

Community Companion

Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 10

(513) 861-4353

November 2009

Presiding Clerk:

Doug Burks

Assistant Clerk:

Ken Bordwell

Recording Clerk:

Betty Waite

Ministry & Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Doug Burks (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)

next submissions due 11/23

Calendar

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

First Day or Sunday: Singing 9:45am. Meeting for Worship 10am Second hour @11:40am

November 1st Carry In Lunch following Meeting for Worship and intergenerational activity

November 4th 7 to 8pm Meeting for healing Contact Eileen Bagus or Paulette Meier for info.

November 8th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

November 15th Second Hour: Peace and Social Concerns

November 18th 7 to 8pm Meeting for healing Contact Eileen Bagus or Paulette Meier for info.

November 22nd Second Hour: Transforming Power for Peace: Reviewing Alternative to Violence Project (Part 1) led by Tim Leonard

November 29th Second Hour: Transforming Power for Peace (Part 2)

December 6th Carry In Meal following Meeting for Worship. The long awaited Teen Alaska presentation!

Gratitude

Thanks to those Friends who helped out on the work day. A blow for simplicity was made when another closet was cleaned and organized as part of the work day.

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Tenth Month 11

15 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Doug Burks clerking.

1. Clerk's report:

- a. Deborah Jordan does clerical support for OVYM. Doug Burks proposed that she be Community Friends representative regarding their web page. Approved.
- b. Miami Quarterly Meeting is next Sunday. Please consider attending.
- c. Clerks Meeting was held on September 30. They discussed the goals of committees and worked on the nominating committee for next year.
- d. Clerks meeting discussed how to communicate the financial needs of the meeting to Friends. This year, the Stewardship Committee has again struggled with this issue. All the clerks of the meeting felt that it would be valuable to work on this issue as a meeting. A Threshing Session on Stewardship as a Second Hour is suggested for the new year as an appropriate venue for this tender discussion with a forward looking focus. In the meantime, the Stewardship Committee will continue its work seeking to meet the ongoing financial needs of the meeting. Alvin Jose expressed concern about the meeting becoming too traditional in their views towards money rather than simply adjusting our programs to meet the funds that become available. Doug responded that the Threshing session's purpose would be simply to address concerns relating to these sensitive issues. Mary Anne Curtiss added that the devil is in the details and there are real concerns relating to the budget and the funds available to meet the budget and our obligations. Byron Branson reminded us that the Threshing Session is designed to do exactly what was being discussed. A Threshing Session will be set up with Adult Education for later January or early February.
- e. Use of the meeting house for a retreat by Earlham students and faculty for February 5-7 was discussed, with a response that the caretaker generally makes these decisions. Mary Anne Curtiss noted that there is a pamphlet regarding this very issue with house rules and donation suggestions.
- f. Christmas for a family sponsored by Churchs Acting In Northside (CAIN) has been a project of the meeting for the past few years. Last year the organization changed the structure to simply collect gifts and allow the families to "shop" for their gifts. This caused some ambivalent feelings with Friends in our meeting. Hannah Branson is still willing to organize it, but wanted to get a general sense if this is still an activity that the meeting wants to support. A discussion of the types of gifts included in the "store" ensued, with a notation that we give individual gifts that reflect our beliefs but that we cannot control the gifts that other donors might submit. Meeting approved the support of this project.
- g. The practice on yard signs was discussed, with Byron noting that if the yard signs were political, we did not display them. Are issues political was discussed. We cannot take a political stance regarding a political candidate, but issues are seen as different from candidates. Doug summarized two issues, one is whether we need to outline a practice regarding yard signs, and second was whether there were issues for which we would like to garner support and in fact display yard signs indicating that support. Before us were two issues that might be worthwhile to display signs. Doug suggested that we

seek unity on developing a policy, and to forego displaying signs this election season. This decision was approved.

- h. Miami Monthly Meeting developed a minute opposing the gambling issue on the ballot in November and asked that Community Friends adopt the minute as well. Mary Anne noted that their minute was substantially the same as the one our own Peace and Social Concerns developed last year. The minute was read by Doug Burks. See attached. The minute was approved and Kate Anthony suggested that the minute be sent to the Enquirer, which was approved and Kate will see that it happens.
- i. Doug asked if anyone has the practice of Community Friends relating to the disposition of gifts of stock or other non cash items bequeathed to us from Friends. Byron noted that the practice was that if a gift of stock was given to the meeting, it would be accepted and immediately sold. Memorial gifts were also discussed, which Doug thinks fall into a different category. He read the current policy for use as a starting point for thought over the next month.

2. Action Item from Ministry and Council (John Hubbard's Memorial Minute) Eileen Bagus read the minute, which was written in concert between several different people. Two changes were suggested and accepted. The memorial minute was approved with gratitude. Lisa Cayard suggested that the minute be sent to all of the appropriate places, Wilmington Yearly meeting, OVYM, Friends Journal, Quaker Life and the family.
3. Discussed was whether or not names should be included in the discussions noted in the minutes. Doug will consider these issues and come to a decision next month.
4. Minutes were approved through this point.
5. Peace and Social Concerns was presented by Kate Anthony. She expressed some concerns about getting the committees members together for meeting and listed activities and projects before the committee as well as the listing of charitable contributions made by Community Friends for next year. The focus of their work will be against local violence, and the contributions suggested reflect this focus. The committee will try to increase attendance by meeting after second hour. It was noted that one of the organizations for which a donation is being suggested may not be a 501 (c)(3) organization. Kate will follow up to ensure its nonprofit status. The next committee meeting will be after second hour on eleventh month 15. It was noted that positive energy is flowing from the committee. Byron noted that he liked the idea of focusing our work on local initiatives, noting the contributions of MARCC to the work towards ending local violence. He also noted the financial struggles of many peace organizations, MARCC in particular and he hoped that we would be able to increase our contribution to that organization. Evie Hoffman noted a concern about eliminating our contribution to Quaker Bolivia Link. Frank Huss noted that although we do sometimes give only small amounts to various organizations, we do so partly to encourage Friends to give individual gifts as well. Kate noted that if anyone wants us to put back eliminated contributions, they must be prepared to suggest from where the cut should come instead. Eric Wolff suggested that we add a Meeting Champion to the listing of donations, to ensure that all of our donations are reflecting our focus, and will encourage Friends to contact those people for further information.
6. House & Grounds, reported by Eric Wolff. All H&G funds have been used and the committee had to pre-approve emergency funds for the Buckeye tree from the building

reserve funds. Other dead trees must be removed and cannot be postponed. Alvin Jose noted that while all of this tree work is necessary, we need to be mindful that we only do tree work that is absolutely necessary. No work is being done that is not related to safety. It was approved to do the work as planned.

7. Committee discussions

- a. Ministry and Council-Lisa Cayard reported on annual renewal, and offering support to the meeting when there is conflict.
- b. Community Committee-Ken Bordwell reported, noting successful and rewarding participation with the FGC gathering planning committee. The September apple party was also appreciated.
- c. Cannon Fund-Carol Burks reported that the loan is being repaid, and the stock market is up.

8. Treasurer's Report-reported by Mary Anne Curtiss. Assets and the total of funds are the same number. One is the intended purpose of the money and one is where the funds are physically. We have only a balance of \$795 in the general fund. Byron noted that the reserve fund is for emergency. The B&G committee has not requested money for anything other than emergencies and the trees represent an emergency. Those funds have been approved by the business meeting. Our funding has been significantly below our budgeted amounts and our reserves have shrunk to a dangerously low level. Kate Anthony noted that our donations are down only \$1,600 from last year and that we raised our capital campaign funds. So, the contributions are not the problem, the problem being focused on using up our reserves. Mary Anne noted that she is scraping the bottom of the barrel, that last year's contributions were insufficient and the year before that was insufficient and has been for the past several years, which is how our reserves have been used up. Doug summarized, asking if we need a finance committee which meets with the treasurer to analyze as we go. It has been a tough year for operations, offset by the tremendous job done with the capital campaign. Betty Waite commented on the status of the using up of reserves and the hard job ahead of coming up with a budget this year to try to replace our reserves and adjust our spending. Mary Anne noted that, on a positive note, there is a positive balance of \$1,200 in our Duke Energy account. Her positive note was very much appreciated. Doug spoke again on convening a finance committee to assist the treasurer as difficult decisions must be proposed. Mary Anne will propose a budget next month, as is tradition. Treasurer's report accepted.

More Quaker Humor: Definition of Eternity

“Imagine you have a mountain of pure granite one kilometer high. Every year, come New Years Eve, a small bird will fly up to the mountain top and sharpen its beak on the granite. When that wee birdy has finally eroded the mountain down to its root, one second of Eternity will have passed ... and Friends in the Meeting for Business will STILL be debating some minor issue in the Minutes from the previous meeting.”

- shared at the Renewal

Memorial Minute for John Harrison Hubbard

John Hubbard was born in Pittsburgh, PA on October 31, 1926. His parents were Claude Hubbard and Alice Emma (Jones) Hubbard. He had one sibling, a sister named Harriet. Harriet died at age 14 from meningitis when John was 7 year old. John attended a private boy's school, Shadyside Academy in Pittsburgh, where his father was a physical education teacher. His mother had a biology degree from Mt. Holyoke College, but the family does not believe she worked outside the home. After high school, John attended the University of Pittsburgh and earned a Bachelors Degree in engineering. He graduated while the United States was deeply engaged with World War II, so John signed up for the U.S. Navy.

After the war, as John told everyone, the "G.I. bill" paid for his tuition to go to Tufts University in Boston where he earned his Masters Degree in engineering. He returned to Pittsburgh, and there began visiting other religious faiths. While attending Pittsburgh Friends Meeting he met Rachel Elizabeth Katz. They were married April 3, 1953 at the Fifth United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Within a year of marriage, they both took jobs in Cincinnati, OH and moved to the community of Mariemont, where they lived until 2005. John was an engineer at the Ohio River Division Laboratories of the Army Corps of Engineers until 1972 when he resigned instead of being transferred to Illinois. After working for a private consulting firm for a few years, he taught engineering courses at Cincinnati State College for nearly four years before retiring.

When the Hubbards moved to Cincinnati, they joined the Seven Hills Friends Meeting (F.U.M.) which merged in 1968 with East Cincinnati Friends Meeting (F.G.C.) to form Community Friends Meeting. It was into these Friends Meetings that their two children were born and raised. John Allen Hubbard was born October 10, 1956. Their second child, Karolyn Elizabeth Hubbard was born November 3, 1959. In the mid 1960s the family spent many summers attending Camp Nee-kau-nis, a Quaker camp located north of Toronto. There they met many international Friends, especially from Canada and the British Isles. Deeply valuing education, the Hubbards were proud that both their children hold graduate degrees: Allen followed his father into engineering and Karolyn became a veterinarian.

John and Rachel retained a life long interest in music, especially classical music. They regularly attended concerts at the Taft Museum, Christ Church, the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music, and held season tickets to the Cincinnati Symphony. They were supporters of the Mariemont school and community organizations: one year they hosted a French girl through an exchange program at Mariemont High School. Karolyn noted that "Dad and Mom were very involved with our lives. Dad was the one who helped me with my homework. He loved putting up Christmas decorations and wrapping the gifts. He and Rachel came to all our concerts and other school events." John was an avid sailor who enjoyed sailing with the family at Cowen Lake State Park.

John and Rachel were active in Quaker, ecumenical and civic organizations. They attended a Triennial Conference of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) in Honduras and annual FWCC--Section of the Americas conferences in Mexico, Oregon, California and Arizona. John was quite involved in Friends United Meeting, representing Community Friends Meeting at Miami Center Quarterly Meeting and Wilmington Yearly Meeting's annual sessions. For years John represented Cincinnati Quakers on the Executive Board of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) and served as the MARCC Executive Board's secretary for six years. He also attended functions of the Council of Christian Communions on behalf of the Friends

Meeting. John was a trustee of Quaker Heights Care Community during the turn of the millennium when Quaker Heights was about to begin a major expansion.

John was a leader in the Public Sanctuary Movement in Cincinnati during the El Salvadoran civil conflicts. Faced with the reality of the U.S. sponsored war in El Salvador, the Friends Meeting discerned for weeks as to whether to provide sanctuary to Salvadoran refugees. Standing together with many other religious bodies in Cincinnati, there was strength in numbers; however each individual in the Meeting was reflecting as to whether they were willing to take the risk of committing civil disobedience. John was among those who took the deliberation seriously and, in the end, was very clear that his conscience would not allow him to do otherwise. It must have been this strength of his conviction that led him to take the commitment so seriously. In the first months after the Salvadoran family, Miguel, Gabriela and their daughters, moved into the Meeting House, John would often be seen in the library taking his turn to stand watch for government officials who might come to arrest them. He would go out of his way to help make sure the family had what they needed to live comfortably. Once the family started to leave the house to do errands or speak in public, John would often accompany them. Growing close to the family, he became keenly aware of the unjust war in El Salvador and the importance of speaking truth to power at such a moment in history.

In 2001 the Hubbards had to deal with their son Allen's death from Lymphoma, leaving behind three daughters whom John and Rachel helped through high school and college. In 2005 he and Rachel moved into the assisted living housing at Quaker Heights. There John designed and built a special small pond to be attractive to dragonflies. Dragonflies had become a major hobby of John's during his more than thirty years of volunteering at the Cincinnati Nature Center. He spoke caringly of nurturing dragonflies at the nature center and then at Quaker Heights. The special body of water to enhance the breeding of dragonflies at Quaker Heights is still there.

After Rachel's passing, John moved to live near his daughter Karolyn in Atlanta, Georgia. Ten months ago he moved to "Court at Sandy Springs" where he died on June 14 with Karolyn and Michael present. His ashes are buried next to Rachel's in the Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati. A Friends Memorial Service was held at Community Friends Meetinghouse on September 6, 2009, with friends and relatives from his many local connections present.

What Keeps You So Alive?

*If you attended Indian environmental activist Vandana Shiva's talk on **Soil Not Oil** at Xavier University on 11/28, you were probably amazed at her continued energy and determination in the face of relentless challenges. Here's an excerpt from a Yes! Magazine interview addressing this. (Thanks to Elizabeth Groppe for being one of the organizers of this series.)*

Sarah: Let me wrap up with a personal question. Every time I've heard you speak or met you, you've had so much energy, not only intellectual energy, but personal or spiritual energy. I'm just wondering, what keeps you so alive?

Vandana: Well, it's always a mystery, because you don't know why you get depleted or recharged. But, this much I know. I do not allow myself to be overcome by hopelessness, no matter how tough the situation. I believe that if you just do your little bit without thinking of the bigness of what you stand against, if you turn to the enlargement of your own capacities, just that in itself creates new potential.

And I've learned from the Bhagavad Gita and other teachings of our culture to detach myself from the results of what I do, because those are not in my hands. The context is not in your control, but your commitment is yours to make, and you can make the deepest commitment with a total detachment about where it will take you. You want it to lead to a better world, and you shape your actions and take full responsibility for them, but then you have detachment. And that combination of deep passion and deep detachment allows me always to take on the next challenge because I don't cripple myself, I don't tie myself in knots. I function like a free being. I think getting that freedom is a social duty because I think we owe it to each other not to burden each other with prescription and demands. I think what we owe each other is a celebration of life and to replace fear and hopelessness with fearlessness and joy.

If we better studied and understood God's creation, this would do a great deal to caution and direct us in our use of it. For how could we find the impudence to abuse the world if we were seeing the great Creator stare us in the face through each and every part of it?

~William Penn

Check out Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's revised website:
<http://ovym.quaker.org/>

Community Friends has a webpage!