

Community Companion

Quaker House:
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Volume 19, Issue 1 January, 2013

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Frank Huss

Assistant Clerk:

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Recording Clerk:

Paul Buckley

Treasurer:

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Submissions for the February newsletter due by:
Monday, January 28, 2013 to Jean Crocker-Lakness

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

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| Jan. 3 | Thurs. 7:00-8:30 A Course in Quakerism- <i>Discernment</i> presented by Paul Buckley and held at Cincinnati Friends Meeting. See page 7 |
| Jan. 4 | The future of Cincinnati Young Friends: 6:30 at the Cincinnati Friends Meetinghouse. See pg 10 |
| Jan. 6 | Carry in Meal after Meeting for Worship: FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible. |
| Jan. 10 | Tender Mercies |
| Jan. 13 | Second hour: Meeting for worship with attention to business |
| Jan. 17 | Thurs. 7:00-8:30 A Course in Quakerism- <i>Meeting for Business</i> presented by Paul Buckley and held at Cincinnati Friends Meeting. See page 7 |
| Jan. 20 | Second Hour: Sustainability presented by Elizabeth Groppe |
| Jan. 27 | Second Hour: The spiritual journey of aging |
| Jan. 31 | Thurs. 7:00-8:30 A Course in Quakerism- <i>Nurturing the Inward Life</i> presented by Paul Buckley and held at Cincinnati Friends Meeting. See page 7 |

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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 from the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

12/9/2012

Present: Frank Huss (Presiding Clerk), Paul Buckley (Recording Clerk), Eugenia Mills, Richard House, Alvin Jose, Tim Leonard, Ken Bordwell, Mary Anne Curtiss, Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Eric Wolff, Sarah Hoffmann, Evangeline Hoffmann, Kate Anthony, Sunny Rhein, Eileen Bagus, John Sniegocki

1. Clerk's item:

- FWCC will have their 2013 Meeting of the Section of the Americas, March 14-17, 2013, at Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Morgantown, Indiana.

2. The names of Sue Brungs, Kaitlyn Funck, Rachel Logan Wood, Eugene Marquis, Marjorie Isaacs, and Jason Dean were brought forward to serve on the Nominating Committee. Approved.

3. 2013 Meeting Budget (Mary Anne Curtiss)

- The proposed budget differed from the previous version by an increase of \$75 in our contribution to Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati and an increase of \$25 to Quaker Bolivia Link. Due to a drop in our total membership, our contribution to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be \$375 less.
- After discussion, we added a new contribution of \$200 to Friends Journal.
- The support from Kroger in the current year was about as expected and we are hoping for about \$160 more in the coming year. It was noted that each person participating in this program will need to re-enroll again each year.
- The estimates of 2013 energy bills are lower.
- The proposed budget calls for \$29,870 in unrestricted contributions from the meeting. This is slightly less than in the 2012 budget.
- The budget was approved.

4. Treasurer's Report (Mary Anne Curtiss)

- The purpose of the Youth Ministries Fund was described. It was suggested that it should be better funded and that we should be looking for opportunities to support our youth in giving service.
 - The ratio of our bank balance to the total budget is at 9% - just less than the target of 10%.
 - Overall, we seem to be closely following our budget.
- In summary, the treasurer said, "We are on pretty solid ground."

5. Committee Reports

- Stewardship Committee (Marjorie Isaacs)
The possibility of hiring ex-offenders to paint the meetinghouse is being discussed by the committee. Friends present expressed support for the idea.
Members were asked to carefully consider the amount of their monetary contributions to the meeting.
- Community Committee (Mary Anne Curtiss)
There will be a caroling party at the meetinghouse on December 20th.
The meeting gave particular thanks to Sue Brungs for bringing flowers to Diane Rhein's memorial service.
- Friends in Unity with Nature (Kate Anthony)
The report highlighted 350.ORG which is urging divestment from companies that harm the environment.
- Adult Education Committee (Eileen Bagus)
The committee has a tentative schedule of second hours until March 2013.
- Peace & Social Concerns Committee (Tim Leonard)
The committee is gathering materials for Friends on socially responsible investing and will work with Friends in Unity with Nature on this topic.

Committee Reports, Continued

- Long Range Planning Committee (Mary Anne Curtiss)

This is an ad hoc committee to consider how we will pay for big-ticket meetinghouse expenses in the future. The committee is currently trying to gather good information on such expenses over the past decade or so.

6. A lobbying group will be meeting at Steve Chabot's district office tomorrow and on the 19th at Senator Portman's office. Friends who are led to participate in these or future meetings should contact Ken Bordwell.
7. The business meeting closed with a period of worship.


Paul

News from the **Peace Churches of Greater Cincinnati**, an informal network of 7 congregations, with 4 participating denominations, including the Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, Quakers, and Unitarian Universalists. Community Friends Meeting is a part of this network that helps share information and collaborates on peace and justice efforts.

Cincinnati Interfaith Workers' Center: They have started a campaign asking Kroger to support workers' rights in Florida. Farm workers at Immokalee handle virtually all the tomatoes grown in Florida outside of the normal growing season. They are well-organized and have convinced 11 leading corporations to advance the human rights and dignity of farmworkers (including McDonald's, Subway, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's). Now they want Kroger to sign on. If the workers could be paid 1 cent more per pound of tomatoes, they would be able to earn a living wage. Find a letter you can sign and send to Kroger, and learn more at: www.ciw-online.org

Tri-Meeting Friends Lobbying Group

The newly formed Tri-Meeting Friends Lobbying Group will meet on Wednesday, January 9th at 1p.m. at Cincinnati Friends. The group's objective is to lobby our local legislators in support of FCNL priorities (e.g. a current priority is to urge our legislators to reduce defense spending by \$1 trillion over the next decade). Although our primary task is to support the FCNL-chosen priorities, we have agreed as a group that local Friends with other issues to support through lobbying may come join us and gain some experience in the lobbying process.

We will have an ongoing monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. If anyone wishes to join us but is unable to make the afternoon meeting time, we also have agreed to be open to an evening meeting time in future. So don't let our scheduled time stop you from joining us in this rewarding effort!

Questions? Contact Donne Hayden, Frank Huss, Karen Arnett, Ken Bordwell.

Help Increase the Peace (HIP) training for young people ages 12-18 in Cincinnati

Lunch and training manual included

Registration is \$5.00-\$75.00 on a sliding scale basis.

Please pay what you can afford.

Saturday, Sunday & Monday February 16-18, 2013

9am– 4pm (each day)

From: Mary Kay Rehard, HIP Workshop Coordinator

The Peace Training is scheduled for February 16-18, 2013 (over the Presidents' Day holiday weekend). The training will follow American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) Help Increase the Peace (HIP) program, and the lead facilitator will be James "JT" Taylor, of Indianapolis IN. He has decades of experience in training youth in peace and communication skills.

The goal is to have about 15 youth from the peace church congregations join together with about 15 youth from the Avondale Youth Council. ***This first HIP workshop will produce some teens capable of serving as facilitators themselves***, in future workshops around Cincinnati. We are already hearing from organizations in different neighborhoods in Cincinnati that would like to participate in future HIP trainings, including the Baha'i Fellowship that has a youth outreach program in Westwood.

. This is a 3-day training, on February 16-18, 2013, held from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. all three days. In the workshop, your teen will gain skills in peacemaking, including communication and self-expression, creative problem-solving and conflict resolution, team-building, and leadership skills.

There are several ways that individuals can volunteer to help:

§ Provide food or beverages: to save money, we will be collecting donations for snacks and beverages for 30 participants, 3 facilitators, and up to 6 adult volunteers per day. Mary Ann Kokegne is coordinating the snacks and meals. Mary Kay can put you in touch with her if you'd like to help, or you can contact her directly by email: makids3@fuse.net

§ Adult Volunteers: we will need extra hands during the workshop to help with activities and to prepare, serve and clean-up for snacks and lunches all three days. You can volunteer for a morning or afternoon shift. Register online as an Adult Volunteer and indicate your availability! <http://hiptrainingcincinnati.eventbrite.com>

§ Help recruit youth: we hope to have 15 Youth Participants from the peace church congregations, paired with 15 youth from the Avondale Youth Council (at-risk youth in a neighborhood with significant urban violence). Talk to families with kids who are ages 12-18 in your congregation, put us in touch with your youth leader, and help us get them registered. You can download registration forms from the Peace Church blog, or register online at: <http://hiptrainingcincinnati.eventbrite.com>

§ Publicity—spread the word: Tell youth about it! They will gain leadership skills, they will be prepared to train others, and they will receive a certificate and facilitator's manual. This is a great service to the community (18-24 hours of workshop time, if they have required service hours at school), and will help build college applications. We hope to replicate this training in more communities around Cincinnati in coming years. The youth who are trained to be facilitators will have a chance to train others.

Contact Mary Kay Rehard, if you are interested in helping out with the youth peace training!

Email: mary.k.rehard@gmail.com Tel. 513.376.7768

The Children's Christmas Play was quite successful. It was directed by the teens and featured Morgan Ganance as Rudolf, Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson as Santa Claus, Cecelia Branson as Mrs. Claus, Toby Dean as the narrator, Elana Branson, Ava Mae Hartsock, and Charlotte Dean as elves, and Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, John David Sniegocki, and Charlotte Dean as reindeer.



Memories of the Childrens' Christmas Play, Continued...



QUAKERISM: A Course with Paul Buckley

Cincinnati Friends Meeting is pleased to offer to all Friends in Cincinnati and to anyone interested in finding out more about Friends a course with Paul Buckley.

Paul Buckley of Community Friends Meeting is a Quaker author and Adjunct Instructor in Quaker Studies at Earlham School of Religion. He is well-known among Friends for his book *21st Century Penn* and his works on Elias Hicks. This course will meet Thursday evenings (7:00-8:30). Each session contains “stand-alone” material, so if you miss a session or two, you can still attend at any time. Requested donation: \$5 per session or \$45 if pre-paid. (Scholarships available.) If you have questions, please contact Donne Hayden 513-207-5353 or cfmpublicfriend@gmail.com

January 3: Discernment

- a) What does it mean to “seek the will of God” (personally & corporately)?
- a) How can we know if we have found it?
- b) *Have you ever had the sense that God was giving you a leading? How did you test that feeling? What did you do about it?*

January 17: Meeting for Business

- a) How does a Quaker Business Meeting differ from an ordinary business meeting?
- b) How does the “sense of the meeting” differ from consensus?
- c) *Have you experienced a time when you felt clear that a business meeting discerned the will of God?*
- d) *What do you bring to and get out of business meeting?*

January 31: Nurturing the Inward Life

- a) What are the unique characteristics of prayer for Friends?
- b) How does a Quaker read the Bible?
- c) (Silence as a spiritual discipline)
- d) *What do you do to nurture your inward life?*

February 28: Peculiarities & Testimonies (Note date change- there is no class on Feb. 14)

- a) What are the Quaker Testimonies? (peace, simplicity, integrity, community, equality, environment, ???)
- b) Where did they come from? How were they formulated?
- c) Are they unique to Friends?
- d) What is the difference between a testimony and a personal belief or spiritual practice?
- e) Can Quaker religious beliefs and social concerns be separated?
- f) *How have the testimonies been “a cross to your conscience”? Should all Friends obey the Testimonies?*
- g) *How would we know if there was a new testimony? Is there something you think might be one?*

March 14: Other Issues & Diversity among Friends

- a) In what ways do issues of Christianity, doctrine, method of worship, women’s roles, sexuality, etc. vary among the different branches of Friends?
 - b) On what significant issues do all Friends agree?
 - c) Is there a common core – some set of shared characteristics, beliefs, or values – that unites the branches of the Religious Society of Friends?
 - d) *Do these things matter to you? Do you think it makes any difference in the grand scheme of things?*
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Workshops are the heart of the Gathering experience for most Friends. Each workshop meets every morning throughout the Gathering. A typical workshop has 15-20 registrants. Here's a small taste of the variety that we are being offered this year:

Discerning Life Direction One Step at a Time (Valerie Brown)
Art as Meditation: Introduction to Zentangle® (Sadelle Wiltshire and Ann Coakley)
Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow (Laura Magnani and Jim Webb)
Sacred Circle Dance: Dancing in the Light (Joan Rawles-Davis)

And there are lots more! Browse the entire list at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/workshops>

Early registration does not guarantee workshop choice. Even if you register on April 3, the day registration opens; you are not guaranteed to get your first choice. During early registration (April 3-14) all registrations are treated equally. That means that if your favorite workshop is oversubscribed by April 14, then on April 15 Gathering staff conduct a lottery to see who will actually be able to take that workshop. This is why we ask early registrants to pick both a first and second choice workshop. Luckily, you have more than four dozen to choose among!

When registration re-opens April 20, new registrants enroll directly into any workshop that has available space. (After early registration, you'll find that some are full.)



Pre-Gathering Mountain Excursion

During a recent trip to Colorado, I took a very brief visit to Rocky Mountain National Park, and I'm so glad I did! It was remarkable to spend even a couple hours in this awe-inspiring terrain. I invite you to consider arriving early at Greeley to participate in a day-long bus tour into the Rockies. A mountain excursion is being offered both Saturday June 29 and Sunday June 30.

(A mid-week field trip will go into the foothills. There may be also being one mid-week trip that journeys very briefly into the Rockies. Distance and traffic will not allow a substantial field trip all the way into Rocky

Mountain National Park during the Gathering itself.)

New for 2013: Anchor Groups

This year the Gathering is experimenting with anchor groups to provide an opportunity (in addition to workshops) to get to know a small group of people well. Each anchor group will evolve organically. We imagine most groups will be a combination of check-in, worship-sharing, and playful activities. Friends may choose a general group or a more focused anchor group (Christian Friends, contemplative, or half older-half younger adults). *[Photo by Mike Goren.]*



Gathering Fees

Fees have three parts: Program, Lodging, and Meals. If you are registering as part of a family, please study the definition of "Family" Program Fee. FGC's expansive definition of family does not mean that this fee pertains to all families.

Remember, financial aid is available! Thanks to a generous donor, this year we have twice the scholarship funds than we do in other years. Travel grants are also available for western children and teens.

Off-Site Camping

Camping this year is only available off-site. Campgrounds expect to fill early. Not only is July the heart of tourist season, June 28-July 7 are also the dates of the very popular Greeley Stampede. If you are considering camping, make your reservations SOON. See the web site for campground info.

People around the Meeting: Marlane Souder

Marlane has been a member for 2-3 years. When asked what drew her to the Meeting, she tells the story "a long, long time ago there was a Memorial Service for Maurice McCracken whom she has always admired. Community Friends had a table at the service with literature. She picked up some info and said 'This is it!'" She lives with her daughter and husband and their 3 kids. All together she has 11 grandchildren. Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs states "She works harder than all of us baby-sitting her grandchildren." Below Marlane enjoys visiting with Jennifer Wolff and Marjorie.





Plan now to come to the Section Meeting next March

Registration for the 2013 Meeting of the Section of the Americas, March 14-17, 2013, will begin very soon. Check our website for newly added information on this event which will take place at Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Morgantown, Indiana.

Friends from around the world - including members of the FWCC governing body, the Central Executive Committee - will share news from Friends in Europe & the Middle East, Africa, Asia & the West Pacific and Latin America. Representatives from affiliated yearly meetings in Latin America will be present. The FWCC Section Meeting is conducted bilingually in English and Spanish.

Saturday's schedule will feature a young adult-led program on the theme "Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God's purposes." Local Friends are invited to register for this opportunity to participate in an FWCC event along with Quakers from around the globe. This event will conclude with a celebration of FWCC's 75th anniversary. All Friends are welcome to attend the Section Meeting and/or the Saturday "Living Water" program. Advance registration is required.

For questions consult our website: <http://fwccamericas.org>

Future of the Young Friends

Cincinnati Monthly Meeting has had little luck in finding a new Young Friends Leader to replace Rachel Ernst. Travis Etling, Clerk of the Cincinnati Friends Young Friend Committee and Hedi Scheidel have been acting in that capacity throughout the fall. Because of his own busy schedule, however, Travis has asked to be released as Clerk of the committee and both Travis and Hedi have asked to be released from the being the acting Young Friends Leaders. The next scheduled Young Friends Game Night is January 4. On that night, Cincinnati Friends asks that Young Friends, their parents and any other interested parties meet at 6:30 at Cincinnati Friends Meeting House to discuss how or if they should proceed without a Young Friends Leader. Please call Donne Hayden at 207-5353 with any questions.

Request from Jennifer Wolff

Please save last year's calendars and pictures for her.

Please review the below Vision from OVYM and send or call your responses to Deborah Jordan djordan@fuse.net or 513-251-2558 Community's OVYM Executive representative in preparation for discernment at Meeting for Business Jan. 13th.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Vision about our youth programs

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Religious Nurture and Education has formulated the following list of queries for our monthly meetings to discuss and prayerfully consider.

At Yearly Meeting, Ben Griffith reported on the Visioning process on behalf of Religious Nurture and Education. The committee recommends that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting corporately discern its programs for children, middle youth, teens and young adults, seeking clarity and a new vision about these groups...Friends accepted the report and approved the recommendations included in the report... (8.2012)

Please respond to the following queries on the Middle Youth Program, the Teen Program and the Intergenerational Yearly Meeting by 2nd Month Executive Committee. (February 3, 2012)

Middle Youth Program

☐ At a number of recent sessions we have heard very moving reports from the Middle Youth Committee for more involvement. (Most all of this year's record number of teens passed through the Middle Youth Program.) Some have suggested that it is time to hire a Youth Secretary for middle youth as we have already done for the teens. Is your meeting ready to support the additional cost of a new Middle Youth Secretary? (This could lead to a suggested increase in the proportional share per member or \$10-\$13.)

Teen Program

☐ The teen program is very active and robust right now. Has your meeting ever had any teens involved with the program? Has your meeting ever had any adults active in working/volunteering in the program? Does your meeting feel well informed about the teen program?

☐ Are there ways the program can be improved? Are there any concerns about the program?

☐ One goal the teen program has adopted is to try to raise funds to pay for one major trip once every four years. (The last major trip was taken to Alaska in 2009.) Is your meeting aware of this effort? If any of your teens have ever traveled on an OVYM teen trip, did your meeting take the time to hear a report on his/her experience?

The Intergenerational Yearly Meeting

☐ There has been a higher level of interest in creating a more genuinely intergenerational YM, with room for aged-defined groups to gather separately, but also more opportunity for everybody to come together more often. Are adults, in particular, willing to give up some of our usual activities for more intergenerational ones? Are there ways to do this outside of yearly meeting session?