

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
CINCINNATI, OHIO
MEMBER OF OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

COMMUNITY COMPANION

MAY 2021

OVYM RETREAT EXCERPT—WEAVING A WIDER WELCOME

“The premise today is that if our meetings are not places where lives are being changed and transformed, visitors will not find what they're looking for when they walk through our doors. Vital worship, people being vulnerable, and a meeting being open to newness and change all create a space for newcomers to enter our communities and shape us into something different. These are the spiritual conditions for welcoming.

Going deeper together offers spiritual gifts for us as individuals but also for the community. As we

move beyond our status quo and out of our comfort zones, we step closer to who Spirit is inviting us to be. Our risk taking expands us -- and our meetings.

Our Quaker faith and history offers powerful tools and traditions to help us transform our meeting culture and dismantle systems of oppression among us. These Quaker strengths include direct waiting upon the Divine, deep listening, discernment, clearness committees, eldering, continuing revelation, and testimonies that guide us toward equality,



Rachel Ernst Stalhut

community, and integrity. Quaker process offers a meaningful alternative to either/or mindsets. These practices are the heart and soul of who we are as Quakers -- let's call upon them as we seek to transform our communities and invite others in. Let us accept the invitation to be a people transformed.” 3/27/21

QUERIES FOR FIFTH MONTH:

What binds me to my meeting community?

What fosters mutual love and communion in our meeting?

How does our meeting resolve conflicts when they arise?

-OVYM Faith and Practice

BE A PEOPLE TRANSFORMED

“Whatever ye are addicted to, the tempter will come in that thing; and when he can trouble you, then he gets advantage over you, and then ye are gone. Stand still in that which is pure, after ye see yourselves; and then mercy comes in. After thou seest thy thoughts, and the temptations, do not think, but submit; and then power comes. Stand still in that which shows and discovers; and there doth strength immediately come. And stand still in the light, and submit to it, and the other will be hushed and gone; and then content comes. And when temptations and troubles appear, sink down in that which is pure, and all will be hushed, and fly away.”

- George Fox 1652

MOVIES THAT MOVED US



Defiance (2008) tells of a community of Jews that hide from the Nazis for 3 years, in a forest. **It taught me resiliency in the face of evil and the importance of caring for others rather than only one's self.**

-Susan Gerke

Audrey (2020) is a documentary about the life and legacy of Audrey Hepburn. **She was defined by love and dignity, qualities that enlivened by own**

sense of purpose.

-Sunny Rhein

Paterson (2016) is a week in the life of a New Jersey bus driver. **In its simple rhythms, I saw how Peace, Beauty, and Truth are abundant in the everyday.**

-Peggy

Kiss the Ground (2020) is about the crisis of our soil due to poor farming practices. **When the Divine created the world**

he meant for us to take care of its beauty; this is important to me.

-Larry Gerke

Nomadland (2020) provided a glimpse into a world of temporary workers who live on the road. **It expanded my heart to include their concerns and led me to consider my own peripatetic and ascetic navigations through the night of profound loss to the dawn of undying Life, undying love.**

-Pam Cobey

MYSTICISM (A DEFINITION)

I can know a lot about people I haven't met, but I would never say that I know them.

To know a person is a different experience. It's the same with the Divine. We can read

books, listen to sermons, take classes, or dive deep in conversation—these open thoughts, opinions, and beliefs. But to know God, we have to meet God. We empty our

senses and quiet our jangling minds to create a space. In that stillness, sometimes we feel the eternal breath of the Spirit.

-Paul Buckley



DATES AND TIMES

Apr 18 Regeneration: Re-weaving the Unraveling Web of Life, Unity with Nat. Com., 11:45, Zoom

Apr 21 Earth Day Eve potluck, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. All welcome!

Apr 25 Video: Walk in the Light, A History of the Waynesville Quaker Historical Dist., 11:45, Zoom

May 1 Meeting Work Day 10-4 Please join us.

May 2 Virtual Potluck, via Zoom 11:45

May 9 Business Meeting, 11:45 via Zoom. All are invited.

May 10 Quaker Book Group, 10:30 am, Zoom, bucklpa@earlham.edu

May 13 Tender Mercies, text David (513) 317-8201

May16 Miami Quarterly Meeting, via Zoom.

May 23 Insights from "How to Be An Antiracist" In-reach group, 11:45, via Zoom.

May 30 Reflections from attenders: panel , ARE, 11:45 via Zoom

METROPOLITAN AREA RELIGIOUS COALITION OF CINCINNATI (MARCC)

After the 1967 Riots, Cincinnati needed reconciliation and positive actions to bring social justice to fractured communities. This stirred area congregational leaders, including Friends, to come together in 1968 to form **MARCC**. The group as a working motto adopted: *"To forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found."*

Over its 52-year history,

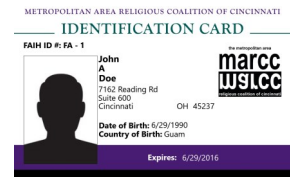
MARCC has worked to address social concerns in the Cincinnati Metropolitan area, concentrating on common needs such as food, human services, quality education, immigration, affordable housing, healthcare, employment, and community/police relations. In 2021, MARCC will focus on 1) Displacement/Affordable Housing/Homelessness and 2) Community-Police

Relations/Justice Reform.

Several years ago, The MARCC ID Card was initiated and is accepted as a legal I.D. by most Hamilton County locations for those who might not be eligible for other forms of legal I.D.

For more information about **MARCC**, visit their website, or ask Tim Leonard, CFM liaison to MARCC.

-Doug Burks



The MARCC ID card issued by Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio is not a government issued ID card and cannot be used as or relied upon as such. The issuer of the card and MARCC cannot guarantee the accuracy or legitimacy of any information provided by the person whom this card is issued. The issuer and MARCC disclaim any responsibility for third party reliance on any information contained on this card.

www.marcconline.com

WALKING TOGETHER IN RADICAL LOVE

To conduct the business of **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**, and for spiritual nurture and refreshment, we gather each year for several days as a larger faith community. Appointed representatives from each member monthly meeting attend these annual sessions. All other meet-

ing members and attenders are also encouraged to attend, joining business sessions as able, and participating in workshops, worship sharing, and other enriching activities that promote our life in the Spirit.

This year the theme is "From Revelation to Revolution: Walking Together

in Radical Love." Sessions begin on **Wednesday, June 16, and continue through Sunday, June 20**. We invite you to join this year's virtual event, and walk with other Friends on this journey of faith.

Register **now** at: <https://www.ovym.org/events/2021-annual-sessions/>



-Walking to worship sharing at OVYM Annual Sessions 2003

THE POEM OF CREATION IS UNINTERRUPTED

I was visiting a student in Northside last week so I took the opportunity to stop by and see mom at Spring Grove Cemetery. The cemetery is also an arboretum, and this time of year is absolutely beautiful there – flowering trees, wildflowers, spring bulbs... everywhere you

look something is blooming.

The entrance to her section was bathed in sunlight and a sea of violets and spring beauties were drinking it all up.

Her grave is tucked in a grove of evergreens though, and it was blissfully

cool in the shadows. I rested for a while in the shade with her, appreciating all the beauty of spring unfolding. Life goes on.

-Erin Bagus Philips

The morning wind forever blows; the poem of creation is uninterrupted. — Thoreau

(Posted April 15, 2019
phillipsfarmbatavia.com)



"Our contact with God is neither "upwards" outside us, nor "downwards" inside us, but is running through every moment of our lives waiting to be paid attention to. Prayer is not only something that we do with our eyes shut, it is also the way we face the world with our eyes open."

-Edward Hoare, "Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting," 1995

"Went to Farefield where had though small yet comfortable meeting, the enlivening presence of almighty God being felt amongst us to the uniting of the hearts of the faithful."

*-Elizabeth Hudson, 1749
excerpt from "Wilt Thou Go on My Errand"? Edited by
Margaret Hope Bacon, 1994*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently meeting remotely on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for unprogrammed worship, lasting about an hour, followed by announcements and conversation. A second hour program may follow. Please see contact info below on how to join us.

As weather permits, outdoor meeting for worship is held at 4pm Sundays on the meetinghouse lawn, 3960 Winding Way, 45229. We follow safe distancing practices, and wear masks. Join us if you are able to comply with this guidance, and please bring a chair.

Donations to the Meeting may be mailed to the meetinghouse, or: Community Friends Treasurer, 4 Rowley Court, Cincinnati, OH 45246

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month. Send to: peggy.spohr@sbcglobal.net

For further information about Community Friends Meeting, please leave a message at **(513) 861-4353** or visit our website at **www.communityfriendsmeeting.org**

Community Friends Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
3960 Winding Way
Cincinnati, OH 45229

"The Egg Hunt"

April 4, 2021

Photo by Eric Wolff

