

Community Companion

Quaker House:
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www.communityfriendsmeeting.org
<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>



Remembering
Agnes Moon

Volume 20, Issue 7 July, 2014

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Assistant Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

Recording Clerk:

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Submissions for the August newsletter due by:
Monday, July 28, 2014 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

There are limited second hours (11:45 to 12:45) during the summer months

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|---------|---|
| July 13 | Meeting for worship with attention to business after the rise of Meeting for Worship |
| July 11 | 6:00 Welcome event for new member: Susan Gerke. See page 5 |
| July 12 | tentative date for the Memorial Meeting for Agnes Moon |
| July 19 | excursion to the Levi Coffin Home in Indiana. See page 5 |
| July 20 | Second hour: Presentation on Memorial Societies, Green Burial, etc. (Todd Fowler of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Cincinnati) See page 4. |

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| July 30-August 3 | Save the date for OVYM at Earlham College. See page 4 for more info |
| Sept. 6-7 | Save the date for the Community Friends Renewal at Quaker Knoll near Wilmington, OH. |

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Caretakers: Alan Wight and Grace Conrad Childcare: Katelyn Buckman

Seventh Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Religious Fellowship

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 implications of those principles?

June 8, 2014 Business Meeting Summary

Prepared by Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

The meeting opened with a period of worship during which the clerk read a summary of Quaker business process by Terry Wallace from "Misunderstanding Quaker Faith and Practice," *Friends Journal*, January 2007. An **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Budget Request** was considered. Our contribution to support the work of OVYM for the current fiscal year is due at this time. The amount was more than we expected, but we **approved** meeting the commitment as soon as we can, trusting the Spirit to lead people to target the contribution box. OVYM has requested a slightly larger donation for the year starting July 1. That increase to \$8880 was **approved**.

Religious Development Committee reported that there is a new summer child care provider, Katelyn Buckman, and we've started the summer program.

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** held an organizational meeting on June 1. The committee decided to meet at 9AM on the first Sunday of each month.

Some Second Hours are planned for the summer and fall:

- June 22 – Threshing Session on divestment from fossil fuels (FUN Committee)
- June 29 – Spiritual Journey
- July 20 – Presentation on Memorial Societies, Green Burial, etc. (Todd Fowler of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Cincinnati)
- August 31 – Spiritual Journey
- September 28 – Consideration of the meeting's use of electronic media (Doug Burks)

Sixteen 2013-14 Inreach Group assessments have been returned. The results are:

Did your Inreach Group meet your expectations? 14 Yes / 2 No

Did participation enhance your spiritual life? 13 Yes / 1 No / 2 blank

Did it enhance your sense of the meeting as a community? 16 Yes / 0 No

Do you want to have a new set of Inreach Groups starting in the fall? 14 Yes / 1 No / 1 Maybe

Are there topics you would suggest?

- Perspectives on Race Relations
- The Development of Creeds
- The Quaker Understanding of Creeds
- Quakers in the 21st Century
- Leading a Good Life
- Leading a Balanced Life
- Bible
- Poetry (either writing or reading)
- Sharing Spiritual Journeys
- Quakers & Prayer
- Living Simply
- Living Green
- Sharing our Work Lives

Would you be interested in leading a group? 1 Yes / 7 No / 7 Maybe / 1 Blank

Do you believe we are ready to engage in outreach to the surrounding community through an activity such as Quaker Quest? 4 Yes / 0 No / 11 Maybe / 1 Blank

In addition, one email was received from an individual who was unable to participate in an Inreach Group due to a lack of transportation and who asked that we consider how to help all meeting members to participate.

June 8, 2014 Business Meeting Summary, continued

The August 16th, “Exploring Quaker Diversity” event is shaping up. The presenters are: Dale Graves, current Presiding Clerk of Western Yearly Meeting (FUM), Carole Spencer, a recorded minister in Friends Church-Northwest (Evangelical Friends International) and Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality at the Earlham School of Religion, Fran Tabor, a well-known member of the Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and Dan Coppock, a young Adult Friend who grew up in Eastern Hills Meeting and is currently the Maintenance Director at Olney Friends School.

Stewardship and the **Friends in Unity with Nature Committees** are planning a June 22nd threshing session on issues related to divesting from fossil fuels.

The **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** believes the “The New Jim Crow” book discussion and the movie, “Broken on All Sides,” were well received. Participants were engaged and interested; the discussions were earnest and raised awareness about the character and effects of the criminal justice system.

A page is being created for the meeting’s web site to highlight the committee’s issues of concern and to provide a means for taking action. A mock-up of the page has been reviewed by them.

The committee recommended that the meeting consider sponsoring a Quaker Volunteer Service House in Cincinnati. They feel this request follows where Life has been rising in the meeting. They noted that supporting a QVS house would require a significant commitment from the meeting.

Foundation questions considered included: Is there interest and do we want to do this? Should we reach out to other meetings? Moving forward, it was determined that inclusion of other meetings should take place. The business meeting **approved** taking time to answer the queries and exploring the idea.

Community Committee is in the process of planning another Quakerfest on October 5th.

Ministry & Counsel Committee is planning a series of Quakerism 101 classes in the fall for newcomers and others who are interested. They noted Deborah Fisch from FGC’s Traveling Ministers Program will be leading a workshop at Joint Quarterly Meeting on nurturing ministry.

The Meeting Renewal will be held September 6 at Quaker Knoll. The committee is planning a more open day of reflection and worship sharing, without a paid facilitator.

In order to keep the library open for those who would like to use it after the rise of meeting, the member of M&C will be available on the window seat of the staircase landing.

In response to concerns about Second Hours getting later and later in the day, they recommend that the meeting set the time for Second Hour discussions from 11:45 to 12:45. **Approved.** They will also request that non-meeting announcements be limited to one sentence to keep the end of meeting time to a more reasonable length. Byron Branson’s Memorial Minute was read, shortened slightly, and **approved.**

House and Grounds Committee reviewed a list of ongoing projects.

The **Web Clerk** reported a noticeable amount of new information being shared on the website and encouraged further there. He reminded the meeting that anyone can post to the website.

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions are planned and registration materials are in the *Quill*. The idea of scheduling future sessions a week earlier in the year will be discussed at the sessions.

The yearly meeting is looking for a middle youth coordinator (job description available).

The teen overnight will be held at Fall Creek Meeting. This year’s teen service trip will be to Philadelphia and to Costa Rica next year. The teens will be making a financial request for the Costa Rica trip.

Welcome gathering for newest member: Susan Gerke

There will be a welcoming for Susan Gerke and family on Friday, July 11th at 6pm. We will have a taco bar and fruit bar for dessert. Please contact Jamie Fota about what we need for the dinner (she has the sign-up sheet) by Monday, July 7. Thanks! (Jamie's number is 559-9642)



Second hour on July 20
Presentation on Memorial Societies, Green Burial, etc.
(Todd Fowler of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Cincinnati)
Arranged by Jean Crocker-Lakness

Query: Have I made provisions for the settlement of all outward affairs so that others may not be burdened and so that I may be freed to live fully in the Truth?

From the Book of Discipline of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends: "Friends are encouraged to foster the growth of memorial societies for simple burial or cremation".

The Funeral Consumers Alliance (a Memorial Society) educates and advocates on behalf of consumers. Todd Fowler is popularly known as "The consumers Funeral Director", helping consumers save money and avoid traditional funeral scams. He has a deep, consuming interest in assisting consumers in finding the right services for themselves and loved ones, while being aware of an appropriate and practical approach to final expenses. He is knowledgeable about green burials and has information on a Cincinnati location for green burials. I have spoken to him about the possibility of green burials on the Meeting's property. He can give us information on this issue.

Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral. They do for funeral purchases what Consumer Reports does for products. They have been protecting a consumer's right to choose meaningful, dignified and affordable funerals since 1963. For more information visit their web site: www.funerals.org

Note from the Religious Development Committee:

Religious Development thanks all those who have taught First Day school or shared worship practices this past year. We welcome Friends to sign up to spend time with the children on a Sunday morning over the summer. Lead an activity, share a book, etc. Katelyn, our childcare provider, will also be present. Contact Rachel Dean to sign up.

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING: July 30-August 3 at Earlham College, Richmond, IN

194th Session: Living Up to Our Light

Plenary Speakers: George Lakey and Susan Stark.

Register by July 1 to avoid late fees.

To register: visit OVYM's web site www.quaker.org/ovym

Day trip to Levi Coffin Home - July 19

If you're interested in a tour of the Indiana home of Levi Coffin, the Quaker "President of the Underground Railroad" - and an enjoyable road trip with members of Community Friends - please join us on Saturday, July 19, 2014 for an excursion to the Coffin Home in Indiana -

We plan to get together at the meeting house in the morning for the drive (about an hour & a half) and take a guided tour of the home, a National Historic Landmark in Fountain City, Indiana.

<http://www.indianamuseum.org/explore/levi-coffin-house>

The charge for the tour (about 1 1/2 hours) is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (children under 6 are free).

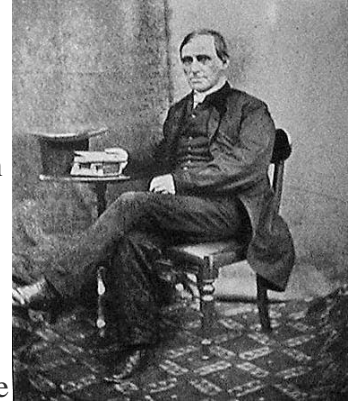
If you'd like to go, or have any questions, contact Elyce at elycefeliz@zoomtown or [513-351-1254](tel:513-351-1254) - we'll need to have a count to let the tour guides at the Levi Coffin Home know how many are coming -

Depending on the weather, we'd like to picnic at the park in town - we can either pack lunches, or, Janice McGuire, manager at the Levi Coffin House, said there is an Amish store in town with a bakery & deli that makes good sandwiches.

For whoever is interested, we may take a Nature walk afterwards.

Further information will be posted on the Community Friends Quaker Cloud website as we find out who wants to go, and discuss details & preferences for the arrangements -

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting/events/levi-coffin-house-road-trip>



QUAKER JOKES

A particular professor was known to have a sour disposition, and one day he barked at his class, "If there are any utter ignoramuses here, please stand up!" After a long silence, one friend in gray slowly stood up. "I see," said the professor, "so you admit to being a total ignoramus, then?" "Um, not exactly, Friend," replied the boy, "but I do hate to see thee standing up there by thyself."

Q. What do you get when you cross a Quaker with a Jehovah's Witness?

A. Someone who knocks on your door, and then says absolutely nothing for an hour.

Friend Jones sat down to his breakfast with the day's newspaper. He was shocked when he turned to the obituaries page, to find an announcement of his own demise. He immediately pulled out his cell phone and called the clerk of his Friend's Meeting. "Has thee seen the announcement of my death in the newspaper?" he asked the clerk. "Errr, yes," responded the clerk. Then after an uncomfortable pause he added, "... Um, where exactly is thee calling from?"

Q. How do Friends start a race?

A. Ready.....set.....go when the Spirit moves you!

Quaker farmer hears a noise downstairs, and he sneaks out to take a look. He sees a burglar ransacking his living room, so he goes back to his room to get his bird gun. He sneaks downstairs and, aiming the shotgun at the man's back, he says, "Pardon me, Friend, but thou art standing right where I'm about to shoot."

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the pages. "Momma, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered, "It's Adam's suit!"