

# Community Companion

Quaker House:

3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950  
(513) 861-4353

[www.communityfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.communityfriendsmeeting.org)

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>



New member:  
Chris Morriss

Photo by:  
Elyce Benke

See page 4

Volume 20, Issue 4 April, 2014

<b>Presiding Clerk:</b> Kate Anthony	<b>Ministry and Counsel:</b> Eileen Bagus	<b>Newsletter:</b> Deborah Jordan Email: <a href="mailto:djordan@fuse.net">djordan@fuse.net</a>
<b>Assistant Clerk:</b> Frank Huss	Erin Bagus Lisa Cayard (clerk)	<b>Editor</b> Jean Crocker-Lakness <a href="mailto:j.crockerlakness@gmail.com">j.crockerlakness@gmail.com</a>
<b>Recording Clerk:</b> Paul Buckley	Frank Huss Deborah Jordan	Submissions for the May newsletter due by: Monday, April 29, 2014 to Jean Crocker-Lakness
<b>Treasurer:</b> Lynn Funck	Tim Leonard Sunny Rhein (SA) (SA) is special assignment	

## Calendar

All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**Singing 9:45 am, Meeting for Worship 10 am**

**Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am**

April 6	Meal Carry in after Meeting for Worship: FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible. Community Committee asks that if you bring something that needs to be heated before eating, please attach brief instructions to your container. Also, it's helpful to mention the name & ingredients of the dish - thanks!
April 13	Second hour: Meeting for worship with attention to business
April 20	The Traditional Easter Egg Hunt: bring colored eggs & wrapped chocolate eggs to be hidden for the Hunt
April 27	Green Living Exchange and Plant Sale, see page 6

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"The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness" the first four Wednesday's in April (2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd) at 7:30 p.m. see page 7  
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Caretakers: Alan Wight and Grace Conrad

Childcare: Emily Spring, Margaret Arney

## Fourth Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Sincerity; Simplicity; Moderation

Do you keep to simplicity and moderation in your speech, your manner of living, and your pursuit of business? Are you careful to keep your business and your outward activities from absorbing time and energy that should be given to spiritual growth and to the service of your religious society? Are you just in your dealing and careful to fulfill your promises? Do you take care of such members as need aid, and assist them, when possible, to become self-supporting?

## **March 9, 2014 Business Meeting Summary**

Submitted by Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

Seventeen Friends opened the business meeting with a period of worship during which the clerk read from "How Friends Conduct Church Business" by Bill Samuels.

The Treasurer's Report showed that spending and contributions are in balance and in line with projected annual totals. The treasurer emphasized that contributions designated to the Building Reserve Fund are welcome – just note it in the memo line of your check.

The Stewardship Committee proposed setting up a Meetinghouse Endowment Fund. They suggested that this would provide a way for us to accept bequests and other gifts. After discussion, it was decided to allow another month of prayerful consideration before a decision is made. Stewardship Committee is also concerned about the additional \$5,000 in our budget this year. A fundraiser is an option.

The Ministry & Counsel Committee brought a proposed State of the Meeting Report. It was approved with some changes and thanks to the committee for the thorough job.

To raise the meeting's awareness about the criminal justice system, the Peace & Social Concerns Committee will show two movies and host a book discussion group. They will host a movie night Friday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. to view "The House I Live In," a movie about the war on drugs and how it has increased prison populations. Movie night in April will present "Broken on All Sides" which focuses on mass incarceration across the nation and the intersection of race, poverty and the criminal justice system. A book discussion group will convene starting in April to discuss the "The New Jim Crow," using AFSC's book discussion guide. Friends from other meetings will be invited to participate. Committee members will be updating the Hamilton County Office of Re-entry's brochure to allow people to get help as soon as they are released. TJM Ministries sent thanks for our service in the past year. The committee extended that gratitude to the worship team and to those in the meeting who helped make 50 dozen cookies for the Cookies for Christmas program!

The Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Meeting Record Keeping has finished its work. A separate article on record keeping guidelines appears in this issue of the Community Companion. See pages \_\_\_\_\_

The Nominating Committee has developed personal interest forms and a process chart on how they will proceed. They also have descriptions of the work of various committees.

The Library Committee has tidied up the library and the borrowing procedure has been clarified. They also presented a list of publications they will be buying.

At last month's meeting, the Adult Religious Education Committee suggested having our monthly pitch-in on the Second Sunday – between the meeting for worship and business meeting. This would allow one more opportunity per month for a Second Hour. There are more requests for Second Hour events, presentations, and discussions than can be accommodated. Among other possible sessions, they suggested that more frequent opportunities to hear each other's spiritual journeys might be of value to the meeting. It is suggested that the meeting consider trying this in the fall – perhaps with a review of how well it is going after a few months. Consideration was laid over to a future business meeting. A Second Hour on a new book on Anthony Benezet has been added in May.

The Religious Development Committee reported that a primary class has started; they are seeking teachers for the rest of the year.

The House & Grounds Committee is working on several electrical projects. The outdoor lighting needs to be improved and indoor wiring needs some upgrades. The ceiling in the second floor bathroom has been repaired – it was in much worse shape than had been assumed. The committee identified Saturday, May 10th as the next work day.

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### **MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati) Annual Meeting**

Left to right: Ken Bordwell and Mary Anne Curtiss Delegates from Community Friends Meeting, Jean Crocker-Lakness delegate from Cincinnati Friends Meeting, Mr. Col Owens, J.D. Senior Attorney, The Legal Aid Society of Southwestern Ohio who was the speaker for the evening, and Donne Hayden. Mr. Owens speech was "MARCC 2014 Concerns: Advancing Economic Equality". Ken Bordwell represents the religious Society of Friends on the MARCC Board and also serves as treasurer.

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### **A Modern Version of the Prodigal Son**

**Submitted by: Tim Leonard**

The intermediate youth class one recent Sunday was discussing the parable of the prodigal son. They worked as a group and wrote this version of the parable.

Bob is a 33 years old immigrant from England who talks with a British accent. He was caught while trying to rob a house. He was released from the Justice Center at Broadway and Central Parkway on an icy day in February with no coat, no hat, no money, no family, and no friends. It was about 4:00 on a Saturday afternoon. He had heard of a restaurant called Tucker's on Vine Street not far away from the jail, and he walked over there in the cold to see if he could get a cup of coffee and some food. Sitting at the counter was a grey-haired fifty year old woman named Betty who started a conversation with him as soon as he came in. She was interested in him, she said, because he seemed lost and asked if she could help. As a Quaker, Betty had a habit of helping people out. Bob told her he had no money but needed a hot meal and some coffee. Betty told him to look at the menu and she would buy what he needed.

Bob loaded up his plate with 6 items from the menu and a whole Apple Pie. This made Charles, who was working in the kitchen that day very angry. "This looks like the guy that tried to rob my house," Charles screamed, "and nobody here ever gives me a free meal even though I have been working here for months." Betty knows Charles well, and takes her time trying to calm him down, telling him how good it is to give a man with no money and no clothes a hot meal, no matter what he has done.

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## Welcome to New Member: Chris Morriss



Photo by Dylan Jordan Cahalan

Chris says that he has been traveling about a lot recently and now wants something constant in his life. One thing that he does want to be constant is his life in Quakerism. Chris is a birthright Quaker and the son of Mary Anne Curtiss. He went through the "Quaker education System" at Community Friends Meeting. He was able as a teenager to go on several service trips to West Virginia and Oklahoma. In his late teens, he drifted away. Then while at the University of Vermont he came back and attended the Burlington Friends Meeting. He especially enjoyed the Young Friends Group and was able to bring his musical talents to the Meeting. He was also able to attend a Young Adult program at Pendle Hill. In the summer of 2010 he worked at the Metro Health Medical Center to gain experience in the medical field. While there, he attended the Cleveland Friends Meeting. While in Ecuador with the Peace Corps he was able to experience different faiths- Catholicism and Evangelical Christianity.

After 6 years away from home, he has come back to Cincinnati to attend the Univ. of Cincinnati Medical School. He realized that he really liked Community Friends Meeting and felt at home there and wanted to be a member.

He especially likes that the Meeting welcomes all types and whatever contributions one can make. Chris states that "People are very glad to have me as I am." Even if he does eventually leave Cincinnati, he still wants to think of Community Friends Meeting as his home Meeting.

## Community Monthly Meeting Archiving Standards

The Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Meeting Record Keeping completed its work in February by bringing a final set of recommendations for record keeping at Community Friends Meeting. These were developed in reference to the archiving guidelines set by Wilmington College Watson Library for OVYM monthly meeting records. The standards were **approved**.

- Monthly Meeting Minutes: These will be prepared by the Recording Clerk, and will include reports from all committees and other attachments, signed by the Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk, and given to the meeting archivist in print format for filing in the meeting archives, and maintained in electronic format. On an annual basis, the electronic files can be saved to a CD. The CD and the paper archives will be taken to the Watson Library Quaker Archives for permanent storage. Approximately five years, plus the current year, will be kept at the meetinghouse for reference prior to deposit at the Watson Library. The minutes at the meetinghouse are not to be removed from the archives.
- Committee Minutes: Committee clerks are to submit these to the Archivist monthly in electronic format whenever possible. Paper copies of these will then be printed and filed in the meetinghouse archives and sent for permanent archiving at the Watson Library on the same schedule as monthly meeting minutes. The archivist will create a CD annually. Paper copies of Ministry and Counsel Minutes will be archived in a secure cabinet at the meetinghouse by a member of the committee and will be sent for permanent archiving, along with a CD, with restrictions of 75 years before public viewing at the Watson Library on the same schedule as monthly meeting minutes.

## Community Monthly Meeting Archiving Standards, continued

- Working documents of the committees are maintained in the Meeting file cabinets and in the future could be available for committee access on the webpage. Committee working documents will not be archived at the meetinghouse or at the Watson Library and are the responsibility of committee members to maintain or discard.
- Property Records and Insurance Papers: These will be maintained by the House and Grounds Committee in a secure cabinet at the meetinghouse and will not be sent to the Watson Library unless there is a change in property holdings that makes these records a historical record of the meeting.
- Outgoing Correspondence: Official letters approved by the Monthly Meeting sent to individuals or organizations outside the meeting are the responsibility of the Presiding Clerk, copies of which will be maintained in paper and filed in the meetinghouse archives and submitted to the Watson Library archives on the same schedule as meeting minutes.
- In-coming Correspondence: Letters or requests of the meeting will be considered by the Monthly Meeting as needed and become a part of the Monthly Meeting minutes, archiving accordingly.
- Membership Records: These are the responsibility of the Statistician and are maintained in a secure cabinet at the meetinghouse when not in use by the Statistician. An electronic backup record of active membership status is kept at the meetinghouse and is eligible for archiving at the Watson Library when a membership is removed.
- Memorial Minutes: These are prepared by Ministry and Counsel and submitted to the Monthly Meeting for approval. They become a part of the minutes and are archived accordingly.
- State of Meeting Reports: These are prepared by Ministry and Counsel and submitted to the Monthly Meeting for approval. They become a part of the minutes and are archived accordingly.
- Newsletters: These are prepared by the newsletter editor(s). A paper copy is submitted to the archivist for filing in the meetinghouse archives, and maintained in electronic format on the meeting webpage. On an annual basis, a year of newsletters will be downloaded to a CD by the archivist and sent to the Wilmington archives on the same schedule as meeting minutes along with the paper copies.
- Financial Records: These are maintained by the Treasurer, with monthly reports sent electronically to the Recording clerk for inclusion in the minutes of the monthly meeting. These then are archived in accordance with meeting minutes. Audits of financial records are maintained at the meetinghouse indefinitely. Working papers, bills, bank statements, and receipts for purchases are maintained in a secure file cabinet at the meetinghouse by the treasurer for a period of 7 years, after which they may be shredded. Any electronic workbooks used by the treasurer should be backed-up on a quarterly basis with copies of these files maintained at the meetinghouse.
- Conscientious Objector papers: These letters are under the care of Ministry and Counsel, who will submit them for filing to the meeting archivist. Files of these records are maintained in the meetinghouse archives until such time as the CO is no longer of age to enlist in the US military, the current maximum being 40 years. After this time, these letters are eligible for archiving at the Watson Library.
- Marriages: These request letters and related documents to verify the marriage are under the care of Ministry and Counsel, who will submit them for filing to the meeting archivist. Files of these records are maintained in the meetinghouse archives and will be sent to the Watson Library for archiving after ten years.
- Wills and Advance Directives: These are under the care of Ministry and Counsel and are maintained at the meetinghouse in a secure cabinet. They are maintained at the meetinghouse until the time of the individual's death or by the individual's written request. They are not sent to the Wilmington archives.
- Newspaper clippings: The current collections of these are filed by the meeting archivist and may soon be scanned for an electronic record and posting on the meeting webpage. After this time or within the next year, the clippings will be sent to the Watson Library for archiving. Any future such items will be posted to the meeting webpage according to the webpage manager's guidelines and not paper archived.

### Lorica

submitted by Tim Leonard

The word Lorica relates to the armor warriors wear in battle. It is a protective plate often made of metal. The term has been used to mean a Coat of Arms, often used to symbolize the greatness of the family or tribe one belongs to. In time it also came to mean a religious incantation of safety and protection from God, so often enough it had a militaristic tone to it.

The most famous Lorica in this final sense was the "Breastplate of Saint Patrick," an ancient prayer affirming God's protection against all odds. Originally it was very doctrinal, affirming lists of religious truths. I see no reason not to use the form of Lorica as a prayer to be said by any person – even a Quaker, the truth be told. I have fashioned my own version of a Lorica, but once one gets the form of the incantation one can adapt is to suit one's own sense of self in relation to God.

The Breastplate of St. Patrick is especially relevant today as there is a strong environmental component to it, as you can tell from the last half of it. Here is my version:

#### Lorica

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me

God's might to uphold me

God's wisdom to Guide me

God's eye to see before me

God's ear to hear me

God's word to speak for me

God's way to lie before me

God's hand to guard me from things that distract me from his

Ever-arriving presence

I arise today through the energy of the sun

The radiance of the moon

The glory of lightning

The hardness of the rock

The benevolence of rain

The richness of soil

The solidity of the earth.

### **GREEN LIVING EXCHANGE**

and **PLANT SALE** on Sunday, April 27

**GREEN LIVING PRESENTATIONS: 12 – 1:30 PM**

**Presentations will cover food (including city chickens), transportation, energy, and going green.**

The purpose of the "Presentations" part of the Green Living Exchange is **to increase awareness & dialogue about what we are doing and can do** to take better care of our resources and help protect the planet - not only to inspire & educate, but for ALL, including those outside Community Friends, to exchange & share information and activities -

Proceeds from plant sales benefit "Friends in Unity with Nature"

**PLANT SALE 11:30 – 2:30 PM**

**Focus on the Criminal Justice system in the United States**

Submitted by Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, P&SC Committee Clerk

Community Friends Meeting's Peace & Social Concerns Committee is hosting a book discussion group the first four Wednesday's in April at 7:30 p.m. This is the second of three events we are holding this year to raise awareness about the character and effects of the criminal justice system.

We will be discussing "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness." This important book reveals how our country continues to recreate the economic, social and political disparities associated with slavery.

You can order the book from an online retailer, such as Abe Books, Amazon, or Joseph-Beth, or pick up a copy at a local bookstore. You might also consider borrowing the book from a library, such as the Hamilton County public library or the meeting library. We plan to have two copies of the book available in our meetinghouse library.

We will be using AFSC's (American Friends Service Committee) book discussion guide. Use this address: [http://afsc.org/sites/afsc.civicactions.net/files/documents/CENJC\\_Study\\_Guide\\_LW\\_%281%29.pdf](http://afsc.org/sites/afsc.civicactions.net/files/documents/CENJC_Study_Guide_LW_%281%29.pdf) to download a PDF version of it. We will also have paper copies available for use.

We will be meeting April 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the meetinghouse.

Please feel free to come, even if you can't make all of the meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

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Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Religious Nurture and Education Committee

## Renewal: A One-Day Spring Retreat

9:30 - 4:00 Saturday, April 26, 2014

Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN

The retreat will be an opportunity to reflect on our needs and resources for spiritual renewal. The day will be a minimally structured balance of individual and corporate times for meditation and worship. You may participate silently or outwardly as you are led.

There is no charge, but we ask that you RSVP by April 21 to Andrew Garrison at [garrisaa@gmail.com](mailto:garrisaa@gmail.com) or [\(513\) 523-1061](tel:(513)523-1061).

### Tentative Schedule:

9:30 arrive and gather

10:00 opening worship

10:45 break

11:00 worship sharing: present needs and underused resources for renewal

12:00 lunch, provided

1:00 Practices for renewal: self-guided opportunities for walking meditation, art, journaling, silence, napping . . .

3:00 worship sharing and closing worship

Bring anything that you would like for a day of renewal: journal, art materials, walking shoes, yoga mat, a pillow for napping. A simple vegetarian meal is included, but you may bring extra food if you have special tastes or dietary needs. You may bring a favorite bell or other renewing sound for closing worship.

Quaker Hill Conference Center ([www.qhcc.org/](http://www.qhcc.org/)) is at 10 Quaker Hill Dr., Richmond, IN. There is ample space for gathering indoors, and trails for outdoor walking to the nearby falls.

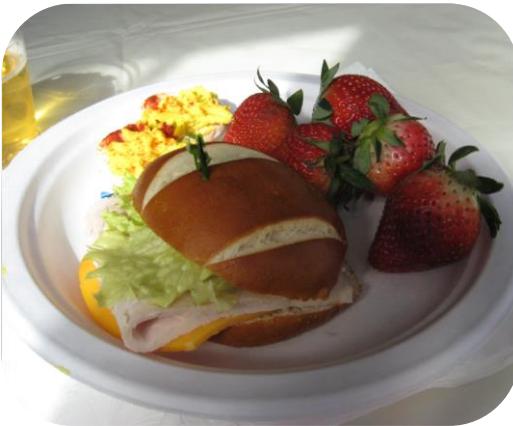
OVYM isn't offering overnight accommodation in Richmond, but Quaker Hill offers rooms at \$45/night for one, \$70/night for two. Contact them at the email address above.

Turn off your cell phone and invite your soul.



Erin Bagus and Joshua Phillips at the reception lunch given by Erin's parents, Eileen Bagus and Wayne Woodward to congratulate the couple on their marriage.

Photo by Eugenia Mills



Great cake, marvelous food and good company at the reception.  
Photos by Elyce Benke

## A new Quaker YouTube project launches today!

### Introducing QuakerSpeak

QuakerSpeak is a new web video series aimed at communicating Quaker experience in ways that are appealing and energizing, particularly to religious seekers and to Friends meetings interested in growing in number and level of engagement.

**FRIENDS  
JOURNAL**

The goal of the project is to educate and engage viewers and invite them into Quaker community, as well as to help existing Quaker communities become more responsive to these (and other) newcomers. Because of the open and inherently shareable YouTube platform and our careful attention to the content and Internet-native marketing of our videos, more people will have the opportunity to experience Quaker insights and be drawn closer to Friends and Friends meetings.



*The Quaker way emerged in circumstances like those we face today. Max Carter, a professor at Guilford College, shares the story of George Fox, who went seeking for spiritual answers and found them not in a church, but within.*

As we share these videos, we want to help viewers take next steps of Quaker engagement.

We also hope to prepare Friends meetings to welcome and interact with QuakerSpeak viewers and other newcomers in ways that are likelier to deepen real-life engagement with Quaker community. QuakerSpeak seeks to give viewers worldwide an experience that is entertaining, informative, inspiring, challenging, inviting, unifying and collaborative.

I hope you'll take a look

*Gabriel*

**Quaker Speak**  
Interviews with modern Friends

Gabriel Ehri

*Executive Director*

Friends Journal | Friends Publishing Corporation

1216 Arch St, Ste 2A, Philadelphia, PA 19107

voice 215.563.8629x106 | toll free 800.471.6863 | fax 215.568.1377

"Our mission is to communicate Quaker experience in order to connect and deepen spiritual lives."

## **The Josephine Johnson Cannon Fund**

**By Mary Anne Curtiss 3/31/2014**

Many churches have endowment funds created through relatively large gifts, often bequests, from members who wish to leave a source of church support for the benefit of future generations. The traditional intent of endowment funds is that the money remains invested, and that the proceeds be distributed for use according to plans created at the funds' establishment.

Our Meeting's Josephine Johnson Cannon Fund works in this manner. First established in 1984, it has developed slowly over the years from an unexpected modest seed, in typical Community Friends style. Josephine Johnson Cannon was a celebrated author associated with Community Friends, who eventually settled on a beautiful section of land in Clermont County just east of Cincinnati. Her final book *The Inland Island* was a product of her lifelong passion for natural living. Her land was rural and at that time beyond of the reach of urban sprawl. When Josephine Johnson Cannon died, she left the land to Community Friends Meeting, with the stipulation that it never be farmed mechanically or with harsh chemicals. Called the Friends Garden Trust, it eventually came under the care of David Fankhauser, the oldest son of Community Friend's beloved peace activist Polly Brokaw, and David's wife Jill Fankhauser. Eventually the Fankhauser family purchased it from Community Friends in 1984. The money, approximately \$48,000, became the Josephine Johnson Cannon Fund.

This fund from its beginning was intended to serve people more than property, and to add to the life of the Meeting by funding projects that were peace and justice focused, or supportive of individual spiritual growth, or for a miscellaneous category, which was conceptually modeled on the Sufferance Funds of early Quaker meetings.

The fund has grown to almost \$130,000 since 1984. It is managed by three trustees, Meeting members approved by our Monthly Meeting, who serve two year staggered terms. The trustees are charged with investing the fund according to Friends testimonies to get appropriate returns, and also to receive and make decisions regarding written (now usually emailed) requests for funding. Over the years, the fund has helped many friends and attenders, young and older, to attend Friend General Conference and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. It has funded transportation to antiwar demonstrations, teen travel to Young Friends pilgrimages, dissemination of information regarding local food, and many other initiatives that otherwise might have strained Friends' pocketbooks.

If you have a good head for managing investments according to Friends Testimonies, including honoring Josephine Johnson Cannon's lifelong devotion to the natural world, consider talking to Nominating Committee regarding becoming a Cannon Fund Trustee, this year or in the future! And if you would like financial help with a project that advances the spirit of Community Friends Meeting, submit your request (most commonly \$100-\$300 or so) in writing to our current trustees Eugenia Mills, Mary Anne Curtiss, and Sarah Hoffmann. Finally, please consider the availability of the Josephine Johnson Cannon Fund accept donations, to pass your financial blessings on to future generations at Community Friends Meeting!