

Community Companion

Quaker House:

3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950

(513) 861-4353

www.communityfriendsmeeting.org

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



New Member
Susan Gerke
with her
husband at
her welcome
party

Volume 20, Issue 8

August, 2014

Presiding Clerk:

Kate Anthony

Assistant Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

Recording Clerk:

Paul Buckley

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Kate Anthony (ex officio)

Eileen Bagus

Ken Bordwell

Lisa Cayard

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

Sunny Rhein (SA)

Newsletter:

Deborah Jordan

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Editor & photographer unless noted

Jean Crocker-Lakness

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Submissions for the September newsletter due by:
Sunday, Aug. 24, 2014 to Jean Crocker-Lakness

Calendar

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

Singing 9:45 am, Meeting for Worship 10 am

There are limited second hours (11:45 to 12:45) during the summer months

July 30-Aug.3

OVYM at Earlham College.

August 9-10

HIPP (Help Increase the Peace Program) for Young Adults, see page 6

August 10

Celebrating our Elders (see page 3) after the rise of Meeting for Worship and before the Meeting for worship with attention to business

August 16

9 am Exploring Quaker Diversity. See page 4

Sept. 6 and 7

SAVE THE DATE Community Friends Renewal at Quaker Knoll Camp
outside Wilmington, OH. See page 3

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Caretakers: Alan Wight and Grace Conrad Childcare: Katelyn Buckman

Eighth Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Educational Relations

Do you encourage and support the educational activities of Friends? Are you interested in the schools of your community and concerned to establish practices in these consistent with the values you cherish as Friends? What efforts are you making to increase your understanding of your Quaker and other Religious heritages and their relation to other religions?

July 13, 2014 Business Meeting Summary, prepared by Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

The meeting opened with thirty Friends present. During a period of worship, the clerk read from *Good Business: Ethics at Work*, published by the Quakers and Business Group.

Treasurer's Report. At the end of June, the General Fund balance was \$4,086. We received \$4,266 in contributions in the month, which puts us at 46% of the donations budgeted for this year. The bank balance to annual budget ratio is 10% - well above the target of 6%.

Cannon Fund Report. Everything is going well. The fund has \$130,951 on hand. For 2014, the total funds allotted for distribution were \$8,867. We have spent \$3,360 so far this year; leaving \$5,507 still available.

After many months of careful consideration, the **Friends in Unity with Nature Committee** brought a Proposal on Divestment for consideration by the meeting.

A few changes were suggested and the minute was revised accordingly:

Community Friends is committing itself to divest our funds from fossil fuel energy companies' stocks as soon as reasonably possible. This divestment effort must also keep our investment practices in line with all of our values. Community Friends needs to use this first step of divestment from fossil fuel stock to begin addressing the challenges of climate change, overconsumption, and overpopulation. The Meeting will work on developing programs and proposals for helping us live with a smaller ecological footprint, both as a Meeting and as individuals. We will also work toward developing relationships with others outside our Meeting who share our concerns.

The Friends in Unity with Nature Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Cannon Fund Trustees were directed to implement this minute and regularly report on their progress.

Adult Religious Education Committee Report. Planning is underway for a new set of In reach Groups to begin in the fall.

A Meeting-wide survey and consultation among the group has yielded a preliminary list of possible topics:

1. Quaker Mysticism: Readings and Experiences
2. Quakers and Creeds?
3. Living our values as modern Quakers
4. Art and Poetry
5. Quaker History & Books
6. Living with Diversity
7. Dreaming
8. Living in Love within the Family
9. Unlocking Potential

The committee remains open to other topics and is seeking potential facilitators.

The committee is interested in participating in the Victory of Light event on November 22-23 at the Sharonville Convention Center.

Community Committee is planning a Quaker Fest to be held on October 5. The other peace churches have been invited to participate.

Ministry & Counsel Committee read a Memorial Minute for Agnes Moon, which was **approved**. Those who close meeting for worship were reminded to wait until a full hour of worship has passed before asking for the names of those to be held in the light. The committee continues planning a fall renewal to be held on September 6 at Quaker Knoll.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee has discerned that their general area of focus for the coming year would be the relationship between the military-industrial complex and the prison-industrial complex. They will begin by highlighting how government funding of the military affects the domestic economy and associated social welfare, particularly mass incarceration. The committee will follow up with information and resources that present alternative ways of thinking and acting amidst these realities.

The committee recommended that the Meeting sponsor one member's participation in a prayer group at the Lebanon Correctional Facility. This was **approved**.

The **Transforming Jail Ministry Worship Team** is in the process of being re-credentialed. There continue to be 8-10 people on the team.

Community Friends Meeting was well represented at the **Friends General Conference Gathering**. A network of people concerned with issues of incarceration began coalescing during the Gathering. Another emerging issue at the Gathering was the sometimes-hostile ways Friends treat Friends who work in business.

July 13, 2014 Business Meeting Summary, continued

Quaker Heights hopes to break ground on a new residential building in the fall. Their facilities are also being used for classes to teach life skills to disabled young people in Warren County. This has the side effect of the young people interacting with QH residents.

Community Friends Renewal at Quaker Knoll Sept. 6 and 7

Many Friends have enjoyed our get aways to Quaker Knoll camp outside Wilmington, OH in the past, so here's our opportunity to return. Join in for a weekend of relaxed renewal, nurturance, deepening, and fun at the beautiful campgrounds belonging to Wilmington Yearly Meeting. There will be adult and children's programs on Saturday. Adult program will be worship, worship sharing, unprogrammed time to explore our own leadings and interests, intergenerational activities, concluding with worship sharing and worship. This day is based on a very positive and relaxed day of reflection this past spring sponsored by Religious Nurture and Education. In the evening, there will be time for songs and stories around a campfire, and hopefully some star gazing. An outdoor Meeting for Worship is planned for Sunday. The renewal will end with lunch on Sunday. *Let us know if you have an activity you might be willing to share during our intergenerational time and/or our unprogrammed time.*

Everyone is invited. There are renovated cabins for those who stay over Saturday night. Cost to be determined - although we don't want cost to keep anyone from attending. Registration forms will be ready soon. Please indicate your interest in attending by mid-August.

Ministry and Counsel

Celebrate our Elders Aug. 10th (aka an 80's party)

We have 3 Friends (Frank, Tim and Wilhelmina) who turn 80 this year and several others (Evie and Alvin) already in that decade of their lives. Let's appreciate these Friends at the rise of Meeting on August 10th with cake (provided) and fellowship. Rejoice! Lynn Funck and Deborah Jordan



Standing (L to R) Evie Hoffmann, Wilhelmina Branson, Frank Huss
Seated (L to R) Tim Leonard, Alvin Josie
Photo by Eugenia Mills

Exploring Quaker Diversity

On Saturday August 16, three meetings – Community, Cincinnati, and Eastern Hills Meetings – are sponsoring an exploration of the spiritual diversity found among Friends. The purpose of the event is to come to a better understanding of the varieties of beliefs within the Religious Society of Friends in the United States – not only between our major branches, but also the multiplicity of individual experiences within each branch.

Four Friends will speak about what it means to them to be a Quaker. The presenters are members of Friends United Meeting, Evangelical, Conservative, and Friends General Conference meetings, and each has experience with other kinds of Friends. None could be described as “typical.” Perhaps in this way, they are typical of our society as a whole.

The day will begin at 9AM gathering with bagels, coffee, and other light food. Then, each presenter will have an opportunity to speak and a chance to interact with the other presenters. Small groups will allow attendees to get to know the presenters and each other better. A simple lunch will be provided for those who pre-register. The event will end at mid-afternoon. Sessions will be in Community Friends Meetinghouse, 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati.

Presenters:

Carole Spencer joined with Friends as an adult when she moved to Oregon about thirty years ago. She is a member of Reedwood Friends Church in Portland Oregon, and a recorded minister in Northwest Yearly Meeting (Evangelical Friends Church International). She became a sojourning member of West Richmond Friends Meeting (Friends United Meeting) in Richmond, IN when she began teaching at Earlham School of Religion in 2010. She received a PhD in theology from the University of Birmingham, England. She is married to Don, and has four sons and nine grandchildren who all live in the Pacific Northwest, so travels regularly between Portland, Oregon and Richmond, Indiana.

Dale Graves has been a Quaker since his family joined an evangelical Friends Church in Iowa when he was in Junior High School. He is now an active member of West Newton Friends Meeting near Indianapolis. Dale just completed a term as Presiding Clerk of Western Yearly Meeting. In late August, he will travel to Belize give a year of service on behalf of Friends United Meeting. Dale is a retired high school physics teacher, a job that he absolutely loved. He is married to Sylvia. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Dan Coppock grew up in and is still a member of Eastern Hills Friends Meeting, which is jointly affiliated with Wilmington (FUM) and Ohio Valley (Friends General Conference) Yearly Meetings. He lived for 5 years in Philadelphia where he interned at Friends Journal, producing several pieces for them. He also was involved in starting the West Philadelphia Worship Group, now a preparative meeting in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Dan is currently the Maintenance Director at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio.

Frances Taber was born into Quakerism in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and grew up in Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Her education through high school was in monthly meeting primary schools and at Olney Friends School. She was at Pendle Hill for thirteen years where she and her late husband Bill Taber were on staff. For ten years Fran was a core teacher in the Spiritual Nurturer Program of the School of the Spirit. She has spoken or led retreats in a variety of Quaker settings, either alone or with Bill Taber. After Bill's death in 2005, Fran married Richard Simon. Together they are active in Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting and on the committee that operates the yearly meeting Friends Center.

The day's events will be moderated by **Shannon Isaacs**, a lifelong member of Community Friends Meeting.

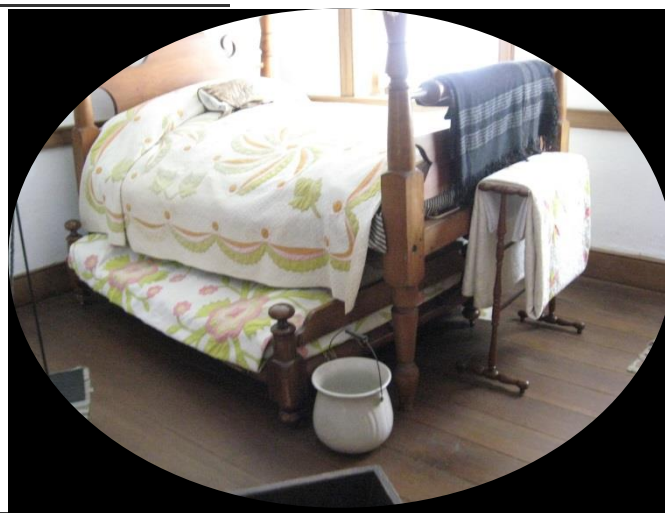
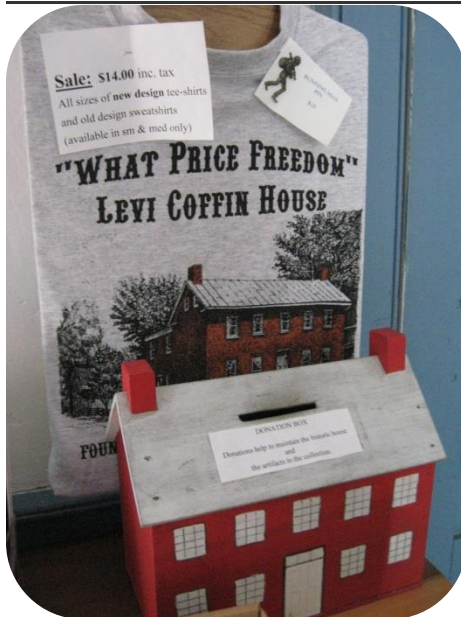
In order to get a good count for lunch, participants are urged to register by August 12th:

On-line through the OVYM and Community Friends Websites

or email bucklpa@earlham.edu

or call Paul Buckley at (513) 221-1827

Childcare will be provided.

Day trip to Levi Coffin Home - July 19, photos by Elyce Benke

Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP)

is seeking young people ages 13-18 to participate in a youth leadership training for 2 days, Saturday & Sunday, August 9 & 10. The workshop will be located at CAIN in Northside; it lasts 2 days, and runs 9am-5pm both days. Cost is sliding scale, free to \$50 (pay what your family can afford).

HIPP develops leadership, empathy, communication, cooperation, conflict resolution and prejudice reduction skills. Youth who complete both days will receive a certificate and letter stating they completed 16 hours of community service. It's a great way to build your resume for job & college applications! Plus it's interactive and a lot of fun!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hippcincy/>

Website: Hippcincy.blogspot.com (links for 2 registration forms to download in upper right corner).

Mail forms to: Mary Kay Rehard, HIPP Coordinator, PO Box 19807, Cincinnati OH 45219.

For questions or more information: phone: 513-463-3662 or email: hippcincy@gmail.com

NEW MEMBER: SUSAN GERKE

Susan with her husband at her welcome party on July 11. There was a wonderful taco bar with all the fixin's. She brought her whole family including her daughter and grandchildren.

Susan said she found Quaker on the internet. She and her husband have had quite an interesting life: living in communal groups and volunteering for a Catholic school. Why did she finally join? Eileen Bagus encouraged her to have a clearness committee about membership. She likes the people the most and says she still finds the silence challenging.

Attender Sara Howrey with Susan's friend Sheri Clarke

Sara has been attending Community Friends Meeting since January. She came after the invasion of Iraq to see what Quakers were doing about it. She has committed 2014 to exploring Quakerism. She has to re-order her evenings to give her time to participate in Quaker activities. She is reading Quiet Rebels (which was recommended by Tim Leonard) for the second time. She likes being with like-minded people who believe that: 1) killing is wrong and 2) there is enough for everyone if we are all willing to share.



There were 14 members of Community Friends and 4 members of Cincinnati Friends Meeting who attended this year. It was held in the town of California, PA at the California University of Pennsylvania which was an easy 5-6 hour drive.



Peggy Spohr who arrived on Friday made the comment that the campus was very nice: compact and accessible.



Paul Buckley was kept busy talking about Elias Hicks.
Editor's Note: Rumor has it that the bookstore sold out of Paul's Elias Hicks book and that Peggy had to bring more up on Friday when she came, and then most of those sold also. Eric Hatch who is attending Cincinnati Friends now with his wife Nan has been enjoying Paul's workshop on Elias Hicks. "If you think you are a Hicksite Meeting, you probably aren't"



The campus was right on the Monongalia River. Editor's note: I would have missed seeing it, if not for Bill Cahalan who told me that he grounded himself with a sense of the natural space.

Folk Dancing: Newlyweds Dean and Jennifer Hatch-Gardner of Cincinnati Friends on their honeymoon. With Jim Crocker-Lakness also from Cincinnati Friends

Below: Barely visible is your newsletter committee planning this issue late into the night. Jean Crocker-Lakness is on the left and Deborah Jordan on the right.

Photo taken by: Val Suter, NYIM,



Paulette Meier and Richard House: Paulette was enjoying her workshop: Stories of God's Love and Power with Marcelle Martin. Richard always seems to be enjoying himself. He said that it was fun driving out with Dylan.



To the left: Dylan Jordan Cahalan says "Peace"
Editor's note: Now that Dylan is in the AYF group, there was a rumor about him being an adult. Also, Ask Dylan about playing in the different basketball courts.





To the left: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson with son Reid. Reid stated that there were "a lot of friendly people here." And "I like the fun activities like soccer."



Lynn and Steve Newsom, formerly of Community Friends, Now co-directors of the Quaker House in North Carolina. They are presenting an interest group on "Soul Repair" addressing the issue that our returning soldiers need our help.

Eric Wolfe to the left below. Some members were more interested in giving quotes for this newsletter. Eric's response was "I don't give no damn interviews."



Jennifer continues to relate that "even tho' she is not a radical lesbian, she got a radical Lesbian haircut anyway because it is perfect for the summer"

His sister Jennifer was found looking at the Quaker House display and was quite happy to give an interview. She is really liking her workshop: "Honoring our Stories" with Jennifer Elam. She likes to be able to tell her stories to interested people who have never heard them. She has also met normal looking people who also have brain injuries.



Sue Brungs: This is her second FGC Gathering and she is "lovin' it. She is finding the programs on the prison system informative.



Rachel Ernst Stahlhut is now on the FGC staff so she has been working while the rest of us were playing. She did get to take a day trip to Pittsburgh for a little fun.



Tom Stoffregen was spotted by Lynn Newsom with an AFSC tattoo. Tom grew up in Community Friends and was friends with Steve Bromley and Lisa Cayard's husband: Mark Roberts

AND NEXT YEAR:

