

Community Companion

Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 4

(513) 861-4353

April 2009

Presiding Clerk:

Ken Bordwell

Assistant Clerk:

Doug Burks

Recording Clerk:

Betty Waite

Ministry & Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Ken Bordwell (ex officio)

Byron Branson

Lisa Cayard

Jamie Fota

Evie Hoffmann

Frank Huss

Paulette Meier

Sunny Rhein

Treasurer:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Newsletter Editor:

Deborah Jordan

(djordan@fuse.net)

*Submissions due April 28th
for May newsletter*

Calendar

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

April 5th

Intergenerational games and Carry In Meal following Worship

April 10th

7pm **Egg Dyeing** sponsored by Community Committee To color with natural dyes, bring uncooked eggs, otherwise hard boiled eggs. Bring hose, onion skins, bread ties, samples of special eggs, etc.

April 11th

9am – 3pm **Southwest Ohio Gathering of Friends** at Quaker Knoll (see p. 6)

April 11th

Rachel and Jason Dean (Eastern Hills Friend) celebrate their **10th wedding anniversary renewal and party**, 6pm at Lakeside Lodge in Sharon Woods, Bring a dish for the potluck and drink of choice. RSVP to Rachel 238-3028

April 12th

11:30am **Easter Egg Hunt** followed by **Meeting for Worship w/ Attention to Business**

April 17 -19th

5th Annual Quaker Genealogy and History Conference: A House Divided: Quakers, Lincoln, and the Civil War” in Waynesville and Wilmington. For more info, see Wilhelmina Branson.

April 19th

Second Hour: Friends in Unity with Nature: Adopt a tree, Restore the Woods program

April 25th

Work Day at Community Friends Meeting.

April 26th

Second Hour: “College Students in SW Ohio and Their Views of Peace” with Doug Burks

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Summary of 2nd and 3rd Months

Second Month 8, 2009 Summary

25 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Ken Bordwell clerking.

Treasurer's report: Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. Her confidence level in her report is very high. She reported that 9% of contributions for the year have been received to date, and we seem to be on sound financial footing, both for operating and for the capital campaign. A few questions were asked and answered by Mary Anne. Lisa Cayard commented that the payment made this year were for budgeted expenses last year, so their budget at the end of the year may be a bit higher. The treasurer's report was accepted with pleasure.

Action Items:

- Request from OVYM Teen Committee for funds to help with Alaska trip. A discussion ensued, noting that four of the teens are coming from our meeting, that we will be doing fundraising on behalf of the teens, and a concern was raised as to how much we will be straining the budgets of our members if we also make an overall contribution. It was suggested that we let OVYM know that we will forward anything we raise over and above the \$500 per teen required individually. Another point was made that we have four teens, which increases our responsibility to contribute to the OVYM request. Mary Anne noted that while we don't have a budget line item for this purpose, we do have an unused fund, the Stevenson Fund, which is designated for education, and may be accessible for this purpose. An aside was that another member is trying to raise \$4,000 to go to Africa. Byron Branson gave a history of the Stevenson Fund, noting that it was originally a lending fund, but in prior years, if the recipient was unable to repay, the loan was forgiven. He concurred that because it has not been used for so long, perhaps a reconsideration of this caveat should be explored. Eugenia Mills suggested that we set up two separate funds, one for the Africa trip and one for the Alaska trip, so that Friends could make tax deductible contributions to these two trips. This suggestion was approved. It was proposed that any remaining funds unused from the funds be donated to the Cannon Fund, or the Capital Fund. Mary Anne suggested that the donors decide where the leftover funds be designated. Byron suggested that we postpone the decision of what to do with leftover funds until we actually have them.
- Ken returned the discussion to whether or not Community Friends should make the general donation to the OVYM Alaskan teen trip. Amounts were discussed, ranging from \$200 to \$1,000, with a notation made that other, much smaller meetings, with no teens attending, were making \$1,000 donations. The Stevenson Fund possibility was raised again, after it was once again pointed out that such an item was not in the budget. A discussion ensued as to how to pay back the Stevenson Fund, and if we paid it back immediately, it would end up exactly the same as if we took it directly out of the General Fund. The final position was determined to be to take the funds from the Stevenson Fund, to be paid back through specific donations made back to the Stevenson Fund, with a contribution of \$1,000 being made to the OVYM Alaskan Teen Trip.
- Proposed Seeking Right Relationship with Food and Land minute. Bill Cahalan presented the minute, gave a brief history. Bill is seeking corrections or suggestions to the minute to take to Miami Quarterly Meeting in Louisville. Bill read the minute, which is attached. The minute reflects that food and land are part of our religion and should be safeguarded and consumed thoughtfully. The issue was raised that it is difficult for city folks who would be hard pressed to call themselves agrarian, and it may be unrealistic for us to ask our members to become such. Bill suggested that agrarian was simply to live in harmony with food and land, regardless of your literal relationship with the land. Bill accepted the change as noted in the attached minute, striking become agrarians, and change living to live. Further items within the minute were discussed. Approval of endorsing the minute, with the change as noted was sought and received.

- House and Grounds presented three minutes relating to the caretaker position. See attached. The first is to accept Krystin's resignation with a minute of thanks and to consider relieving her of her contractual obligation to give 90 days notice before leaving. The second is to consider Travis as an interim or replacement caretaker. The third is to form a caretaker search committee, dependent upon resolution to minute #2. Eric Wolff presented a history of the relationship with the current caretaker, noting that Travis was officially a second caretaker. Eric also suggested that Travis be kept as interim, and included for consideration as we search for the best candidate for the job. A discussion ensued, with general agreement that the 90 days could include Travis' time as interim caretaker, with Krystin's oversight and that a search committee be formed as soon as possible. His mother, Sue, will work with him as interim caretaker
- Krystin's resignation letter was read, and the minute to accept her resignation was approved. A minute of thanks will be written by the clerk. We also approved releasing Krystin from her contractual obligation of 90 days, with the exception of assisting/on call for the interim caretaker during the 90 day period.
- The second minute was discussed, describing the procedures and participants appropriate through the 90 day interim period. Travis has indicated a willingness to continue, on an interim basis, until the search committee concludes their mission. Travis wrote a letter, indicating thus, and the meeting accepted his letter to continue on an interim basis or until a new contract is signed. Minute approved.
- A minute was proposed to form a caretaker search committee. The committee must consist of a person from Ministry and Council and a person from House & Grounds. The committee was Jamie Fota, Kate Anthony, Carol Burks, David Funk and Deborah Jordan. Kate is convening the committee. Kate requested any historical information from previous searches be forwarded to her. The minute was approved.

Committee reports:

FUN- Bill Cahalan reported- discussed Seeking Right Relationship with Food and Land minute, Bill Cahalan presentation on 1-18-09 at Miami Monthly Meeting

House and grounds-Eric Wolff reported- sent letter to neighbors about the fence policy, discussed the caretakers resignation and forming new search committee for a caretaker (see above), three trees cleared and trail is now again clear the whole length

Ministry and Counsel-Frank Huss reported-discussed last fall's renewal and survey (are asking all in the meeting to complete it), discussed the issue of cell phones ringing in meeting, letters to young adults about membership, discussed and are asking those who arrive more than one or two minutes late for meeting for worship to wait until 10:15 when children exit to enter themselves to keep disruptions to the meeting to a minimum, discussed the relationship to Carmel Presbyterian Church in Avondale and need to make ties with the local community, discussed Paulette Meier's oversight with her musical ministry, discussed pastoral care

Music-Gene Marquis reported- Piano heater and humidifier now working.

Nominating-Tim Leonard reported-are working on meeting and beginning the process.

Stewardship- update on capital campaign (going well).

Announcements: Quaker Heights Community Center – Byron Branson discussed the center's recent rating by the government and how disappointing it was in light of the good care provided. He distributed the center's rating without any deficiency to members present and asked that all recommend the center who might be looking for retirement and nursing care facilities (see attached document)

Third Month 8, 2009

18 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Ken Bordwell clerking.

Treasurer's report-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. No cost overruns, in fact, cost under runs for the first furnace installation. Former Community Friends members have contributed generously to our capital campaign. The Widow's Mite match was touted for smaller donations, as most any low hanging fruit has already been harvested. No donation is too small. Contributions were down in the Second Month. However, many came in during the early part of Third month. 11% had been received as of 2//28/09. Cannon Fund gave \$400 to the Teen trip, and \$1,300 to the Shannon Isaacs Fund. Mary Anne encouraged donations to the Stevenson Fund to assist with the Alaskan Teen Trip and the Shannon Isaacs Africa trip fund. The restricted contributions consisted of people fulfilling their capital campaign pledge obligations. The general account cash amount is 25% of the annual budget, which is a healthy percentage. Mary Anne gave a tiny Cannon Fund report. The Cannon Fund committed to give out \$3,000 during 2009 and has thus far given out \$1,400 this year, compared to around \$9,000 last year. Mary Anne also encouraged people to give her receipts for in kind donations so that you can get credit on your annual tax statement from the Meeting.

Items from the Clerk's table: Recruitment of volunteers for hosting FGC Committee, April 3 – 5. Because most of the folks coming are allergic to dust, mold and cats, which eliminates most of the houses at Community Friends. Transportation volunteers were easier to obtain. Between 10-12 folks will be needing housing and transportation. Meals will also need to be coordinated. More on this topic will be included during announcements in upcoming weeks.

Action Items:

- Consider invitation of Phil Gulley to Cincinnati. A call has been sent out to invite Phil Gulley to speak at the three Friends meetings in Cincinnati. Phil Gulley is a noted author, speaker, story teller and Quaker minister. They are asking for the three meetings to come together and share the cost of inviting him, which amounts to about \$1,800, or \$600 per meeting. He would be coming the weekend of November 14-15, 2009. Byron Branson noted that one of the purposes would be to unite the three Community Friends meetings so that we might all work more closely together, to deepen our attachment to each other, in an effort to become more of a Beloved Community. Mary Kay Rehard is behind this project. Byron shared some history of both Mary Kay and Phil Gulley, recommending that we find a way to assist in this event. A few objections were raised regarding the cost and the request for a motel rather than simply housing. It was noted that there are many other requests for funds for other causes. Concerns about the timing were also raised, and the schedule directly affecting Community Friends. The benefits of community building with an event like this were emphasized, although costs were again raised as a concern. Unity was heard on bringing him here, with costs and scheduling as concerns to be negotiated. Byron volunteered, noting again how important he feels that it is that we do events in concert with the other local Friends Meetings. Betty Waite offered to assist him. This arrangement was approved.
- Consideration of hosting FGC Gathering Planning Committee here April 24 – 26. Housing and transportation is needed. A volunteer was solicited to coordinate this event. It was noted that Richard House is on this committee and was volunteered in absentia. Eric Wolff will contact Rich for this event. This arrangement was approved. However, as it turns out, Rich is not available afterall. Ken will get back to the FGC Planning Committee as to the feasibility of holding the meeting here.

Committee reports:

Community- Sue Brungs reported-see attached report. Many events have been happening with great success.

FUN- Bill Cahalan reported-See attached report. A number of spring events have been in progress, including the tapping of the maple tree. On March 29th, the gathered sap will be boiled down outside. The second our on the tree nursery is scheduled for April 19th. Local food continues to be emphasized. A four hour cheese making workshop was held yesterday.

House and grounds-Eric Wolff reported. See attached report. Caretaker issues were discussed. Travis has been asked to get a bid for the shower repair in the caretaker's apartment. The new furnace is in and paid for on the second floor. The second furnace in the basement will be installed sometime in the next few months.

Ministry and Counsel-Frank Huss reported-Ministry and Counsel reviewed the ongoing recommendations from the renewal. Also, consideration is being given to Nick Ryan's application for adult membership. Deborah requested something in the newsletter about the latest survey.

Music-Gene Marquis reported-as soon as the piano tuner can see again, he will be out to tune the piano.

Newsletter-Deborah Jordan reported-latest newsletter was abundant and wonderful. Kudos to the editor.

Nominating-Frank Huss reporting for Tim Leonard- Nominations are in progress and will be reported shortly.

Peace and Social Concerns-Mary Anne reported- the committee did not meet this month but are continually working on several projects and are coordinating events with other meetings.

Religious Development-Deborah Jordan reported-spaghetti dinner was a great success and classroom activities are progressing nicely.

Stewardship- Mary Anne Curtiss reported noting that fundraising issues for the operating budget and the capital campaign are continually being discussed.

Wider Quaker bodies FCNL- Video will be shown here on May 16.

Announcements General and specific thanks for refreshments were extended, especially to Evie Hoffmann, who was sick, but dropped off refreshments anyway.

Gratitude to Frank Huss for once again publishing our 2009 CFM Directory!

Additions and/or Corrections to 2009 CFM Directory

Jamie FÓTA e-mail: jamiefota@yahoo.com

Nan HATCH e-mail: nan.hatch@gmail.com

Dan HUMPHRIES e-mail: dhumph@aol.com

Carol WALK Mexico phone: 513-684-9911
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Tom & Karen ORR e-mail: worldfreight@windstream.net

Adult Education: Reflections from The Heart of Christianity Study Group

On three Tuesday evenings in March, a group of Friends discussed Marcus Borg's book *The Heart of Christianity*. The book speaks to contemporary issues within Christianity related to various ways of interpreting the scriptures, and moves forward to discern how Christians can be passionate believers in the contemporary world. After discussing the text, the group worked with the relationship of the book to Quaker Faith and Practice. They found much common ground there, particularly in the sense that Borg calls the Christian movement a *way* rather than a *creed*. The deep spirituality of the book, its affirmation of religious pluralism, and its decidedly political interpretation of Jesus found resonance among the group.

~ Tim Leonard

Southwest Ohio Gathering of Friends

Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, May 16, 2009 From 9am to 3pm
At Quaker Knoll House on the grounds of Quaker Knoll Camp

A number of Friends in our region are expressing a desire for a gathering with other Friends who also long for an exchange of viewpoints of the many ways God calls us to live our faith and to practice our testimonies as Friends. Quaker Knoll House is reserved on the above listed Saturdays for the purpose of beginning a fellowship of open expression. The over-arching Queries under which we will sit during both of these gatherings are: *Do I listen to others when they share their spiritual experiences? Am I willing to share my spiritual experiences with others? Am I open to new Light and Truth from wherever it may come?* Query #1 Spiritual Growth, WYM Queries

For these two initial retreats, we will follow this schedule:

9-10:30am An opportunity for meditation, journaling or walking in silence on the lovely grounds of Quaker Knoll Camp **Coffee and light snacks will be available**

10:30 – Noon A time for personal response in a worship-sharing mode to a provided query

Noon – 1pm Brown Bag Carry-in Lunch

1 – 2pm Continue sharing as a group

2 – 3pm Worship in song, prayer, message, open worship

The Query for April Sharing is: “Do I have a clear vision of what living in the “manner of Friends” means in our world today?” WYM Query #10 Social Conscience

The intention and hope of this initiative is: to provide opportunity for Friends to practice the discipline of deep listening to God and to that of God in others - to speak, pray and worship in the Presence of God and these our Friends.

For more information or questions, please contact Patricia Thomas, 987-2778 or Dan Kasztelan, 382-6661 ext 239

2045 – A Story of Our Future by Peter Seidel

Over the past four years I put all the time and energy I could into writing a novel and getting it published. Writing a novel is a thing unto itself, and I worked very hard at it. It is now here and available! A press release from the publisher and comments from the back cover, attached, tell what it is about.

Should you wish to buy a copy, and I hope you do, you would do the book and me a favor by purchasing it at a book store (you would probably have to have them order it). Interest encourages them to order more and put them on display. It can also be ordered from the publisher or from Amazon.

Peter Seidel

Prometheus Books New Releases – March 2009

Fiction

2085 – A Story of Our Future

“Peter Seidel’s novel gives us a sense of what life will be like in the future if we stay with our business-as-usual policies. It is an insightful, revealing read.”

**—Lester R. Brown, President of Earth Policy
Institute
and author of *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save
Civilization***

Global warming, environmental degradation, the rapid pace of technological innovation, and the economic stresses of globalization give rise to much speculation about the future. How will these dynamic factors affect society in the coming decades? In this dystopian novel, environmental

expert Peter Seidel has created a stark and haunting vision of a world on the near horizon.

Carl is a small-town midwestern businessman who is accidentally put into a coma when he receives an inadequately tested vaccine. When he finally regains consciousness, he discovers that it is the year 2045 and his unusual medical story and recovery have turned him into an international celebrity. As he visits family and friends, he finds out that almost everything has gone wrong and the family business he ran thirty-five years ago has disappeared. Carl’s fame lands him a job on a seemingly idyllic tropical island with one of the eight giant international corporations that own almost everything. His job is to help promote a soft drink. He is overwhelmed by the unbounded luxury he finds on the island. But he learns that the ethical standards in this strange place are only a front. During a business trip, he discovers something that horrifies him and turns him in a new direction, one beset with life-threatening dangers.

Seidel skillfully projects a wide range of current trends into a believable and disturbing near-term future scenario.

Peter Seidel (Cincinnati, Ohio) is an environmental architect/planner with wide-ranging interests who studied with world-renowned Bauhaus architect Mies van der Rohe and city planner Ludwig Hilberseimer. He is the author of *Invisible Walls*.

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Swaying, deep and low in their thickest trunks,
Feeling the wind, not fighting it.
Moving in rhythm, finding the rhyme,
Seeking balance.
Trees don't question the direction of the wind,
Instead, they dance with it.

Betty Waite (a poem written during Meeting)

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Thanks to Betty Waite for making copies of the newsletter available.

Community Friends Meeting

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Address Correction Requested