

Community Companion

Community Friends Newsletter



Quaker House: 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950

(513) 861-4353

Volume 16, Issue 7

www.communityfriendsmeeting.com

July 2010

Presiding Clerk:

Doug Burks

Assistant Clerk:

Eileen Bagus

Recording Clerk:

Betty Waite

Treasurer:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Ministry and Counsel:

Kate Anthony

Eileen Bagus

Byron Branson

Doug Burks (ex officio)

Lisa Cayard

Evie Hoffman

Frank Huss

Paulette Meier

Sunny Rhein (SA)

Newsletter:

Deborah Jordan

Email: djordan@fuse.net

Jean Crocker-Lakness

Email: j.crockerlakness@gmail.com

Submissions for August newsletter due
by: Tuesday, July 27

Calendar

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

Singing 9:45am, Meeting for Worship 10am

No Regular Second Hours in the summer

- July 11 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business following Worship
- July 18 Carry-in potluck following Worship, hopefully using more local ingredients in our dishes.
- July 18 10 am Miami Meeting has their annual Meeting for Worship and picnic potluck at Fort Ancient www.miami.quaker.org

HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Byron Branson as he recovers

Sue Brungs after the death of her husband Joe

Marlane Souder

"Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person
there is no cause for stumbling." -1 John 2:10

SEVENTH QUERY FROM OVYM BOOK OF DISCIPLINE:

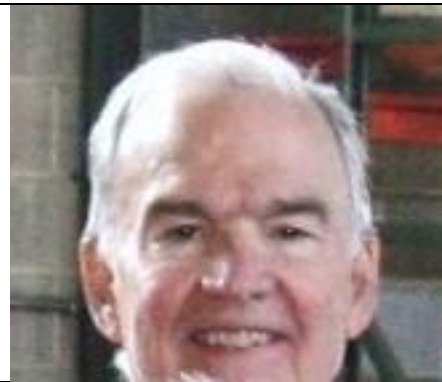
Do you fulfill the responsibility of membership in our religious society by regular attendance and support of its meetings? What are you doing to strengthen the spiritual life of the meeting and to invite others to share in its fellowship? Do you recognize and encourage the development of the spiritual gifts of your members? Are you active in advancing the religious principles of our Society and in applying the social and political implication of those principles?

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONSHIP

In February, Community Friends held a renewal on Spiritual Companionship. We focused on both Spiritual Friendship and Spiritual Mentoring / Nurturing. Since then, Ministry and Counsel Committee has been working to develop a group of spiritual mentors or nurturers from the three Cincinnati meetings who are willing to serve anyone from any of the meetings. Each month we will feature a nurturer in Community Companion.

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SPIRITUAL NURTURERS

NAME: Tim Leonard	MONTHLY MEETING: Community Friends Meeting	COMMUNITY OF RESIDENCE: Cincinnati, Ohio
PHONE: (513) 861-4353 [Community Friends Meeting house]	EMAIL: cfmministryandcounsel@gmail.com	
INTEREST (NURTURING/MENTORING, FRIENDSHIP OR SMALL GROUP): Nurturing/mentoring. My interest is in centering down, listening to that of God in what the other person says, and to the best of my ability speaking the truth in conversation that builds our common humanity.		
AVAILABILITY (WEEKLY, MONTHLY, DAY OF THE WEEK, WEEK OF THE MONTH, ETC., IN PERSON, PHONE OR E-MAIL): I work several evenings a week, but can be available after 7:30 most evenings. My days are flexible, and I can work out times and places rather easily. In-person conversation is best. For me, email is second best. Telephone is not out of the question.		

FOR SEASONED FRIENDS WILLING TO SERVE AS NURTURERS/MENTORS – EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, SPECIAL INTERESTS:

These lines of the poet Kabir seem relevant here: “The words Guru, Swami, Super Swami, Master, Murshid, Yogi, Priest, most of those sporting such a title are just peacocks. The litmus test is: hold them upside down over a cliff for a few hours. If they don’t wet their pants, maybe you found a real one.”

I was once one of those peacocks, having served as a priest for nine years. I have spent much of my life since then trying to center my life on the truth of human equality. I have been a Quaker for 20 years, and apart from my marriage, Quakerism has served as the greatest equalizer in my spiritual journey. I maintain a great respect for the Catholic tradition,--particularly its mystical tradition-- but have found a home among Friends. My religious orientation is contemplative, but I have never come close to being what Kabir called “a real one.” I tend to get de-centered at far less than being hung upside down over a cliff for a few hours.

I have been a professor of education for 38 years, and have learned that listening is crucial to working with students. So, though I am in no way “a real one” in Kabir’s sense, I am able to listen and share, and facilitate meaningful insights through conversation from time to time.

OUR FINANCES WALKING THE TALK

Even in in these very difficult financial times, we can be thankful for responsible stewardship last year. From June 2007 to December 2009 we as a Meeting have acted responsibly both in long range planning and shorter term goals. In the long term goals we held a capital campaign which raised over \$68, 0000.00. These funds allowed us to both save money and support environmentally responsible changes by installing a zoned furnace and replacing all of the solarium windows. These green retrofitting projects came from the recommendations made to our Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN) Committee during the energy audit conducted by Jim Tenhunfeldt over a decade ago and supported by our House and Grounds Committee.

We also have been able to pay all of our recommended contributions to wider Quaker bodies and charitable organizations at the level of over \$3,000.00.

Can we actually expect that budgeted contributions will appear by year's end, as has sometimes happened in the past . . . and sometimes not? If you are someone who is not likely to make a significant contribution late this year, please consider what you could do sooner or on a monthly basis.

-Marjorie Isaacs for Stewardship Committee

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sixth Month 13, 2010

19 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Doug Burks clerking.
No meeting with attention to business was held in May because of Mother's Day.

Clerks report-Doug Burks reporting: More items are being posted to the website, including the agenda and certain committee reports. The process towards the website instead of emailing is in transition. Eventually, it will only be posted to the website. Caution against posting names and phone numbers on the website was reiterated.

1. Action Items

Memorial minute for Ed McAndrews was read by Eileen Bagus. She noted that it was largely, thoughtfully and beautifully written by Eric Wolff. Because he was not a member at the time of his death, the minute is for our meeting only and will not be distributed to other meetings. Minute approved.

Request for Youth Membership for Charlotte Dean, reported by Ministry and Counsel by Eileen Bagus. Membership approved.

Nominating Committee, Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. Of note was that House & Grounds has a startlingly few full members, and a request was made for additional full members. The Presiding Clerk's term was discussed. Eileen Bagus accepted the position of Asst. Presiding clerk, which is traditionally a four year commitment, including a first year as asst. clerk, two years as presiding clerk, and a fourth year as asst. clerk. The only correction was to note that the OVYM executive committee appointments carry a two year term. Suggestions were made for possible additions to House & Grounds. It was noted that in June, both incoming and outgoing committee members meet together to transfer information. In July, the new committee meets on its own. It was noted that many of the teens are active on various committees. Jennifer Snow Wolff noted that she is available for help on any committee over the next year before she formally moves to Cincinnati. Nominating Committee slate was approved with gratitude. Doug noted that the convener calls the first meeting. Doug charged the conveners to call the first meeting of the committee within the next few weeks, inviting both past and new committee members.

Report from Building and Grounds; FUN and Stewardship on Windows, reported by John Sniegocki. There is a possibility of getting the windows at ½ the original anticipated costs, which would mean we could do twice as many windows, using the remaining capital campaign funds, and doing a smaller scale capital campaign to try to get a few more of the windows done. Rich House proposed that he could get the windows directly, reducing the cost, and we could use an installer recommended by Sarah Hoffman. Instead of doing 2-4, we would be able to do 4-8 windows. Energy efficiency is a high priority for the meeting. We would like to have triple pane windows which are twice as energy efficient than double pane windows. Mary Anne Curtiss expressed some concern about asking for more funds from members at this time of year because money is

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, continued

already tight during the summer. Marjorie Isaacs noted that she spoke to someone who has the same windows we are considering, and he was very enthusiastic about the windows. A discussion ensued regarding which windows would be replaced and who would steward the additional capital campaign. Mary Anne noted that if we spent the larger amount suggested, a potential problem might exist in that some of our funds are tied up in 4 year CDs. John requested that a decision be made as to who decides which windows get replaced when, in order to expedite the process. Doug requested the meeting to approve the expenditure of up to and not to exceed the remaining funds pledged or received in the capital campaign to replace as many windows as those funds allow, and that house and grounds decide which windows would be replaced. Approved. A second proposal for approval was made by Doug to try to raise an amount not to exceed \$3,900 to do the other windows suggested. Stewardship and House & Grounds will jointly oversee the second phase of fundraising. Proposal approved.

Discussion from Miami Quarterly Meeting to discontinue permanently the second month Quarterly Meeting. Weather, attendance, and travel issues were behind this change. Only fifth month and tenth month meetings would be held if this change is approved. Bill Cahalan shared his experiences as our representative to Miami Quarterly Meeting. He was leaning towards approving it temporarily, rather than permanently. Eugenia Mills expressed some concern that Miami Quarterly meetings were necessary at all. Eric Wolff thought that the meetings should be changed to a purely social function to encourage attendance. Other members shared similar thoughts, concurring that yearly meetings served an important function, but that the quarterly meetings were not as meaningful. Concern that meetings on Sunday had a dilutive effect because of commitments to members' own meetings was also expressed, with Saturday meetings being an option. A desire for clarity of what quarterly meetings really provide was expressed. Comments sent to Ben reflecting the diversity of our members' thoughts was recommended.

2. Committee reports

- Treasurer-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting, noting that the general fund is disastrously low, the bank balance to budget ratio is only 3%. It would be even worse if we had not stopped payments to our wider Quaker responsibilities. The financial position has improved since the beginning of the month, however, because as the need was expressed, so raise the financial response of our members. Mary Anne noted that we now have the funds available to catch up our OVYM commitment, but it would require a leap of faith that other funds would avail themselves to help us get through the summer. There are not enough funds to catch up FGC. Eugenia Mills expressed appreciation to our very enthusiastic and responsible treasurer, a sentiment shared by all of us. Treasurer's report accepted, and approval was received to pay off our OVYM commitment.

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, continued

- FUN-Bill Cahalan reporting. Local food initiatives are making progress. Carry ins will continue during the summer, on the fourth Sunday of June, third Sundays of July and August, hopefully using more local ingredients in our dishes. Outdoor worship is still hoped for in June, July and August. The bees are progressing as usual. It is hoped that the queen is in our hive and the storage of honey is occurring. Bees are an indicator species as to the health of our environment. Bill read a note he received from Karen Arnett regarding the issue of signage by the beehive. It was suggested that a positive Bee sign be posted. Jennifer volunteered to assist with the artwork.

- House and Grounds-Eric Wolff reporting, we did not qualify for the energy efficiency grant because like most churches, we may or may not be a registered 501 (c) (3). A discussion ensued as to whether or not this status should be pursued for future opportunities.

- Ministry and Council-Eileen Bagus reporting, youth membership requested by Lucas Bertaux-Skerik. Also, follow up is being done from the retreat earlier this spring for spiritual nurturers. They would like to feature one nurturer a month in the Community Companion. If ministry & council, who is Lisa Cayard, although that information will change with the new committee year.

Statistician: Lisa Cayard

Nominating Committee Report

6/13/10

Presiding Clerk: Doug Burks
(Second year. Traditionally, Presiding Clerk serves two years.)

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Eileen Bagus

(Traditionally, Assistant Presiding Clerk serves one year, then serves two years as Presiding Clerk, then serves one year as Assistant Presiding Clerk again, to be a support as needed to the incoming Presiding Clerk.)

Recording Clerk: Betty Waite
Treasurer: Mary Anne Curtiss
Archivist: Alvin Jose
Web Page: Eric Wolff, Nick Rhein

House and Grounds Committee

Eric Wolff (**Convener**)
John Sniegocki
Richard House (SA)
Eugenia Mills
Byron Branson (SA)
Jim Rhein (SA)
Jamie Fota
Francis Ganance (SA)
Elizabeth Groppe (SA)

Religious Development Committee

Lisa Cayard (**Convener**)
Deborah Jordan
Wilhelmina Branson
Jim Rhein
Lynn Funck
David Funck

Community Companion

Nominating Committee Report – cont.

Ministry and Counsel Committee

Frank Huss (**Convener**)
Kate Anthony
Paulette Meier
Eileen Bagus
Lisa Cayard
Sunny Rhein (SA)
Byron Branson
Evie Hoffmann
Doug Burks (ex officio)

Community Committee

Rachel Ernst (**Convener**)
Sunny Rhein (SA)
Dylan Cahalan
Brett Marshall
Adam Funck
Ken Bordwell
Rachel Logan-Wood (SA)
Olivia Logan-Wood
Lynn Funck

Peace & Social Concerns

Marjorie Isaacs (**Convener**)
Doug Burks
Carol Burks
Kate Anthony
Eugene Marquis
Tim Leonard
Tom Loch
John Sniegocki
Lucas Bertaux-Skeirik

Stewardship Committee

Sarah Hoffmann (**Convener**)
Mary Anne Curtiss (ex officio)
Tom Bennett (SA)
Rich House
Marjorie Isaacs

Friends in Unity with Nature

Bill Cahalan (**Convener**)
Patrick McKelvey
Sue Brungs (SA)
Karen Arnett
Tom Orr
Alvin Jose
Kate Anthony
Eric Wolff (SA)
Jamie Fota
Elizabeth Groppe

John Sniegocki (SA)
Judy Trombly-Ganance
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Adult Education

Eileen Bagus (**Convener**)
Kate Anthony (SA)
Susan Gerke
Tim Leonard
Paulette Meier (SA)
Karen Arnett

Cannon Trustees (by bylaws, three year commitment, renewable once; can repeat later if needed)

Carol Burks (6/11) (**Convener**)
Eugenia Mills (2nd term, 6/13)
Malcolm Morriss (6/12)

Music Committee

Eugene Marquis
Chris Morriss SA

Newsletter

Deborah Jordan (**Convener**)
Jean Crocker-Lakness

Quaker Quill

Tim Leonard

Library

Ken Bordwell (**Convener**)
Alvin Jose
John Sniegocki
Karen Arnett
Frank Huss

OVYM Executive Committee (serves two years; appointed by Community Friends

Nominating Committee

Frank Huss (6/2012)
Byron Branson (6/2011)

Miami Quarterly Meeting Rep.

Bill Cahalan

Meeting Directory

Frank Huss

MARCC Delegate Council

Byron Branson
Frank Huss
Alvin Jose
John Sniegocki
Ken Bordwell

Community Companion

Nominating Committee Report - cont.

Council of Christian Communion
Tim Leonard

Nominating Committee (serve until January 1, 2011)

Mary Anne Curtiss, **Clerk**

Evie Hoffmann
Richard House
Betty Waite
Dylan Cahalan
Adam Funck
Tim Leonard

SA – Special Assignment as needed; not expected to attend most meetings.

GRATITUDE

Religious Development thanks the following for being First Day School teachers this past year for our primary class: Lisa Cayard (who also developed the curriculum), Lynn Funck, Judy Ganance, Paulette Meier, Evie Hoffman, Elizabeth Groppe, and Bill Cahalan, and continued appreciation to Wilhelmina Branson for working with the teens. She not only facilitates the teen gatherings but calls them to coordinate schedules! We appreciate all of your sharing of the Light with our irresistible young Friends. (like Toby and Charlotte Dean below)



TREASURER'S NOTE:

Did you ever notice the line item "Commun Dev Nic" under "Contributions" in our Monthly Treasurer's Report? This is an example of how our Meeting contributes to the poorest of the poor. Center for Development in Central American is a fair trade coffee, sesame, and spinning cooperative combined with a clinic and cement works. These are Nicaraguans who are working hard to be economically viable, not exploited, not exploiting; energetic self help with the help of many volunteers from law students to Equal Exchange. Tithing is spreading the Good News to the poor. Our meeting is budgeted to donate \$25 to this cause; \$50 if generous end of the year donations allow it, as they did last year.

Please feel free to ask me about any of our donations or other expenses!

Your humble servant,

Mary Anne Curtiss, Treasurer

Another way we contribute is to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and the Teen program. Below is a picture of some of the visiting OVYM teens, including from Alaska, and staff on 6/27 with Kaitlyn Funck, Rachel Logan Wood, and a future Second Hour presenter, George Hardebeck.



From the larger Quaker Community:

Joint Quarterly Meeting, October 9 and 10, 2010 at our special gathering place- Happy Hollow Camp (somewhere in rural Indiana). Lots of friends (of all ages), fellowship, nice cabins, food, and light business. For more information contact Deborah Jordan at ovymsec@fuse.net

Ohio Valley Yearly meeting July 28-August 1 "Celebrating Friends as Family, Nurturing the Future" at Earlham College, Richmond, IN
Ovym.quaker.org

What is FCNL?

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a Quaker lobby in the public interest. FCNL is the oldest registered religious lobby in Washington. FCNL staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people from many different races, religions and cultures to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, and protection of the earth.

Their mission statement reads:

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.

We seek a society with equity and justice for all.

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.

We seek an earth restored.

Issues with which FCNL is currently concerned include:

- Strategy to end the war in Afghanistan
- Investment in Peace: In 2009 33% of our tax dollars went to fund the Pentagon and related agencies. Just 1% was spent on tools to prevent war: diplomacy, development, and international cooperation
- Fixing the broken immigration system
- Honoring promises for Native Americans
- Cutting greenhouse gas pollution
- Reducing the risk of nuclear weapons
- Shifting money from the military budget to advance the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict through diplomacy and to better meet human needs for education, health care, the environment, infrastructure, and help for the most vulnerable in the U.S. and the world.

For more information on FCNL, please visit their web site at www.fcnl.org

Quote:

"As Friends love to say, our worship does not begin when we sit down together in our public assemblies, nor end when we leave them. The worship in spirit and in truth is in no way limited by time and place. The same idea of waiting "in the silence of all flesh" to hear the voice of the Lord speaking within us, characterizes the Friends' private times of worship; or, as the more cautious expression is, of "religious retirement."

Caroline Stephen (1834-1909)