Video: Values-Based Financial Planning: Want to make sure your values are incorporated into your retirement and other financial planning? Check out this recording of our recent webinar about why you need a well-crafted financial plan—and how it can support organizations you care about: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCValuebasedFinances>

Source: AFSC email April 1

AFSC Midwest

Using restorative practices to create safe spaces for youth. Brynne Crockett reports that AFSC staff have been engaging with staff and recruiting youth at North Community High School in Minneapolis. AFSC will be providing restorative practices in the schools as alternatives to in-school suspensions. By using mediation with students and administrators, we all can create a safe space for young people. Brynne adds that excitement is building for more youth programming, including potential podcasts and visuals. (<https://afsc.org/programs/twin-cities-healing-justice>).

Source: email from Jon Krieg

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

In the newsletter, Sarah Northrop, RSWR Program Director, introduced the RSWR Guatemalan Coordinators. Eva Ramírez has a degree in Education and ran her own small business to pay for her schooling. She has taught literacy and gardening. Eva feels that working for RSWR is a wonderful opportunity to transform rural women's quality of life. Ruth Bueso is an evangelical Friend, a teacher, and the wife of a pastor. Through her church, she has 15 years of experience helping women in the rural areas of Guatemala. She says, "...all of us, as God's children, have a mission to fulfill...I would like to use my abilities to help support the mission and vision of RSWR."

Source: RSWR 1st Quarter Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/RSWRNews1stQ2023>

Earthcare Witness

Save the Dates for Upcoming Online Workshops

May 8th - A Holistic Approach to Earthcare Along the Blue Ridge: (<https://tinyurl.com/QEWBlueRidge>)

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia, Friends Wilderness Center and the China Folk House Retreat are aspiring toward bridging divides in humanity, building community with nature, and lifting all toward the Light and a brighter future. Join Kimberly Benson and John Flowers for a conversation on redefining conservation to include cross-cultural connections and building compassion and respect for all life, and how they're making this happen on the ground.

June 7th - Introduction to Faithfulness Groups for those called to Earthcare with Marcelle Martin:

<https://tinyurl.com/QEWFaithfulness>. Marcelle Martin and Mary Ann Percy will introduce Faithfulness Groups as an ongoing small group practice to support Friends (and others) in their work, ministry, and leadings around earthcare, environmental witness, environmental justice, ecological grief, education about climate change, and building resilient communities.

June 12th - Fifty Acres and Fool: The Ploughshares Farm Story with Brent Bill: <https://tinyurl.com/QEWPloughshares>. In 2002, Brent and Nancy Bill acquired fifty acres of her father's farmland to build a house across the road from him. Brent will share how and why this land was transformed into a wildlife habitat and protected forest and how he was transformed as well.

Source: Email from Hayley Hathaway to OVYM



Quaker Heritage Center

The new Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center Gallery exhibit is titled “Quilts through Time: Honoring Quaker Women and Quilting in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries through the Quilts of the Meriam R. Hare Collection.” The show opens March 2, at 6 p.m., with normal gallery hours on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The QHC is located in Wilmington College’s Boyd Cultural Arts Center, corner of College and Douglas streets.

In this exhibit, viewers will witness the painstaking artistry of three generations of Quaker women quilting in Clinton County, Ohio, from the 1840s to the 1960s. “As you travel through time, you will view 13 quilts drawn from the collection of Quaker Heritage Center founder and Quaker Meriam R. Hare (b. 1928-d. 2003).

Hare collected and cared for these quilts throughout her lifetime, consistent with her deep desire to pass on Quaker heritage to future generations. Quaker women created textiles and quilts for a variety of reasons: artistic expression, economic support for their families, social connection and to express political views and beliefs. It is because of these same reasons that many individuals continue to quilt today and why quilting remains a powerful medium of human expression in the present.

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

Friends United Meeting (FUM)

In November of last year, a group of fourteen Friends who formed the FUM Living Letters trip to Cuba came back with deep concerns for Quakers in Cuba. The intensification from the US embargo on Cuba in 2020 along with the COVID pandemic has created a humanitarian crisis not seen in several decades. Jorge Luis Pena, clerk of Cuba Yearly Meeting, said that Cuba has always had deep economic problems but never to this extent, where food stores are empty and fuel is very limited. Kenya Casanova, assistant clerk, says that Cubans have been without the fever-reducing drug acetaminophen (Tylenol) for two years, trying to survive COVID and a Dengue Fever outbreak without it. During the Living Letters trip to Cuba there were constant power outages. One Friend noticed that in every single church they visited the power was off. Cuba is losing its youth to emigration, many risking everything including their own lives to leave the island.

Despite all these challenges and difficulties Quakers in Cuba continue to be a light among their communities. Their meetings for worship are full of joy and singing, they share their burdens with one another. They continue to plant churches when a church building is returned from the government and they continue the good work entrusted to them in their part of the world.

You can pray for Cuba Yearly Meeting by praying for

- Peaceful dialogue between the USA and Cuban governments
- That the USA lifts the sixty-year-old embargo imposed on Cuba
- That God gives the Cubans strength to survive this challenging time
- That the Friends church can continue to be light in darkness
- For church growth and strength in a hostile environment

Friends Meeting of Washington Published History

The Friends Meeting of Washington (the chief meeting in Washington DC) has now published its history from its establishment in 1930 to 2013. This volume (518 pages) brings together the four sequential twenty-year histories that have been produced over the years and adds facsimiles of over thirty narratives, letters, memos and other documents from our archives to supplement these "official" histories. A good number of historical illustrations are included, and the book concludes with the poem written for our 1958 mortgage-burning celebration.

The printed book is available from Amazon at the link below or can be easily found on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) by searching "Friends Meeting of Washington" at a cost of \$20. *History of the Friends Meeting of Washington: The Four Chronological Histories, and Collected Other Studies*, by Wetzel, Hayden M. <https://tinyurl.com/FMWHHistory>

Please feel free to send comments or questions to the meeting's historian, Hayden Wetzel (haydenwetzel@hotmail.com).

Source: email from Hayden Wetzel

Indiana Yearly Meeting

In a recent weekend retreat with one of my sons, we were led to Psalm 23 in our devotions. It was so much fun for me to see that Psalm through his eyes.

We talked about David, who wrote that Psalm. We talked about him slaying Goliath, how he was stalked by Saul who tried many times to murder him, his friendship with Saul's son, Jonathan, and his mistakes with Bathsheba.

We also talked about how *all* of those life situations could have led to David writing such a beautiful poem/ prayer.

David mentions within the same Psalm “walk(ing) through darkest valley” and this statement of faith; “Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.”

I have often thought about the fact that the ‘goodness and love’ of God becomes all the more vivid because we have our ‘valley of darkness’ moments. It is because of the dark moments, the moments of light seem that much brighter.

Lord, thank you that you meet us where we are. Whether we are living a ‘dark valley’ moment or we are fully living out a ‘goodness and love’ moment, you are with us. You guide us. You lead us. You protect us. You comfort us. For this, and so much more, we are thankful! In Jesus’ name....Amen!

-Pat Byers

Source: *IYM Communicator March 15*

Miami Valley Institute, 1870 ~ 1883
A Quaker Boarding School
"Under the Care of Friends"
By Karen Campbell

The Miami Valley Institute, later called the Miami Valley College, and in its last year Miami Valley College Training School, was located on a 60-acre farm one-half mile east of the intersection of Rte. 73 & Rte. 741 in Springboro, OH (see 1875 map). This site is close to the highest location in Warren County. The school building was a large brick building with a perpendicular ell stretching behind and a slate roof. It sat on a ridge overlooking the valley of Clear Creek and the farming town of Springboro. The area became known as College Hill. The bricks were made on site. It was four stories high and had four stairways. There were 50 rooms in the building and six stovepipes rising from large wood burning stoves on the first floor which were the source of heat. The upper stories and outer rooms could get pretty cold on winter days. Forty of the rooms were dorm rooms for the "scholars," 12' by 15'. There were two classrooms, 40' sq., with adjoining recitation rooms. There was room for a library and reading room. The MVC "Noname" Literary Society also had its own small library of books. In Springboro itself, the Friends had earlier established a library before the foundation of the school. Unfortunately, there are no photographs of the interior of the MVC main building.

The school was coeducational and the faculty also included men and women. There were other Quaker schools that were co-educational: Haverford, Guilford, and Earlham. Also, Ohio Yearly Meeting established the Mt. Pleasant Boarding School, which developed into Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio, in 1837. These schools were inspired by Quaker boarding schools of higher education in Philadelphia.

According to Mrs. Ida Wright Keever, wife of Dr. Dudley Keever, both graduates of Miami Valley College, the iron balcony at the front door and French windows below showed the touch of an architect . . . The woodwork was pine and black walnut. The windows were wide and low, the stairways easy, and the halls and rooms light and airy. Furnishings were plain but adequate. Grounds surrounding the school were soon beautiful with shrubs and trees, mostly evergreens and maples, while the fields beyond yielded abundant supplies of garden and farm products (Quoted from *Dayton Daily News* article, "Railroad's Location Brought End to Springboro College" by William L. Sanders, approximately 1950. Found at the Warren County Historical Society in Lebanon, Ohio.).

The same article mentions that there were bathrooms with wooden bathtubs.

There were two wood framed houses directly west of the main building. One was the faculty house. The other for the farm superintendent.

The purpose of the 60-acre farm was to help the institution become self-sufficient. Each scholar enrolled in the school was expected to spend 2 hours a day laboring in the fields (or the mechanical shop) or, if a woman, laboring at the domestic arts. The farm had an orchard and a large vegetable garden. Miami Valley Institute (College) never attained that hoped for self-sufficiency. It was quite common at that time that many large institutions tried to sustain themselves on farms. A good nearby example of this was the huge Shaker Union Village, a series of connected farms located outside of Lebanon, Ohio. However, like others, the Shakers, even with their large resources, could never become completely self-sufficient. In one of the photos can be seen some of the barns and other farm buildings behind the brick building. Also behind the main building were large brick privies.



Continued page 17

MVC continued from page 16

Members of The Religious Society of Friends of the Indiana Yearly Meeting (Hicksite) founded the Institute in 1870. Unfortunately, the yearly meeting itself was not much interested in financially helping the school. Sadly, this would help lead to its closure. There had been some rather intense discussion among Friends concerning the location of Miami Valley Institute. Many preferred Waynesville as the site since the village was located directly on a railroad (Waynesville Station at Corwin) and consequently more accessible. Waynesville was also a thriving village full of merchants and markets. But some thought the railroad was a source of worldliness bringing undesirables and corruption to Waynesville. More rural Springboro was selected probably because of the financial commitment and support of Springboro's notable Wright brothers, Aron and Josiah. Another trustee, Jason Evans, who was a rich pork packer and banker in Cincinnati, had a connection with the town. His second wife had been a member of Springboro Monthly Meeting. <https://tinyurl.com/springboroFM>. Evans himself was from Waynesville. Jason Evans and the Wright family were effectively the bankers of MVC. Dr. Aron Wright was the first president of the school. It was also felt that Springboro was safer for the young people attending the school since it was free of the bad influences of trains and canals.

Friends in southwest Ohio were clearly focused on and invested in education. Most of these schools were "under the care of Friends," meaning under the care of a yearly meeting. During pioneer times local Quaker schools (elementary) grew up besides the local Quaker meetinghouses. Before the establishment of the public school system, Friends opened their local schools up to non-Quaker and indigenous children. With the advent of a public system, Friends served on school boards, were administrators, and teachers. Two academies were founded by physicians: the Waynesville Academy by Dr. Sylvanus Fisher, and, the Harveysburg Academy by Dr. Jesse Harvey. Concern for African-Americans and the Shawnee Native-American led to the founding the first Black School in Ohio in Harveysburg and the Quaker School and Farm for the Shawnee at Wapakoneta.

The MVC school year was divided into trimesters: Winter, Spring and Fall. The "scholars" paid tuition ranging from \$60 to \$65 dollars per trimester. A student living nearby could attend classes and go home at night. Students who lived further afield could board at the school during the week and go home on the weekends. Students from a great distance would live at the school. Each student had to supply their toilet articles, two pillowcases, one coverlet, towels, two sheets, and napkins. These items and their underwear had to be labeled.

The school did not have any fraternities or sororities.

The study of music was allowed and one could study the piano, but not in the main school building.

There was a Shakespeare Club. The "Noname" Literary Society sponsored debates, the reading of essays and various presentations. They invited prominent writers and teachers to lecture such as William Henry Venable and Coates Kinney.

A college charter for Miami Valley College was granted November 2, 1874. From that time on the Institute was known as Miami Valley College. As a "college" the school would be in possession of the charter, which would authorize it to offer at least one advanced degree program. The degree would be conferred after the successful completion of a baccalaureate program (an undergraduate degree known as a Bachelor of Arts Degree, (A. B.)). Like modern universities and colleges today, the student body consisted of both students enrolled in a baccalaureate program and other students who were taking classes for a wide variety of reasons but were not necessarily pursuing a degree. There were students who wanted an excellent "high school" education in preparation for further education. There were students who wanted a more technical or agricultural education without all the language requirements of a more liberal arts degree. There were students who already had high school education seeking to become teachers, and there were students seeking a classical liberal arts baccalaureate degree.

A nearby school for teacher preparation in direct competition with MVC was the Lebanon National Normal School which was founded in 1855 and was incorporated into Wilmington College in 1917.

As a college, MVC offered the following:

- A 6 Year Classical Course including Latin, Greek, and French
- A 4 Year Farmers and Mechanics Course with the requirement of Latin, other languages optional
- Independent Studies with professor approval

By 1880, Miami Valley College was in financial distress. This started when Friend Jason Evans died. The school was too dependent on his generosity and fell into debt. Also, by the mid-1800s Dr. Aron Wright and family had moved back to Brooklyn, New York where they had lived for many years. MVC encouraged other board members to be generous in their donations. They held a number of subscription fundraisers throughout Miami and Whitewater Quarters. Indian Yearly Meeting (Hicksite) inherited all of Jason Evans shares of MVC stock. Even though it was a large sum, the Yearly Meeting was unwilling to take on the growing debt which amounted to \$1,000 a year. From 1880-1883, MV Training was no longer "under the care of Friends." The last two presidents of the school tried hard to keep it going: Dr. James A. Haines of Waynesville and Eugene Hiawatha Foster. There was administrative chaos: conflicts among the staff and conflicts with committees set up by the yearly meeting before 1880. The main building of MVC was torn down in the 1920s. A private residence was built on its foundations in the 1960s. The site is now the location of Lovely's Farm Market and Restaurant.

To learn more about Miami Valley College and Quaker education in general, see, *Quaker Education and Miami Valley Institute: A Hicksite Quaker College, 1870-1883* by Karen Campbell, published by the author in 2004.

We're on the web:
<https://www.ovym.org/>

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

Contact: quakerquill@gmail.com
 Cecilia Shore, editor.
 Thanks to Susan Lee Barton for proofreading.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

*To receive the Quaker Quill by email or postal mail,
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