



“Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!” **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 203rd Annual Sessions**

Epistle, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions 2023 (Approved 2023-06-18)

Friends from Ohio Valley Yearly meeting met at Mount Saint Joseph University in Delhi, Ohio for the 203rd Annual Sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The College’s tranquil grounds enabled quiet contemplation and fostered unhurried conversation. The friendliness and helpfulness of the College staff made us feel at ease. Sessions opened on Wednesday, June 14th, 2023 with our assistant clerk reminding Friends that we were meeting on the original homelands of the Myaamia and Shawnee nations. These are peoples we have displaced and ignored. As well, our assistant clerk asked us to recognize the many ways we have benefitted from the work of enslaved peoples, a legacy whose effects are still manifest, particularly in the persistent gap in wealth between the races.

Friends heard a summary of the many epistles sent to OVYM from other yearly meetings. We rejoiced in hearing how the spirit moved among them. We trust that their meetings will continue to be filled with light and joy.

The theme for the sessions was “Finding Our Way – Your Gifts are Needed.” The theme reflected that our world was still emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and that we were still finding our way back to fellowship. Friends were welcomed in a way that emphasized the theme of the Annual Sessions. Friends brought wrapped, unlabeled gifts. After selecting a gift randomly, Friends were invited to reflect upon the significance of the gift they had chosen. Several Friends spoke about the uniqueness or surprise of their gift, as if the giver had chosen them specifically to receive it. To emphasize the spiritual nature of gifts, Friends sang the traditional Shaker hymn “Tis a gift to be Simple”. This spiritually sensitive state was reinforced by early morning worship sharing. In multiple groups, Friends labored to address queries generated to explore the theme of the sessions. Friends were asked to recognize their own gifts (which other Friends were encouraged to name) and grow into them. (P. 2)

Dear Friends

If you will indulge me for a moment, let’s get a bit “meta” and communicate about communication. As a spiritual community, OVYM thrives on sharing insights, concerns, leadings, inspirations, information, feelings, love, and work among hundreds of Friends. When we meet in person, we can communicate with words, actions, eye contact, body language, vocal tone, and the simple fact of our presence or absence. Spread over three states, though, we rely on electronic means to stay in touch when we cannot be with one another in person. So, how can OVYM create more opportunities for spiritually rich in-person gatherings? How can we use electronic tools best to foster Spirit-led collaboration across distance?

Conversations with Assistant Clerk Rachel Ernst Stahlhut and Administrative Assistant Susan Lee Barton have raised many ideas about how to increase Friendly interaction among OVYM Friends, both remotely and face-to-face. We compared notes on our experiences in other yearly meetings and Quaker organizations, as well as ideas and hopes raised during listening sessions held by our *ad hoc* Committee on Restructuring with several monthly meetings. Susan Lee and Rachel are now carrying the conversation forward in the *ad hoc* committee, which OVYM decided to continue for another year. Our Religious Nurture and Education Committee has taken up the goal of increasing intervisitation among us.



Our Annual Sessions in 2022 and 2023 reminded participants how much we value seeing one another in person. That said, we have also discovered over the past few years the value of electronic tools for including many Friends in committee work without requiring travel. I envision our yearly meeting growing in both in-person and remote collaboration, connection, and mutual support. The joy of nurturing face-to-face friendships can take place outside of Annual Sessions and Quarterly Meetings. We have begun improving the functioning and usefulness of our website ovym.org and exploring ways to improve our use of email and other messaging services. I hope to travel to many of the monthly meetings in OVYM over the coming year, and to meet many of you. Each time we visit or write or meet with each other, we can build loving relationship. These loving relationships in turn build our spiritual community and deepen our worship. May we invest the effort and bear the fruits of more and better communication over the coming year!

(from p. 1) Meetings for business gave Friends greater opportunity to explore our path. A restructuring committee suggested changes to our committee structure to simplify and refocus the work of Yearly Meeting in ways better suited to our numbers, leadings and strength. Some Friends saw the changes that the restructuring committee suggested as opening a new way for the Yearly Meeting to serve monthly meetings while other Friends felt that existing committees, perhaps with added responsibilities to connect with monthly meetings – a task made possible with newer electronic technology – already serve Friends well. As we were challenged to find new ways to be together and new ways to work, we were reminded of Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—[their] good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Our first plenary speaker, Cai Quirk, a non-binary and gifted person from Ithaca monthly meeting gave us a spirit-filled message which both inspired and challenged us. Cai likened the rich range of genders to the spectrum of colors. Cai emphasized the important role Meetings have in nurturing youth. Meetings may recognize certain gifts in young Friends such as their youth and good health, but fail to value a young person’s spiritual gifts or give them the opportunities (the soil) for those spiritual gifts to grow.

Our second plenary speaker, Gretchen Castle, Dean of the Earlham School of Religion, formerly General Secretary for the Friends World Committee for Consultation world office, called us to consider more deeply how we can speak to the needs of our time, such as climate change. We need Friends to commit to giving all that we can. There is considerable diversity among Friends, and Gretchen showed a video where Friends from FWCC’s four sections of the world spoke about their lives and leadings as Quakers and their experiences of the Quaker community. With all our distinctive strengths, Gretchen asked, “Why aren’t our meetinghouses overflowing”? In some parts of the world, meetinghouses function as community centers during the week. Are we ready to invite others to a new life, she challenged us? A good start would be to recognize, “What is the good news that each of us in OVYM has to share”?

A set of eight workshops provided rich opportunities for Friends to learn about Quaker work and the Quaker way. Workshops put on by the two plenary speakers gave a more interactive opportunity for Friends to learn more and to explore the speakers’ themes.

Our traditional variety show demonstrated the immense talent and creativity of Friends as well as their willingness to fearlessly and joyfully present spiritually enriching entertainment. After two hours of laughter and joy, Friends met together in the “Afterthoughts Cafe” for refreshments, dancing and conversation.

At this yearly meeting we welcomed Friends of many ages and abilities. Young children were present and were nurtured with love and attention. They, in turn, brought the gathering joy as well as messages of love and encouragement which they wrote in chalk on the sidewalks of the College’s quad. Young-adult friends met and enjoyed fellowship and activities such as rafting. We were enriched by their energy, their creativity and their presence.

Friends young and old were reminded of the cycle of life and the importance of caring for one another regardless of age or ability. We celebrated the lives and long, rich marriage of a vibrant gay couple. We mourned the loss, over the past year, of several Friends. We sought ways to make new burial plots available for Yearly Meeting Friends. We scheduled times and places to enjoy picnics and future gatherings. In short, we celebrated the abundant life that our spiritual community, rooted in silent worship and nurtured by meaningful service, has to offer.

We treasure our connections to Friends around the world and send this epistle with our wish for many rich blessings for the coming year.



Children's Epistle

Greetings to young Friends everywhere. The Children's Program of OVYM met June 14-18, 2023 at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. We focused on the theme of "Finding our Way-Your Gifts Are Needed." We learned that we all have our own gifts, whether it be a game of Mad Libs using part of speech, or bubbles or chalk drawings or kickball or painting or playdough, or learning and talking about animals. We shared our concerns about sharing. We talked about nature and spent time in the outdoors. We send a message to all to go out and share your gifts. In Peace and Light, the children of OVYM.

Youth Epistle

On the fourteenth day of the sixth month of the year 2023, OVYM youth gathered at Mt. St. Joseph University. This year our group consisted of both young adults and youth Friends. Cecilia Branson, Elana Branson, Max Dean, Toby Dean, Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Aeda Harutunian, and Bryan Rivera were all in attendance. Our first activity was a partial group trip to Waffle House and Party City and Aldi for snacks. We then took a walk down the trail that seemed to go down to the river. Meeting for worship with the entire yearly meeting centered us for the rest of the week ahead.

On the fifteenth day of the month, we started our day with silent worship and a business meeting. Post business meeting the youth group took a hike down the same trail from yesterday in hopes of reaching the nearby Ohio River; sadly the trail ended before reaching the river. Our main activity for the day was visiting the impressive garden of Sue Brungs and noting the impressive level of work it takes to grow such an elaborate garden. Sue was kind enough to offer us lemonade and cookies after our tour of the garden. Then we took the Anderson Ferry across the Ohio River, largely for the novelty of doing so, before returning to the campus for dinner. After dinner we attended a plenary on gender and spirituality by Cai Quirk and had a more personal discussion with Cai on the same subjects afterwards.

On the sixteenth day of the month, we continued our favorite OVYM tradition and went rafting on the Whitewater River in Brookville, Indiana. During this rafting trip WE chaperoned many older Friends, specifically Yoshiya, David, Lupe, Adam, Alondra, Karen, Audrey, Andrew, Uta, and Caira. We took three rafts and Karen's kayak, alternating between drifting along at a relaxing rate and racing our rafts. Although the trip started cold and overcast, fortunately the sun came out to warm us up and remind Tobias of the consequences of neglecting to thoroughly apply sunscreen. Afterwards, we took a quick trip to the convenience store where David very kindly treated us to some snacks. After a nap to recover from the rafting trip the youth group continued the trend from last year of having a late-night Skyline Chili outing. We then ended the night by watching *National Treasure* starring Nicolas Cage, released in 2004, about a year after Tobias was "released" in 2003.

On the seventeenth day of the month, we spent the morning planning our contribution to this year's variety show and more importantly that day's trip to the Cincinnati Zoo. After lunch we departed for the Zoo joined by the OVYM Children's Program as well as the associated parents and staff. At the zoo we were fortunate to experience pleasant weather and see many very active animals. After a brief stop by the gift shop we all piled back into the cars, to varying degrees of success, and rushed home for dinner. After dinner and a bit of last-minute practice we attended and performed at the much anticipated OVYM variety show. Our skit, "Friz Finds the S.P.I.C.E.S Cabinet" was inspired by the many animals we saw at the Zoo. We ended the night with a much-appreciated pizza party.

On the eighteenth day of the month, we wrote this here epistle over breakfast as we fondly remembered the week. We plan to see each other again throughout the coming year and once again gather for OVYM in 2024



(Annual Sessions continued next page)

Epistles from the Early Morning Worship with Attention to the Birds

I noticed that most of you missed the early morning
walking worship with attention to the birds,
but that's okay.
They sent epistles.

The Blue Bird and the Scarlet Tanager advise you
not to be shy about wearing bright colors,
And if your favorite color is the rainbow,
Wear them all.
Wear them proudly.
The colors are there for you to use,
They all come of the Light.



The drab little Wood Pewee, on the other hand,
With its reed-thin two-note song emanating from its hiding place high in the canopy,
admonishes you to walk softly on the Earth, paying attention
to small and hidden things.

And the Wood Thrush, with its ethereal flute-like music,
suggests that if you have a flute, play it.
Play your flute. Let it echo through the woods.
It is your song. Share it.

The Mulberry tree sends a message for you, too.
Lift your hands like leaves to the sky, it says.
Catch the Light,
Catch the Light, and transform it into living energy.
Distill the Light into sweet fruits,
And share them generously with all the world.
Trust the birds to carry your seed.

And the Jays and the Crows,
Suggest that even if your voice may seem
raucous or out of tune to some, lift it anyway.
If your song is a protest song on the Capitol steps of Injustice,
Sing it out. Sing it loud.
It is your song, and perhaps the world needs to hear it.

Even the fallen logs, lying on the ground,
Slowly moldering into soil and moss, have a message for you.
Remember us, they say. We are not really dead. We are still with you.
We always will be.

And the rocks, crammed with their fossils,
send their greetings, too.
You are part of a vast and teeming stream of life, they say,
extending farther back in time than you can possibly imagine,
continuing farther into the future than you could ever know,
and covered by the Spirit from which all life flows.

(See p. 5)

(from p. 4)

And the great Ohio River greets you, also.

Do not be afraid to flow gentle and deep, as your elders did before you, it says.

Flow gently through the sweet valley, bringing Life to all around you.

Likewise, the hill, reminds you that if you have grown ancient
and no longer move with the speed you once did,
if you will tolerate a foot trail, but have no love for heavy roads,
and will not abide a wall, keep pushing. Keep flowing, however slowly.
You are stronger than you know. Your strength is deep and ancient and slow.
The road will crack and crumble with time. The wall will topple.

And the Meeting that is the forest sends this message for all of us.

Eden never left us.

We left Eden.

And if you wish to, you can find it still.

It is still out there.

To find it, walk away from the din and the noise.

When you get to the abandoned road, you are almost there.

Keep going.

Pass on through the cemetery, and when you reach its edge,

Keep going.

It's waiting for us. It always has been.

It will welcome us with open arms.

Allen McGrew, delivered during First Day worship



Translators Wanted!

OVYM is part of a worldwide community of Quaker Yearly Meetings. We stay in touch with one another by distributing epistles, which summarize the activities and spiritual significance of our annual sessions. OVYM issues epistles each year from our Children's Program, our Youth Program, and our annual sessions as a whole. We would like to share our epistles with the yearly meetings for whom English is not the primary language. If you have the skill and interest to translate our three brief epistles into Spanish or French (or another language), please email Administrative Assistant Susan Lee Barton at admin@ovym.org. Thank you for helping us strengthen our ties with Friends around the world!

Submitted by Barry Zalph and Susan Lee Barton

Plenary Videos from OVYM 2023 Sessions

Friends are invited to watch the plenary talks given at this year's sessions by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.ovym.org/events/2023-annual-sessions/>



**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SENT IN PHOTOS OF ANNUAL SESSIONS!
YOU'LL SEE MORE LATER!**



(Annual Sessions, continued)



Planning Committee Looks Ahead to Next Year's Annual Sessions

SAVE THE DATE

We are headed back to Earlham College, June 12th – 16th, 2024!

Many thanks to Earlham College as we made a strong case for a quicker response to our request to return to this beautiful Quaker campus for our summer sessions. We are still working out details of lodging and costs but this feels like coming home! For now, please save the date and plan on attending!

SECOND – We need your help to get the word out! Tell your story about why you love to come to OVYM Annual Sessions!

Many share our interest in growing the attendance at Annual Sessions, especially the participation of families. Our most valuable assets in promoting the Yearly Meeting are you. Let's take a leaf from FCNL's "book" on lobbying. They assert that building relationships and telling a personal story make us more persuasive. What's your story? What happens during our time together that made the expense, travel time, and hours of sitting all worthwhile? The overwhelming reason that people gave for attending this year's Annual Sessions is the joy of fellowship with other Friends. Do you have a story that illustrates that joy or another reason you love to attend? Beth Lewis has volunteered to collect stories that we may use in future communications. Please send your story of why you look forward to attending annual sessions with MBethLewis2003@yahoo.com and put "OVYM Story" in the subject line.

THIRD – We need you to help us make this event happen!

Planning Committee is interested in continuing to draw on the untapped riches of our members. OVYM is blessed to have many devoted volunteers who do amazing work for us, but this year we were blessed by inviting new people to take a turn. Not only did they do a good job, they are also becoming the next group of devoted volunteers. Who do you know who would be a sensitive worship sharing leader? Help with Zoom? Help with registration table? Maybe help with the bookstore? Drive a golf cart? Is there a person or couple in your meeting who are good storytellers and have something to share about how their Quaker faith has shaped their lives who could serve as our next Living Witness? We are always open to workshop suggestions. What passion can you share with other Friends? How do you feel called to lead? We'll announce our theme as soon as we can, and maybe that will spark further ideas or help you focus your workshop planning.

Yours in Loving Service,
Martha Viehmann and Ben Griffith Co-Clerks,
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Why I Love to Come to OVYM Annual Sessions!! Write us please!

Why do you like to come to OVYM annual sessions? Can you share your story with the Planning Committee? Can we share it with others on the OVYM website, Facebook page, future Quills, and our communications out to all of you? Did you go through our Youth or Children's Programs and want to share its impact on you?

Everyone put on your INNER AUTHOR and write us!!!

Please send your story of why you look forward to attending annual sessions to Planning Committee member Beth Lewis at MBethLewis2003@yahoo.com

Put "OVYM Story" in the subject line.



**Religious Nurture and Education Committee of OVYM
invites you to
Annual OVYM Spring Retreat**

Quaker Hill
March 15-16, 2024

News from Around OVYM

Miami Meeting

Miami Friends hosted meeting at Butterworth Farm, the home of Phil and Gretchen Neumann Stone, in July. We were absolutely delighted to see over 50 Friends filling the house and overflowing into the yard. After a deep period of worship and a bountiful potluck lunch, some went swimming while others rode down the bike path. *Please see more Miami meeting news on page 14.*



Janet E. Irvin is a retired teacher from Springboro, and an author of novels. She's currently writing historical fiction involving the Underground Railroad. Janet visited Miami Monthly Meeting recently as part of her research, and sent us this poem she wrote.

First Time in the Friends Meeting House, August 2023

Jeanette calls the meeting
to worship. We bow heads

in silent contemplation, amend
the rough draft of the heart

and mind to the spirit pull.
Silence. Stillness. A breeze

caresses my brow, drifts
an invisible arm across

the back of the pew. The cicada
chorus rises. A chipmunk chirrs.

Two hundred and twelve years
of kindred patience waiting

for the Lord to set the pace,
and beneath the insect choir

one lingering command:
Follow. Follow. Follow.

(News from around OVYM, cont.)

“Back from the Brink” Nuclear Disarmament Movement

Timed to coincide with the launching of the movie *Oppenheimer*, the national grassroots organization Back from the Brink has been reaching out to raise awareness of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and policies we can use to reduce those dangers. A couple of members of Bloomington Friends Meeting's Peace, Earthcare and Social Concerns Committee have been working with the Bloomington Peace Action Coalition to spread the word and encourage support for Back from the Brink. Four hundred flyers were provided to the local theaters showing *Oppenheimer*. Then on August 6 the Bloomington Peace Action Coalition, BFM's PESC Committee, and the Just Peace Task force of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington co-sponsored a Hiroshima and Nagasaki Memorial Vigil on Bloomington's Courthouse Square. Poetry, live music and incisive words highlighted the need to take action to support policies to defuse the nuclear threat. At our Meeting for Business on 8-13-23, Bloomington Friends Meeting reaffirmed our endorsement of Back from the Brink, which we approved on 8-9-20. The Yearly Meeting approved this minute in Annual Sessions 2021. The hope is that other organizations and individuals will endorse Back from the Brink and work together to build a movement that will lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons from our world.

Submitted by Peggy Squires



Music Ministry

Dear Friends,

I would like to offer a second hour for any Monthly Meetings for "Meeting for Worship with Attention to Music". Grounded in Spirit-led music together we can find new ways to open and connect with the Divine. I will bring string and percussion instruments with me to play out of the silence as led, inviting those present to also engage in musical expressions and/or gentle movement with scarves. There will be ebb and flow as in vocal ministry, silences and contrasting messages. Let me know if you are interested, via website:

<https://www.gloriasmusic.com/contact> or just call/text at 812-320-2679.

Here is an example of summer music, Mystic Bird Play. You can hear it at <https://gloriasmusic.bandcamp.com/track/mystic-bird-play>

Submitted by Gloria Stearns-Bruner

Meeting News Bloomington

Most days I feel a quiet sense of energy and purpose in our Bloomington Meeting. The spirit in our meetings for worship feels strong to me, with deeply rooted messages and an occasional all-silent meeting. Attendance at meeting for worship is good, about thirty to forty each First Day, with twenty or so Friends in the Meeting Room and the rest on Zoom. Attendance at meeting for business is steady at about fifteen to twenty. Thirty-seven Friends are currently serving on meeting committees, as officers, or as representatives to other Friends' or multifaith bodies. More than a dozen of us attended the OVYM annual sessions this summer, with several participating in the program in some way, and we came back grateful for new and renewed relationships with Friends in other meetings.

This sense of quiet energy has many aspects and many results. Through the generosity of dozens of Friends, we paid off the mortgage on our newly rebuilt and remodeled meetinghouse late in 2022, seventeen years early. Our two Experiment with Light groups continue to meet regularly for guided meditation and personal reflection. Friends in our Quaker Study Group, launched in Spring 2022 by the Religious Education committee, have read and discussed Lloyd Lee Wilson's *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*, Marcelle Martin's *Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*, and Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*, and are currently reading Patricia Loring's *Listening Spirituality*. A craft group meets every Tuesday at the meetinghouse, once a month Friends share afternoon tea for informal conversation, and we have two Zoom midweek meetings for worship at 9 am Wednesdays and Fridays. Through small groups like these, as well as through committee work, retreats, and other events, we feel ourselves drawn closer to each other in a community of faith.

We often have visitors, some of whom eventually become regulars. Since early 2021 we have welcomed five new members: Amanda and Jason Page, Debbie Heaton, Melanie Hunt, and Nicholas Hall. They are all contributing new energy and insights, and they ask useful questions and prod us to rethink our routines.

Three of our members in their nineties celebrated birthdays this summer, with at least two others coming up soon. We threw a special midweek party for Janice Clevenger on her 98th birthday in July. She has been a member of our meeting since 1948—75 years—since before we had a meetinghouse, when we were meeting in the home of cofounding Friends Norris and Ruth Wentworth. Her birthday party was the first time Janice had been able to visit the meetinghouse since the beginning of the pandemic, and we are hoping she can join us more often.

(continued next page)

(Bloomington news, cont.)

We have our challenges. As a group, we are aging. Our meetinghouse is far from campus, and we have few students attending. Some new attenders seem enthusiastic, then disappear. Many of us are serving more than one role in our Meeting structure. Are there roles we could do without, or ways we could simplify? Do we do enough to nurture each other? How can we share more of our spiritual lives with each other? How can we build a blessed community among us? These perennial questions challenge us, and they also keep us going.

Submitted by Peter Burkholder

Campus

The last weekend in July, Campus Friends meetinghouse was the location of Wilmington Yearly Meeting (WYM) sessions for workshops, business meetings, the Peace Lecture, and group singing. In addition, Campus Friends hosted the Sunday morning worship service. The theme for this Annual Summer Gathering was John Woolman's statement *Love was the first motion*. Our clerk also serves as Presiding Clerk for WYM.

Our annual retreat was held in May this year with the theme: *Invigorating our Meeting from the Inside Out*. The retreat was extremely well attended and served as a venue for deeper exploration into the testimonies and their importance in our individual lives. In June we held a loving memorial service in the manner of Friends at Cape May retirement community for the husband of one of our members.

We hosted visiting Friends from Fairview Friends Meeting including them in our First Sunday fellowship meal at the rise of worship. Some of our recent visitors to meeting for worship have ties to Wilmington college. They have included members of the Wilmington College Board of Trustees and a Japanese peacemaker. These past couple of months our Inner Search group has gathered at 9 am to discuss *A Language for the Inward Landscape* by Brian Drayton and Bill Taber. We are challenged by engaging our Quaker history with these two Friends and enjoying the richness of our discussions. In addition, we joyfully welcomed a faithful attender into membership.

Campus Friends coordinated a yearly meeting-wide drive for Move-in Buckets to be distributed to homeless women moving into an apartment of their own. We are also sponsoring the movie *Friendly Persuasion* to be shown free of charge on World Quaker Day (October 1) at our local Murphy Theater. An invitation to join us has been extended to all WYM meetings in Ohio.

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Clear Creek

In 2022, a restructuring of our meeting evolved out of the fruits of contemplation, discussion, and a visioning process during four Meeting retreats. Some of the changes included changing the name of Ministry and Oversight to Ministry and Counsel; changing how we share hospitality, food provision, and greeting duties; changing how we handle second-hour discussion or programs; changing how we handle child care; changing how we communicate; and replacing some long-standing committees with more informal interest groups. Additionally, Friends decided to have singing every Sunday after rise of meeting for worship until 11:30 am. These changes seem to have uncovered a tension between our desire for following the spontaneous leadings of the Spirit and our desire for structure and order.

Many of these experiments began in January 2023 and were due to be reviewed in six months' time. A review process has now begun, this summer, to determine which experiments are working well for us and what we would like to continue to improve.

Some Friends are researching the history of the land where our meetinghouse is located. The land was taken by the Treaty of Greenville and bought by Earlham College in 1832. We wish to be in right relation with indigenous peoples, and we hope to contact the descendants of people removed from this area. One of our members noted that "...reparations are about more than money. It is about re-establishing relationships and listening to what is needed."

Clear Creek members participated in a three-meeting worship on June 25 with West Richmond Friends and First Friends.

We held a discussion about reproductive health, and we hosted a summer solstice labyrinth walk and picnic.

We discussed the process for records retention and archiving, especially of membership records and minutes. Ministry and Counsel has begun a process of asking Clear Creek to wrestle with the question of 'what does membership mean?'.

We celebrate the life and memory of Loretta Gula and Lonnie Valentine, both of whom recently passed away.

Submitted by Karen Bays-Winslow

Community

We are reflecting on how to celebrate the 400th birthday of George Fox July 2023-July 2024. A *George Fox Birthday Pack* full of activities for children and adults can be found at Friends World Committee for Consultation <https://tinyurl.com/GFox400>. We are considering a 2nd hour presentation this fall on "George Fox's Journey to the Americas (the Caribbean and southeast America)." Other topics under consideration are: "George Fox's and the Early Friends' Attitudes towards Slavery" and "George Fox and Quaker Relations Past and Present with Native Americans." There are two local Quaker Indian School experiences to study: The White Institute in Indiana and the Quaker Farm and school at Wapakoneta. We are also encouraging our members to reflect on how they express their faith in arts and crafts which they can share in meeting and also in our newsletter.

(Community news cont. next page)

(Community news, continued)

We had a lengthy Community Friends threshing session on the “Spiritual Basis for Racial and Economic Justice” on May 28, 2023. In our society today we are experiencing extreme political divisions and anger; anything but unity. We are wrestling with serious social issues and injustices. Some Friends are fearful that when we discuss these issues, we forget the spiritual call for seeking justice. There was also a discussion concerning the nature of that which unites us and what to call that mysterious reality. Some people are troubled by the use of Biblical or overtly Christian terminology. The belief in a higher reality or spirituality is universal in world religions. Humanists and people of faith are not enemies and can be part of the great unity.

Our annual Fall Renewal will be held on Saturday, October 28, at Quaker Knoll Camp. Friends are invited to stay overnight, with meeting for worship on Sunday morning. The theme will be "Community Stewardship of our Spiritual Ecosystem." Our facilitator will be Diann Herzog, member of Fall Creek Meeting for 23 years and affiliate member of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Conservative for 20 years. Together, 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 group for discussion, have quiet time for writing and reflection and regather for group sharing. We ask Friends to bring a brown bag lunch and snacks to share.

Submitted by Karen Campbell

Dayton

Peace and Social Concerns proposed installing a Little Free Pantry on the Meeting property to provide easy access to ready-to-eat food for the community. The group would publicize the pantry, as well as stock it, and maintain the general upkeep of the structure.

Dan McGregor reviewed future meetinghouse projects including roof repair work, and possibly adding solar panels.

Travis from Daybreak/ David's Place spoke for a second hour discussion about the facility, and Billy Jivetti, Scientist in the Peace Engineering program from University of New Mexico, also spoke in April.

The kids enjoyed an outdoor Easter egg hunt around the meetinghouse after the silence. The First Day youth also sold coffee and baked goods at the community yard sale.

In May, we held a farewell potluck for Mia Van Meter, and Honor Horne-Jaruk who are both moving on to live with family members in Oregon. Conversely, we had a welcoming party for new members Sandy Felt and Carol Ann Ferlauto in June.

Dayton Friends has a potential "sister meeting" relationship with Bulungi Tree Shade Friends Meeting in Uganda which is the only LGBTQ+ friendly meeting in East Africa. The meeting cares for 19 formerly trafficked youth, most or all with HIV. Ugandan law criminalizes homosexuality up to and including the death penalty.

On June 27th we received the sad news that Marian Alter had passed. Marian shared so much of her spirituality and teaching with Dayton Friends. She was a model of what it meant to be in meeting. Marian was our only member who had been with Dayton Friends Meeting since its creation. It is a deep loss, but she often said she was ready to let go.

Submitted by Scott Hadley

There will be a memorial service for Marian Alter at Dayton Friends Meeting on 10/7 at 2 pm. It would have been her 101st birthday. It will be in person and on Zoom. For more information on Zoom, or to let us know you plan to come, email nikkitousley@gmail.com. (It would be helpful to have a sense of number of in-person attendees.)

Eastern Hills

Eastern Hills Friends sent representatives to both Ohio Valley and Wilmington yearly meetings this summer. With some members facing long recovery-times from surgery or otherwise facing challenges, we do what we can to show our love and support. A young adult who grew up in the meeting has returned to worship with us. In short, we continue to be an engaged and loving community of Friends.

Submitted by Martha Viehmann

Lexington Friends Meeting's Witness to our Neighbors

Lexington Friends has been energetic in reaching out to our community to let them know who we are and to encourage them to join us in our work. Over the past year we have participated in several community events including Lexington's annual Roots and Heritage Festival, and our Pride Festival among other events.

At right, display and table at the Lexington Roots and Heritage Festival, Fall 2022. Many festival goers dropped by to chat and to understand who we were.

Below, display and table set up at the Lexington Pride festival, Spring 2023. We handed out candy and literature.



(Lexington news cont. next page)

(Lexington news, cont.)



Participating in these events felt like a wonderful service project. The decision to participate was easy but actually participating required the efforts of many Friends in the meeting. We organized a canopy, a sign and a diverse collection of supplies (candy, water, literature, etc.) and volunteers to staff the tables. Then, when we were present in the festivals and people came to the table, we were challenged to articulate who Lexington Friends were, what we are about and why someone should come and be with us. Our exposure to these two communities made us recognize our own insular lives. No one we encountered at these festivals has joined us, but the experience has motivated us to be a welcoming and accepting community. Overall, these were positive experiences.

We have also purchased and are displaying a pride flag to complement our front porch. Note also the “Black Lives Matter” sign.



Lexington Friends Meeting has recently installed a Little Library in front of our meetinghouse. Peter Hardy built and installed the cabinet - thanks, Peter! We are filling the library with books on racial issues, many of them books our anti-racism book group has read. We are also stocking it with materials on Quakerism. Princess Nelson and Gail Koehler are monitoring the library to keep it stocked. So far the library has been popular with the neighborhood and we have had to restock it with new material almost on a weekly basis. Because we are concerned to have the library focus on these two topics, books that borrowers leave when they take a book and which we don't believe fit our needs are re-homed to another little library in town where we hope someone else will enjoy them.

Submitted by Betsy Neale and Peter Hardy

(Meeting news continued next page)

(Meeting news cont.)

Miami

Miami Friends hosted meeting at Butterworth Farm, the home of Phil and Gretchen Neumann Stone, in July. We were absolutely delighted to see over 50 Friends filling the house and overflowing into the yard. Guests came from Fall Creek, Bloomington, Clear Creek, West Richmond, Community Friends, Yellow Springs, Dayton and Oxford. (Forgive me if I left anyone out!) After a deep period of worship and a bountiful potluck lunch, some went swimming while others rode down the bike path.

Butterworth Farm was settled by Rachel and Benjamin Butterworth in 1812, when Quakers migrated from slave states to the new free state of Ohio. It was home to Salt Run Meeting, as well as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Gretchen shared some Quaker history, Phil talked about those who are buried in the family graveyard, and Al McGrew (a professor of geology) led such a fascinating trip down the creek that one waiting Friend wondered whether quicksand might have brought an untimely end to their expedition.

As we gathered around the kitchen table, the famished explorers polishing off lunch leftovers for supper. It felt wonderful to be together again. In monthly meeting last week, we wondered whether this is the niche that Quarterly Meeting fills: a time to worship, talk, and just enjoy each other's company. We did not have business meeting. Few Miami Friends made it to Yearly Meeting; Yearly Meeting was kind enough to come to us. *Please see photos of this event on page 9.*

We plan to make this a yearly event, or perhaps even twice yearly. Please join us in 2024!

Our next endeavor: Miami Friends are gearing up for an open house during the Waynesville Sauerkraut Festival, on October 14-15. We are few in number, but we hope that our message and form of worship can still appeal to the wider community. We will give talks focused on Quaker history, and have the meetinghouse open both days. They say that up to 200,000 people visit Waynesville over the weekend. Surely a few of them are Quakers who don't realize it yet. Details will be on Miami Monthly Meeting and OVYM websites.

We designed t-shirts to help let people know that Quakers are a living, active bunch. None of this Quaker gray--we chose sea green and turquoise! If you would like a shirt (\$15 each, unisex, plus \$5 postage if mailed), please email Jeanette Rockwell at jrock31042@gmail.com.



Submitted by Gretchen Stone



(Meeting news continued next page)

Lafayette

We've been having a good summer here. We skip meetings for business in June and July, but have been busy, none the less, with our usual participation potlucks, and in helping to provide Lafayette Urban Ministry meals and food pantry staffers. Our upstairs rental rooms got a good cleaning, but the basement apartment has had tenants, so we are giving the place a thorough cleaning, repair and paint now that they are gone. We were invited to a baby shower at the Farmers Institute for a couple that attends both meetings. The invitation said that a light luncheon would be served after meeting for worship, but everyone added to the meal and it turned out to be a splendid, full-fledged dinner. It was good fun and good to see the Farmers Institute friends again.

Submitted by Michele Tomarelli

Oxford

In a recent meeting for worship, we read the 8th query from *Faith and Practice*, which asked us to reflect on how our meeting supports peacemaking. We recognized that almost everyone in the meeting is engaged in at least one activity that is peacemaking: addressing homelessness, providing supplies to students in need, re-cycling clothing and textiles (*see left photo*), addressing climate change, and promoting democracy, among others. One of our members ministered to another OVYM meeting via a *lectio divina* program. Collectively, this spring and summer we participated in the local Earthfest in April (*see right photo*), Pride Festival in June, and collected supplies at the beginning of school for the "free store" at a member's high school.

Submitted by Cecilia Shore



Wider Quaker World

World Quaker Day 2023

From the Friends World Committee for Consultation

World Quaker Day, 1 October 2023 (<https://tinyurl.com/WQD23>) will be an opportunity to learn, reflect and act, as we prepare to come together as a global family of Friends at next year's World Plenary Meeting in South Africa and online, themed *Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and One Another*.

The word ubuntu emphasizes shared humanity, deep connection, and care for creation and one another. It is sometimes translated as 'I am because you are' or 'we are because you are'. It refers to the deeply held belief, morality, and custom that every person is worthy of being recognized, respected, and heard, and that we as human beings are all interdependent. It is centrally important to the faith and practice of Quakers in Southern Africa.

Show the new video about ubuntu (<https://tinyurl.com/ubuntu23>) in your Quaker Meeting or Friends Church.



Grants for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism. The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism, administered by Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, makes annual grants of up to \$1,000.

Proposals should be no more than two pages and include the following: a full description of the project, including an indication of how the project relates to the study and/or practice of Christian mysticism; the specific amount of money requested; the way the grant will be spent; other sources of funding; plans for communicating the results to others. Two or three people who are familiar with your project should mail letters of reference directly to Kathleen McVey, 272 Mercer St., Princeton, NJ 08540. E-mail inquiries may be sent to: kathleen.mcvey@ptsem.edu. Applications are due March 1 of each year. More details can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/Bogertgrant>.

Source: FWCC and FGC emails to Susan Lee Barton

(More Wider Quaker World news next page)

(Wider Quaker World cont.)

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

We are excited to release three videos in our series on the work of Right Sharing. The first video features Sallian Sankoh, Program Coordinator for Sierra Leone. Watch here (<https://tinyurl.com/Sallian>) to learn about her passion for working to amplify the voices of women in her country.

The next video (<https://tinyurl.com/SathyaTNI>) features Sathya, a mother in Tamil Nadu, India. “I wish all women who are suffering could be supported to develop their own businesses and livelihood.” Every year RSWR supports women like Sathya, a RSWR partner in Tamil Nadu, India. With her savings, a loan funded by an RSWR grant, and her own ingenuity, Sathya purchased a loom to launch her weaving business.

The Seeds of Violence in Our Consumption. In this video (<https://tinyurl.com/MCConsumption>) Max Carter, RSWR Board Member, encourages us to identify and address the seeds of violence in the way we consume. In an interconnected world, our daily choices can either improve or diminish the quality of life of others. Join Right Sharing in working for the equitable distribution of world resources.

Source: email from RSWR May 7

Friends General Conference

Gathering 2023. For a fuller recap of Gathering 2023, please visit *Friends Journal* and read the article (<https://tinyurl.com/FJGathering23>) submitted by Interim Gathering Director Liz Dykes. I found myself already looking forward to Gathering 2024 in Haverford, Pennsylvania, before I even got on the train to leave Oregon. So please, save the dates of June 30, 2024, through July 6, 2024, and meet me at Haverford College for FGC Gathering 2024!

Source: *Vital Friends August 4*

Spiritual Deepening Library: The Light, Seed, Christ Working In US. This topic in FGC's Spiritual Deepening Library invites you to explore the Quaker experience of spiritual transformation. Friends through the ages have believed that Spirit works to change us into women and men for whom the testimonies are more than ideas: that they actually become a way of daily life. The Light leads us experientially in becoming people who are peaceful, live simply, treat each person with dignity, and are more faithful. This transformative work comes not through our own efforts, but through the work of the Inner Teacher who leads, guides, and directs us. Walk yourself through this topic at your own pace at: <https://tinyurl.com/SDLightSeed>.

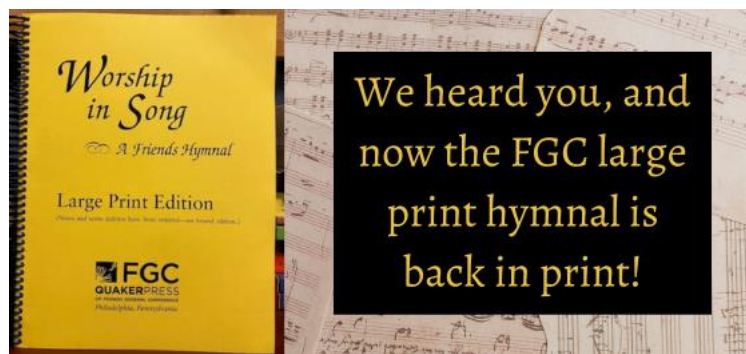
Source: *Vital Friends July 7*

What IS FGC? Organizational Guide (Formerly the Blue Book). The Organizational Guide serves as the policies and procedures manual for Central Committee, the governing body of Friends General Conference. It describes the organization's Vision, Minute of Purpose, Major Goals, and Priorities. It outlines the structure of FGC, including its constituents, officers, and committees. It serves as a guide for committees and staff, but it also helps all Central Committee members, officers, and staff to understand how the various parts of the organization support and further the goals of Friends General Conference. Read the Organizational Guide at (<https://tinyurl.com/FGCOG>).

Source: *Vital Friends July 7*

FGC's Ministry on Racism. IAIC (Institutional Assessment and Implementation Committee (<https://tinyurl.com/FGCIAIC>)) is drafting a 5-Year Report to track FGC's progress towards becoming a fully antiracist organization. We are seeking feedback from Friends regarding their experience at FGC events to inform this report. We intend to share a full report with Central Committee (<https://www.fgcquaker.org/central-committee/>) and the wider community in October 2024. To share your anonymous feedback, please complete this survey: <https://tinyurl.com/IAICsurvey>.

Source: email from Hanae Togami



Available at QuakerBooks: <https://tinyurl.com/hymnalLP>

(Wider Quaker World, cont.)

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Diaspora Organizer Gathering in Washington, D.C., Oct. 27-30. This is a gathering for advocates from diaspora communities in the U.S. to learn how to influence foreign policy change, build relationships with other advocates, and gain skills to organize in their communities when they return from D.C. Here's the link: <https://www.fcnl.org/events/diaspora-organizer-gathering> Hadiya Afzal (hafzal@fcnl.org) is the lead organizer for this event, so please don't hesitate to reach out to her if you have any questions or want to learn more.

Source: email from Bobby Trice

Quaker EarthCare Witness

Archives of past issues of *BeFriending Creation* can be found here: <https://quakerearthcare.org/category/befriending-creation/> Choose from an array of topics from over three decades and see what you find.

Source: Email from Hayley Hathaway, QEW, 03-05-2023



American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Explore AFSC's Archives online (<https://afsc.org/archives>): Our archives in Philadelphia hold the records of AFSC over more than a century of work. They provide a unique view of the social, political, and economic movements of our time. Now, you can access many of our archival videos, photos, reports, letters, and other documents online.

Source: Weekend Reading April 8

75 years of Quakers at the United Nations (<https://tinyurl.com/QUNO75>): Since 1948, QUNO has represented Quaker concerns for peace and justice to the U.N.—and brought community voices to critical policy discussions. We look at how QUNO has helped implement the U.N.'s original vision of peace and human rights. Source: Weekend Reading May 6

Commemorating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (<https://tinyurl.com/MLK60>): Sixty years ago this month, AFSC published King's letter. It was written in response to liberal white clergy who told civil rights leaders they were demanding change too fast. King wrote, "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." Read the full letter.

Source: Weekend Reading May 13

War Stories/Peace Stories (<https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-WS-PS>): We've been thrilled to share public polling with you that shows high levels of support for peacebuilding and diplomacy. AFSC's Director of Research and Analytics, Beth Hollowell, recently sat down with Jamil Simon of War Stories/Peace Stories. They discussed what that research means for anyone interested in building a more peaceful world.

Source: Weekend Reading June 17

AFSC Midwest

Iowa news. Peter Clay and Billie Wade, Friends from Des Moines, were among several AFSC representatives at Iowa Yearly Meeting-Conservative in late July (see [photos at https://tinyurl.com/AFSCatIYM-C](https://tinyurl.com/AFSCatIYM-C)). Billie gave a powerful presentation on "Unrelenting: The Trauma of Racism on Black People in America." Here's the latest news from AFSC alums with Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice at <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCandIMMJ>. Iowans rallied at the State Capitol for reproductive rights in July—see photos at <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCandRR>.

Source: Jon Krieg, *Midwest Digest*, Aug 8

Ending juvenile life without parole, pushing for Second Look legislation. In this video (<https://tinyurl.com/JuvenileSJ>) from Safe and Just Michigan, the late AFSC Michigan alum Danny Jones shares his story in support of the work to end juvenile life without parole sentencing in Michigan. In this article (<https://tinyurl.com/AFSC2ndLook>), Pete Martel of AFSC-MI explains how Second Look legislation would provide a goal to people serving long sentences and give them a reason to participate in educational and vocational programs. "It's a reason to hold on to hope," Pete says.

Source: Jon Krieg, *Midwest Digest*, April 7

Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College

The Peace Resource Center recently released a video by Tanya Maus, director of the Center and of the Quaker Heritage Center, titled: "The PRC at Wilmington College: An Archives regarding the Human Experience of Nuclear War" (<https://tinyurl.com/PRCatWC>).

Source: email from Wilmington College.



Pendle Hill

- **Fall and Winter Learning at Pendle Hill brochure:** <https://tinyurl.com/PHFall-Win23-24>
- **First Monday Lecture Flyer:** <https://tinyurl.com/PH1stMon>
- **New Year's at Pendle Hill:** Welcome the New Year on Pendle Hill's campus, December 28, 2023-January 1, 2024! Join us for **New Year's: Open Heart, Peaceful Mind**, (<https://tinyurl.com/PHNYBrown>) with Valerie Brown to rest, reflect, renew, and restore with this year's theme of "Becoming Your Own True Love," or explore the musical paths of your spiritual life with Karl Middleman in **New Year's: The Inner Life of Music** (<https://tinyurl.com/PHNYMiddleman>).
- **The Spring Term at Pendle Hill March 1—May 10, 2024.** Pendle Hill's 10-week on-campus residential study program is a space for those seeking community in which to share the daily rhythm of worship, work, and learning around Pendle Hill's three core, interrelated educational themes: Faith and Practice, Prophetic Witness and Social Concerns, and Nurturing Creativity. Applications now open for the 2024 cohort! Deadline is Dec. 15, 2023. Please feel free to reach out to admissions@pendlehill.org with any questions. See the Spring Term flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/PHSpring24>.
- **Pendle Hill's podcast, The Seed: Conversations for Radical Hope** (<https://pendlehillseed.buzzsprout.com>): Join us for Season 3 as we explore practices that enrich our connections to ourselves and to each other. How do we cultivate relationships in spiritual community? How do these relationships and practices support our work for liberation and justice and transform our sense of what is possible? Join the conversation wherever you get your podcasts! See <https://tinyurl.com/PHSeed3flyer>.
- **Conference Service brochure:** <https://tinyurl.com/PHConference23>
- **Sojourner brochure:** <https://tinyurl.com/PHsojourner23>

Source: emails from Anna Hill August 14, and Gloria Stearns-Bruner August 15

Friends United Meeting (FUM)

Prayer Focus: Girl Child Education in Africa

In a region of the world where girls traditionally have been judged most valuable for what they can contribute by staying at home, Kenya has made huge strides at raising and equalizing the enrollment of girls in secondary education. Today, in most parts of the country, girls are equally enrolled, excel in all areas of national testing, and go on to higher education. But this continues to be a concerning challenge in Turkana and Samburu counties. These pastoralist communities experience high poverty along with their semi-nomadic living arrangements, conflicts and violence around cattle rustling, and the cultural practices of early marriage. All of these make it challenging for girls to complete a secondary education.

The Girl-Child Education scholarship has brought well-being to girls from these areas and their families, since they are able to complete secondary education and join colleges and universities in Kenya.

Statistics show that educating girls in poor areas improves their own lives dramatically, elevates the health and economic well-being of their whole community, and even has long-term benefits for climate change! Everyone wants to do something about climate disruption, but most of us don't know where we could even start. The problem is so enormous, how could we ever do anything that would make a difference? We can educate a girl!

In Turkana and Samburu, FUM supports up to forty girls each year through Turkana Friends Mission (twenty-eight girls) and Samburu Friends Mission (twelve girls) in continuing their school education. Generous donations from throughout the FUM community sustain this program. Approximately \$500USD covers complete tuition, room and board, and fees for one girl for a year. The girls are usually associated with a local Friends Meeting, must prove financial need, and must keep their grades up. Many recipients are the daughters of Friends pastors, and many express their deep gratitude for being given this opportunity and want to give back to their communities.

Prayer requests:

- Pray for the girls in the program.
- Pray for wisdom for the selection committees as they identify the girls.
- Pray for funds for the program, that enough scholarship funds are secured.
- Pray for Getry Agiza as she directs the program on behalf of FUM.
- Pray for opportunities of mentorship.

Excerpted from: *FUM E-news*, April 5, 2023



(Wider Quaker World news continued next page)

(Wider Quaker World Cont.)

Ramallah School (FUM)

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce that our twelfth-grade students have successfully completed their official exams, marking a significant milestone in their educational journey. We eagerly anticipate their upcoming graduation ceremony, scheduled for this Sunday. On behalf of the school community, I extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the remarkable Class of 2023 as we send them into the world to create change for the better.

This year has presented its fair share of challenges, particularly for our graduating students. They had to navigate demanding academic requirements while coping with losing a beloved teacher. Moreover, they demonstrated exceptional resilience amidst the distressing backdrop of escalating violence and bombings in the West Bank and Gaza. Our dedicated teachers have been an unwavering source of support and encouragement in the midst of uncertain times, guiding our students through every hurdle they encounter.

Despite these challenges, the achievements of RFS students have been nothing short of remarkable. Most recently, our seventh and eighth grade students secured first place in an environmental play competition among fifteen schools, demonstrating their creativity and passion for environmental awareness and sustainability. Additionally, two female students exhibited their athletic prowess by finishing first and second place in highly competitive athletic games where they competed against other student-athletes. These achievements are a testament to our students' determination and their teachers' hard work and dedication.

We were happy to welcome back our long tradition of Open Day Celebrations at the upper and lower campuses after a break due to the Covid epidemic. It was a special time to bring the school community together again, allowing parents to witness and appreciate the diverse talents of their children. Parents enjoyed a day at both campuses full of games, singing, dancing, karate, ballet, poetry reading, and acting performances, to name a few highlights. Parents also visited remarkable art exhibitions, showcasing the creativity of our kindergartners all the way to our exceptionally talented twelfth grade artists. The school is proud to provide a place where not only academic learning takes place but also open spaces of creative expression.

Excerpted from email from Rania Maayeh, Head of School, June 7



Indiana Yearly Meeting (IYM)

Some highlights of IYM Sessions 2023 include:

****Hardins Creek Friends Church approved as a full Monthly Meeting.**

****Exceeded the Advancement goal for 2024 and began the 2025 campaign.**

****Lots of kids enjoying the camp.**

****Recording of Drew Drage as a minister of the Gospel.**

****Had a repeat performance with the Reigle Family Band for Feast of Faith.**

****A report from Shane Brown about a new IYM work in the Muncie/Yorktown area was given.**

We also spent important time in discussion and discernment. The Holy Spirit moved amongst us, and will continue to do so as we move forward. May we all continue to praise God as He has inspired each of those present to continue to seek Him and be shaped by Him.

Source: IYM Communicator Aug 16

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
1117 South A Street
Richmond, IN 47374

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 submission deadline is August 15 for the September issue. The second submission deadline is January 15 for the February issue. The third submission deadline is May 1 for the June issue.

Contact: quakerquill@gmail.com

Cecilia Shore, editor.

Thanks to Susan Lee Barton for proofreading.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

“Trouble of soul can teach us things that raptures never could – not only patience and perseverance, but humility and sympathy with others.”

~Edward Grubb, 1933

Inside this issue:

OVYM sessions & committees	1-8
Around OVYM	9-10
Meeting news	10-15
Wider Quaker World	15-19

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Barry Zalph, Presiding Clerk

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Cecilia Shore, Recording Clerk

Lisa Cayard, Assistant Recording Clerk

Wilson Palmer, Treasurer

Cathy Habschmidt, Assistant Treasurer