

# Community Companion

## Community Friends Newsletter



Volume 16, Issue 3

(513) 861-4353

March 2010

**Presiding Clerk:**

Doug Burks

**Assistant Clerk:**

Ken Bordwell

**Recording Clerk:**

Betty Waite

**Ministry and 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

Jamie Fota

**Newsletter Editor:**

Deborah Jordan

Email: [djordan@fuse.net](mailto:djordan@fuse.net)

*next submissions due 3/30*

### Calendar

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

**Singing 9:45am.**

**Meeting for Worship 10am Second hour @11:40am**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>** 7pm Spirit Lives Group (see p. 4)

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** *Rescheduled:* **Friends' Education** with Dr. Mary Ellen Newport, Assistant Head of Olney School and Director of Admissions and Lucy Hartsock, featuring an Olney slideshow (*following carry-in potluck*) (see p. 4)

**March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>** 7pm Meeting for Healing

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** *Rescheduled:* **Miami Quarterly** at Miami Monthly Meeting, Waynesville

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** 7pm **Game Night: Green Theme** (clothes, food, games) Contact: Rachel Ernst

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** **Second Hour: History of Miami Quarterly** with Byron Branson

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** **Second Hour: OVYM Book of Discipline** led by Lisa Cayard

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** 6:30pm **Easter Egg Dyeing Party**

### Hold in the Light

Byron Branson

Lisa Cayard and her parents

## Summary draft of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

### Second Month 14

#### **Action item 1:** Afghanistan War Minute:

The Religious Society of Friends is opposed to all wars. We do not accept the existence of just wars. On this basis we are opposed to increased U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

President Obama, however, argued in his address to the Nobel Committee that the war meets the test of traditional just war theory. Even on the assumption that wars may be just, the president did not make his case. All non-violent alternatives have not been attempted; there is no clear definition of what success in the war would mean; and the victims of the war are mostly innocent civilians, including women and children.

This being the case, we urge all senators and representatives to resist all attempts to appropriate money in support of the war in Afghanistan.

The minute was approved, and Clerk Doug Burks said it shall be passed on to the two Senators from Ohio, and the members of the House of Representatives from Southwest Ohio.

#### **Action item 2:** Window replacement proposal. Minute:

The meeting charges the House and Grounds Committee to see to the replacement of windows in the meeting house. Three steps are to be followed:

First: House and Grounds shall obtain estimates for the replacement of meeting house windows in whole and in part.

Second: House and Grounds Committee shall convene with the Stewardship Committee and the Friends in Unity with Nature Committee to explore the next steps after the estimates have been obtained.

Third: House and Grounds Committee shall report to the Monthly Meeting with a proposal for its consideration.

The minute was approved with the understanding that this process will be gradual and step-wise requiring periodic meetings of the three committees involved and periodic reports to the Monthly Meeting.

#### **Action item 3:** Acceptance of Rachel, Jason, and Tobias Dean into membership in the meeting, and the dropping of the youth membership of Devin Miller.

The Deans were approved for transferring their membership from Oxford Friends Meeting to Community Friends, and Devin Miller was dropped from his youth membership since he has reached the age of 25, and has not responded to communications with Ministry and Counsel regarding membership in the meeting.

#### **Action Item 4:** Gift Policy. The following policy was reviewed:

All donations except memorial gifts are assumed to be given to the general fund and the uses of those donations are used by the Meeting at its discretion. Donations of money or in kind gifts above \$250.00 that are restricted to a purpose must be approved by the Meeting before being accepted. The meeting periodically sets campaigns for specific purposes and gifts of any size are accepted to those campaigns.

Donations and bequests of Stock, bonds, commodities and other securities are accepted and are sold by the meeting with the proceeds being placed into Meeting accounts.

Memorial gifts (in memory of deceased Friends) given to the meeting are placed into the building reserve fund unless a specific restriction is placed on the gift by the family or the donor.

The following is an interpretive summary of the discussion. It combines discussion of this policy statement, and discussion of the treasurer's report below: The discussion of this policy centered on the issue of the rightfulness of allowing the building reserve fund to grow at the expense of the current and concrete work of the meeting. After lengthy consideration, it was decided to stay with the current policy, and come back to reckon with the issue in the near future. To facilitate this the Ministry and Counsel committee was asked to schedule and moderate a meeting-wide threshing session on financial values, budgeting, and stewardship in the meeting, including the procedures we follow – or ought to follow – when we make decisions about capital and spending. These are complicated issues, and merely naming and clarifying them would be an important first step that hopefully might support the meeting in living out its financial and stewardship responsibilities.

**Action Item 5:** Minutes of appreciation.

- A. The Meeting is appreciative of the hard and effective work done by Kate Anthony on the Fall Renewal, held at the meeting house on 9/19/09. The day was particularly worthwhile for combining two of Kate's special gifts: spiritual practice, and care of the environment. A variety of approaches to reflecting on our spiritual journeys were introduced and practiced in the morning, and in the afternoon all in attendance worked on the house and grounds.
- B. The meeting appreciates the work of Eileen Bagus on obtaining seasoned friends Patricia Thomas and Cathy Barney to lead members of the three local Friends Meetings in a day of renewal at the meeting house on 2/13/2010 on the theme of "Spiritual Companionship." Opening our meeting to other Friends Meetings has been an important addition to the work of the meeting, and Eileen has been a significant catalyst for this work.

Both minutes were warmly approved.

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**Reports:**

- 1. The Cannon Fund report was presented by Carol Burks and approved.
- 2. The treasurer's report (in addition to the following notes, please refer to the discussion of gift policy above) During the treasurer's report the question was raised about how one might gain meeting approval for meeting gifts to charitable causes. Clerk Doug Burks clarified this point by advising members to make recommendations for such gifts to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. As much as possible, these requests are integrated into the yearly budgeting process. Treasurer Mary Anne Curtis said that another way to give gifts through the meeting would be to independently raise money for the gift, and work with the treasurer to make sure that the donation is made.
- 3. The Caretakers, John Sniegocki, Elizabeth Groppe, and their son John David were commended for their work of hand-shoveling much of the driveway and the walks as the snow-blower was broken. It had been repaired.
- 4. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee reported that their session with IJPC at the meeting house last week was snowed out. There will probably be another occasion for such a meeting, and the committee requested that the meeting consider endorsing IJPC's proposal for the school board to limit military recruiters' access to students in the schools.
- 5. The House and Grounds committee submitted a lengthy written report. Written reports were also filed by the Community Committee, and the Adult Education Committee.

The meeting adjourned after silent worship.     Acting Recording Clerk: Tim Leonard

## Spirit Lives: Quaker Spiritual Experiences in History and Now

This is a five-session spiritual nurture group to be offered on first and third Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M. The theme of the course is that profound spiritual experiences were the foundation on which our Quaker tradition is based, and similar spiritual experiences continue to happen among us now. Each evening will begin with historical background on specific types of spiritual experience among Quakers, followed by an invitation for members of the group to share personal experiences, and concluding with discussion. Eileen Bagus will be the facilitator.

Course outline:

March 2: Mystical experiences  
March 16: Worship, guidance and leadings  
April 6: Miracles and healing  
April 20: Intimations of immortality/survival of death  
May 4: Guest speaker(s) medium(s) Jaccolin Franchina, and possibly also her daughter Joanne Franchina from the Spiritualist Church, talking about survival in Spiritualism and doing spirit communication for our group.

For more information: Eileen Bagus at 513-891-8780 or email [eileenbagus@gmail.com](mailto:eileenbagus@gmail.com).

## Got Recipes?



Friends in Unity with Nature has been having fun promoting local and/or organic food at our meals. Now Frank Huss wants to get it all down in a Community recipe book. So please label your dish, and write down the recipe for Frank. We can expect to see some signature dishes there, like Frank's curried "angel" eggs and Friendship bread. What is your signature dish?

**Eugene Marquis continues to collect food items for Haiti Relief. He takes them to Matthew 25 Ministries. Thanks!**

## Quaker Education and Olney Friends School

Ever wonder about your high school choices?

What about boarding school?  
What about a Quaker school?  
What about independent school?  
What about college-prep?

What about Olney Friends School?

Find out more about Quaker education, independent school education and Olney Friends School in eastern OH

Sunday March 7 after Meeting for Worship  
Worship starts at 10am  
Conversation and potluck 11:45am followed by presentation

## Cincinnati Quakers Seek Spiritual Companionship

About 20 people representing all three Cincinnati monthly meetings turned out for a February 13, 2010 all-meeting renewal/ retreat sponsored by Community Friends' Ministry and Counsel committee. It was a day of learning about the kinds of spiritual companionship (direction or nurture, friendships and small groups) as well as practicing deep listening to one another. The companionship, sharing, listening, learning and discussion warmed the hearts of those attending and helped feed a hunger for deeper spiritual connections. Several expressed an interest in finding a more seasoned Quaker with whom to have a relationship.

As a result of the gathering, Community Friends Ministry and Counsel desires to initiate an informal "bank" to help match those interested in forging paired friendships, nurturing/mentoring relationships, or a small group to practice deep listening/group spiritual friendship from all meetings. It is **not necessary that you attended the renewal** in order for you to participate in this outgrowth from it. All are welcome!

Please send us your name, interest, and availability. For seasoned Friends willing to serve our meetings as nurturers, please also list any pertinent experience, education, special interests. We will share that list via e-mail and among the meetings. For more information, please contact Eileen Bagus at 513-891-8780 or [eileenbagus@gmail.com](mailto:eileenbagus@gmail.com), or fill out and mail to 7655 Shadowhill Way, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

**Name:**

**Monthly Meeting:**

**Community of residence:**

**Interest** (*nurturing/mentoring, friendship or small group*):

**Availability** (*weekly, monthly, day of the week, week of the month, etc., in person, phone or e-mail*):

**For seasoned Friends willing to serve as nurturers/mentors:** experience, education, special interests:

**Phone:**

**E-mail:**

### Adopt a School Program



Peace and Social Concerns invited Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) to present their interactive "Before You Enlist" Adopt a School Program on Tuesday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The participants have now adopted Cincinnati Public School's Virtual High School and will be setting up a meeting to give them some great, free resources. Please hold us all in the Light.

## Quaker Bolivia Link

I am writing to encourage Friends to consider reinstituting our small annual (\$25) donation to Quaker Bolivia Link. After recently traveling in South America, I am impressed with how energy and optimism can survive in the face of the same tough struggles that we North Americans also are beginning to see. We have much to learn from keeping up our ties with those who also walk the path of keeping unity and hope in their communities and families.

Living simply is a Quaker testimony. Equality is a Quaker testimony. Staying realistic is my personal testimony. Quaker Bolivia Link is a road to all of these dreams, especially as our young people learn the global way of thinking.

According to their literature, the success of QBL is due to their team of technicians in La Paz. The team is made of up Bolivians, most of whom speak the Aymara language. They have worked their way through university and graduated as agricultural technicians. They design, supervise, and monitor QBL's projects.

QBL has built over 300 greenhouses in several villages on the cold, arid Altiplano. In a region where malnutrition is widespread, these are providing a permanent supply of healthy vegetables. QBL builds community irrigation and drinking water systems. This combats water-borne sickness and parasites that especially hit the children and elderly. Quaker chicken and cattle breeding programs have supplied protein to remote communities. These projects should be steadfastly maintained.

If all we can afford is a little, we should give a little. Simplicity, equality, integrity, and the Inner Light are all served by this effort. I don't ask blind faith but rather surrendering to the simple reality that it is a little less hard to get by when we all stick together and let our Light shine.

*~Submitted by Mary Anne Curtiss*

## Reflections on what Quakers bring to the Ecumenical Table

"Are the other churches ready to hear what we have to say? ... For when we start to state our position positively we are putting forward a very serious challenge. For we are talking about Christianity as a way of life which puts God at the center and sees dependence on the Holy Spirit as a daily gift. Thus, baptism with water is unnecessary because the Spirit baptizes all those who respond to the Light; outward ritual in worship is unnecessary because true worship waits on God to receive the power and inspiration of the Spirit; the Spirit ordains those who are to speak and this ordination lasts for as long as the message is being delivered. There is no creed because the Spirit cannot be fettered by words; whether someone is a Christian is shown by the quality of a faithful life rather than by what is said or believed. ... Let us pull Quakers up from being the footnote and bring them to the center of the page. For once the Quaker perspective is recognized and accepted, the whole discussion of unity and diversity is changed, indeed turned on its head, for most of the former questions become useless and have to be replaced. The central questions then become: how do we recognize the Holy Spirit at work in this church? how is Christian witness manifest in its life?" (Janet Scott unpublished essay *Silent or Silenced? The Religious Society of Friends and Ecumenical Dialogue*, 2001) ~ Submitted by Paulette Meier



## Accepting Gifts of the Spirit

2010 FGC Gathering | July 4-10

### Call to Young Artists!!



We need a design for the Junior Gathering staff orange tee-shirts. In an effort to curb costs and be kind to the environment we will be re-using staff tees from year to year—but we need a really awesome design to go on them.

The design contest is open to young Friends up to and including 8th grade, whether or not they have previously attended the FGC Gathering. Read more

about the design details: . [www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/2010/t-shirt-contest](http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/2010/t-shirt-contest)  
Submissions are due by May 15.

Please tell children and First Day school teachers in your meeting about this creative opportunity.

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#### *A cushion for your head*

*Just sit there right now  
Don't do a thing  
Just Rest*

*For your separation from God,  
From Love,  
Is the hardest work in this world.*

*Let me bring you trays of food  
And something  
That you might like to  
Drink.*

*You can use my soft words  
As a cushion  
For Your  
Head.*

*~Hafiz*

## Final Thoughts

### *Greeters and Closers for March*

Greeter: Rachel Ernst

Closer: Kate Anthony

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#### Websites:

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting:**

**<http://ovym.quaker.org/>**

**Community Friends:**

**[www.communityfriendsmeeting.com](http://www.communityfriendsmeeting.com)**

**Community Friends Meeting**

**3960 Winding Way**

**Cincinnati, Ohio 45229**