

# Community Companion

Quaker House:  
3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950  
(513) 861-4353

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



Volume 18, Issue 1

January, 2012

## Presiding Clerk:

Frank Huss

## Assistant Clerk:

Kate Anthony

## Recording Clerk:

Ken Bordwell

## Treasurer:

Mary Anne Curtiss

## Ministry and Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Erin Bagus (SA)

Byron Branson

Lisa Cayard

Rachel Ernst

Evie Hoffmann

Frank Huss (ex officio)

Tim Leonard

Sunny Rhein (SA)

(SA) is special assignment

## Newsletter:

Deborah Jordan

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

Editor and photographer:

Jean Crocker-Lakness

Email: [j.crockerlakness@gmail.com](mailto:j.crockerlakness@gmail.com)

Submissions for the February, 2012 newsletter  
due by: Monday, January 30, 2012

## Calendar

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

**Singing 9:45 am, Meeting for Worship 10 am**

**Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am**

- Jan. 1 Carry in Meal after Meeting for Worship
- FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible
- Jan. 8 Meeting for Worship with attention to Business
- Jan. 15 FUN "Reimagining where we live" Discussing property rights, fracking, common wealth
- Jan. 21 Workday at the meeting house
- Jan. 22 Revision of OVYM Faith and Practice
- Jan. 29 Social Media II Intergenerational discussion of how Social Medias affect our attempts to live simply

In This Issue:

Page 2	Summary of Minutes, 12 <sup>th</sup> month, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Peace Resources in the Library
Page 3	Peace & Social Concerns, Stewardship, Quakerism class, Face about the meeting: Jay Williams
Page 4	<i>Christmas in the Trenches</i> presented by the Youth of the Meeting
Page 5	FGC 2012
Page 6	A Theology for Our Time, Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat, Quakers in Transition
Page 7	Low Carbon Future for Quakers, Kabbalah Study Group

## First Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Silent Worship: Ministry

Do you attend meeting for worship in a spirit of willing service and of prayerful desire to make them profitable to each individual and to the assembled group? Are you prepared for worship expecting that your worship will be a source of strength and guidance? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival? Do you practice a waiting spiritual worship and a free and open ministry under Divine guidance?

**Summary of Minutes (draft) of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business****Twelfth Month 11, 2011**

- **Opening worship** with 19 persons present.
- **Minutes of the Eleventh Month:** APPROVED with one correction.
- **Item from The Clerk's Table:**
  - It was explained that while contributions to FCNL are not tax deductible, gifts to the FCNL Education Fund are tax deductible.
- **Action Items:**
  - A minute was proposed by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to support the Occupy movement. After Tim Leonard read it and some discussion it was APPROVED with several changes. The Clerk will do a press release and deliver the minute to Occupy Cincinnati.
  - The 2012 Budget: The budget was APPROVED, with minor changes.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Some money came in. The Teen Trip Fund contribution was made by the Youth Ministry Fund. The Cannon Fund owes us \$40. The bank balance/annual budget ratio is 9%, where the goal is 10%. The treasurer's report was ACCEPTED, with gratitude.
- **Committee Reports:**
  - Peace & Social Concerns: Marjorie Isaacs reported- The lobbying workshop was quite successful. Campaign Finance Reform is a coming major issue.
  - Stewardship: Marjorie Isaacs reported: A Stewardship committee meeting is planned for 12-13-11. We are in the process of forecasting financial needs related to Community Friends doing outreach through Quaker Quest activities as well as FUN Committee's recommendations for additional steps to green retrofit the Meetinghouse.
  - Music Committee: Eugenia Mills reported that the new piano tuning is better.
- **Wider Quaker Bodies**
  - OVYM: The teens are at Fall Creek this weekend.
  - Miami Quarterly Meeting: The winter meeting will be in Lexington.
  - FCNL: Youth Lobby Day will be March 10
- **Thanks** to all who brought food for our sustenance.
- **Closing Worship.**

Ken Bordwell, Recording Clerk

**Peace Resources in the Library** submitted by Al Jose

"Being a Quaker" a book recommended accompanying Quaker Quest

"Is Peace Possible?" FCNL July/August

Rotating pamphlet file:

"Peaceful intervention in deadly conflict"

"Victory without war"

"Beyond the bomb"

Related pamphlets on Conscientious Objection

Book Section:

Peace titles covering background, methods power, Christ, prayers and non-violence

Related treatments in spirituality sections.

**Peace and Social Concerns:** submitted by Marjorie Isaacs

We hold continued concern about the impact of a series of US Supreme Court decisions, particularly Citizens United (January 2010). This series of decisions make money a form of free speech and give corporations and unions the rights of individual people. This past fall our committee prepared a minute on how these Supreme Court decisions necessitate true campaign finance reform. After MFWAB approved the minute, clerk Frank Huss sent it to FCNL and it was posted on their blog. We also sent the minute to all of the other monthly meetings in OVYM; Dayton and Miami responded by sending their own minutes of support about Citizens United to FCNL. As a result Citizens United/Campaign finance reform became a priority of FCNL "as way opens" now, and will be considered for higher priority next November at FCNL's biennial priority setting November 2012 meeting.

**From the Stewardship Committee:** new instructions that simplify submitting receipts

Submitted by Marjorie Isaacs

No more form to find and fill out! Yea! And we can track our expenses better.

We are inviting Friends to tuck cash register receipts for items or services bought for the Meeting into the donation box on the credenza. Write your name, the committee/activity, and "donation" or "request reimbursement" on the receipt. Those receipts will allow Stewardship to track actual committee expenses for future planning. This information will help future committees continue activities that past individual members might have donated, whether the future committee members can personally afford them or not. The treasurer will include the information from these receipts in annual individual letters documenting charitable donations for tax deduction purposes.

**Introduction to Quakerism at Cincinnati Friends Meeting**

Donne Hayden, the Minister of Cincinnati Friends Meeting will be teaching a seven-week Introduction to Quakerism course on Thursday evenings, January 19-March 1, 2012. Tentative time is 6:30-8:30. Anyone from Community Friends Meeting, whether a new attender or a long-time member, is welcome to join the class to gain an in-depth understanding of the Quaker Way. Cincinnati Friends Meeting is located at 8075 Keller Road in Indian Hill. Please contact Donne ([513-791-0788](tel:513-791-0788)) if you plan to attend as the time may be revised slightly:

**Face around the Meeting: Jay Williams**

Jay grew up Catholic, but when she was 17, she joined the Yellow Springs Meeting. She moved to Cincinnati in 1974 and found Community Friends Meeting through word of mouth and she has been attending on and off since then- partly depending on her work schedule at the zoo where she has to work some Sundays. She likes the quiet prayer and meditation. She appreciates a world view of thinking which she defines as a method of living and thinking that is harmonious with life, being at one with the creator and the natural sense of rights of humanity. She likes the Quaker history of addressing social injustices and feels that being a Quaker is a way to find the path to peace while facing great adversity. In addition to being a very interesting and thoughtful person she is a wonderful International folk dancer, a passion she started doing in Yellow Springs at the age of 7.



*Christmas in the Trenches* presented by the Youth at Community Friends Meeting

Director: Kaitlyn Funck

Narrator: Dylan Cahalan

Singers: Adam Funck and Dylan Cahalan accompanied by Jamie Fota on Guitar

German soldiers: Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Toby Dean, Cecilia Branson

Allied soldiers: Charlotte Dean, Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Elana Branson, Morgan Ganance







## All God's Critters Got A Place In the Choir

2012 FGC  
Gathering of Friends

July 1 to 7 | University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

It's not too soon to get excited about next summer's FGC Gathering "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" in Kingston, Rhode Island.

### 2012 Evening Programs

#### The Spirit of Mediation: Conflict Transformation in Divided Societies

Erik Cleven (Lafayette, OVYM) asks difficult questions and shares new insights. Erik has worked for many years with interethnic dialogue and conflict transformation.



#### All Together Now: A community sing for all ages

Bill Harley (Providence, NEYM) has invited his friends Kim and Reggie Harris, Sally Rogers, Howie Bursen, and Kim Trusty for a rousing evening of singing.

#### Interest Groups

Choose among many options. Consider submitting an interest group proposal by May 7.

#### A Land Twice Promised

Noa Baum presents a moving story of Israeli and Palestinian women.

#### The Fire and the Hammer

A performance of a Quaker choral composition featuring readings from George Fox's journal, and choral pieces based on the readings. Consider joining the choir!  
photo by skip schiel,



### Tent Campers: Make your reservations TODAY!

There is no tent camping on campus at the 2012 Gathering. RVs and car-camping will be allowed on campus; fees will be published in January. There are public campgrounds within 30 minutes of campus. Rhode Island is a major summer tourist destination. If you want to consider camping, we recommend you make your reservation immediately, even if you're not yet confident you will attend the Gathering. (Cancellation fees are often quite small.)

Sign up for email updates at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/subscribe>

Study Group- Quakerism: **A theology for Our Time** led by Paulette Meier

This group is a very committed one, meeting at 8:45 before meeting for worship. The book: *Theology for Our Time* by Patricia A. Williams is used. Sue Brungs states that the biggest problem is that there is never enough time. We are only on chapter 3 and we have met 5-6 times! On a positive note, she states that it has given her a chance to get to know others more deeply as they discuss their religious backgrounds. The group is very diverse in age, gender and theological backgrounds. It meets both social and intellectual needs.

Pam Richards says that the group has been very rewarding "It is interesting to bring our religious backgrounds to Quakerism and look at the residuals that we bring to Quakerism". For example, the Church of Christ practically worships the Bible and is very literal and rational. She struggles to determine when God is calling her beyond the literal scripture. She is rethinking what she was taught in the religion she was raised. She finds the group is making steps towards finding common ground in our beliefs and determining why we are here and not somewhere else.

### **Mt Gilead Friends Retreat 2012 Workshop Series: Connecting with Spirit**

Walking the Labyrinth with Sharon Wailes

Saturday January 14, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Discover the spiritual space of the labyrinth. The labyrinth can be a walking meditation, a body prayer, a healing experience, a discernment tool, a way to build community, a way to peace, and much more. Unlike a maze which has multiple dead ends and is designed to confuse, a labyrinth has only one path and is intended to bring clarity. It is a symbolic pilgrimage, a metaphor of life's journey. Come learn about the labyrinth's ancient origins, its universality, and its potential as a spiritual tool. Walk the path and experience firsthand what it holds for you.

Sharon Wailes is a labyrinth facilitator in training and a spiritual director.

Location: First United Church, 2420 E. Third St., Bloomington

To register, please send a check for \$25 to Mt Gilead Friends Retreat

3363 Mt Gilead Rd, Bloomington IN 47408

For information call [\(812\) 679-6835](tel:8126796835)

Or e-mail [mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us)

### **Information on and for Quakers in Transition**, Submitted by Deborah Jordan

Some of you may remember a visit from Ruah Swennerfelt, former executive secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Since recently retiring, she has been "on a search for answers to the question of how our civilization will survive the current 'perfect storm' of peak oil, climate disruption, and economic contraction. We live in a world economic system that requires perpetual growth to survive. This is not sustainable since Earth's resources are limited. My search most recently took me to Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Europe, and North America. Like a quilt, each piece (each Transition initiative I visited) was unique and beautiful on its own, but the finished quilt is something greater than the parts."

Some of the fruits of this research are found on a new website called Quakers In Transition. It is "an online project of the New England Yearly Meeting Earthcare Ministries Committee. Our goal is to support Friends working in the Transition Movement. Gathering strength from our faith tradition, we seek to work with our neighbors and address the challenges of peak oil, climate change, and a dysfunctional global economy with courage, creativity, and a positive vision for our communities. Are you a Quaker in Transition? Would you like to be?" Check out: [quakersintransition.wordpress.com](http://quakersintransition.wordpress.com)

## Low carbon future for Quakers

British Friends Commit to Low Carbon Future, News Release 05 August 2011

Quakers in Britain have today committed their whole movement to becoming a low-carbon, sustainable community. They have always tried to lead simple lives but this decision goes further. It means every Quaker in Britain will be urged and supported to reduce their carbon footprint.

Low carbon future for Quakers each other to account to achieve it. "We can no longer ignore the fact that our planet is finite," say Quakers. "We have not only inherited the earth from our ancestors: we have borrowed it from our children and from their children."

More than 1,500 Quakers made the decision gathered at the University of Kent in Canterbury for their annual Yearly Meeting to discern the way ahead for Quakers in Britain. The eight-day programme for all ages, from 30 July to 6 August, was an inspiring mix of worship, business, spiritual growth and fun. Recording Clerk Paul Parker said: "We met to grow in the Spirit. We listened to God and we discovered with certainty that what the world needs of us at this time is to change our lives. Our decision is exciting. This involves every child, every adult, every person in our Quaker community."

The decision is rooted in Quakers' longstanding work for a peaceful and more equal world. Quakers understand that many global problems are connected: speakers during the week highlighted the fact that the environmental crisis is inextricably linked with global economic injustice. The meeting also decided to challenge the values of consumer capitalism and engage with politicians and other decision makers to develop policies to safeguard people and planet. "We believe this corporate action will enable us to speak truth to power more confidently," says the minute recording the decision.

## Kabbalah Study Group at Cincinnati Friends Meeting

Jeff Arnold and Jim Crocker-Lakness are organizing a study group on the Kabbalah, a traditional form of Jewish mysticism. The focus of the group is two-fold: We hope to intellectually understand what Kabbalah is from a historical standpoint; and to help each other find ways to apply its ideas to our personal spiritual growth. The group will meet monthly on Monday or Tuesday evening. It will be a leaderless group with responsibility for guiding discussion shared by participants.

Jim and Jeff claim no expertise in the Kabbalah and will be learning along with everyone else. Several inexpensive introductory books are available that we can read to generate discussion.

Our first meeting will be on January 23 at 7:00 in the library at the Cincinnati Friends Meetinghouse, 8075 Keller Road. We will introduce ourselves, share our individual interests in Kabbalah, determine format and guidelines for meetings, and decide a regular meeting day, time and place. If you are interested call or email Jeff at 321-1185 / [jeffarn@gmail.com](mailto:jeffarn@gmail.com) or Jim at 891-9450 / [crockejw@gmail.com](mailto:crockejw@gmail.com).

## From the Journal of George Fox (1651)

The commissioners and soldiers....asked me if I would not take up arms for the Commonwealth against the King. But I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars, and I knew from whence all wars did rise, from the lust according to James' doctrine\*....I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and strifes were.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? James 4:1