

# Community Companion

## Monthly Newsletter of

# Community Friends

## Meeting

July 2018 Volume 24, Issue 7

Quaker Meeting House

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

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Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.

~ Job 12: 7-8

For me, trees have always been the most penetrating preachers . . .

Whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth.

~ Hermann Hesse

In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence.

~ Robert Lynd

### **Queries for July 2018:**

*How does simplicity guide my days?*

*How does our meeting practice simplicity?*

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

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

***Second Hour at 11:40 am - except in summer months***

***First Sunday of Month: Carry-in Potluck - except in summer months***

*Community Committee asks that if you bring something that needs to be heated before eating, please attach brief instructions to your container. Also, it's helpful to mention the name & ingredients of the dish - thanks!*

*We appreciate and encourage locally grown food when possible.*

<b>Jul 1-7, Sun-Sat</b>	<b>2018 Friends General Conference Gathering</b> , University of Toledo, Ohio Information on the Gathering and on registration online at <a href="https://www.fgcquaker.org/">https://www.fgcquaker.org/</a>
<b>Jul 8 - Sun</b>	Second Hour: <b>Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business</b>
<b>Jul 10 - Tues</b>	<b>Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) - 6:30 pm</b> (tentative)
<b>Jul 12 - Thurs</b>	<b>Tender Mercies - 2nd Thursday Dinner</b> <i>Contact David or Lynn Funck for more information about contributing food or serving.</i>  <b>Holistic Mental Health Network meeting - 7:00 pm</b> <i>Theater and the Healing of Trauma led by Leah Jenkins</i>
<b>Jul 15 - Sun</b>	<b>Annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic</b> , hosted by Miami. Members and friends of OVYM are invited to attend. <b>10am for worship</b> and the picnic will follow in the pavilion - rain will not cancel the event.
<b>Jul 21 - Sat</b>	<b>Work Day: 10am-4pm</b> <i>There will be both indoor and outdoor projects, for all skill levels. Lunch will be provided. Workdays are always a good time to socialize, meet new people, get exercise and have fun.</i>
<b>Jul 22 - Sun</b>	<b><u>Submissions for the August newsletter due</u></b> to Elyce - <a href="mailto:elycefeliz@gmail.com">elycefeliz@gmail.com</a>
<b>Jul 29 - Sun</b>	<b>No Second Hours for Summer</b>

## July Birthdays

15-Alison Wolff, 16-Sue Brungs, 22-Malcolm Morriss, 22-Lisa Cayard, 24-Nathan Rhein



## Celebrating Don Rucknagel's 90th Birthday

Dylan Cahalan and Don Rucknagel got wiggy with it at Don's birthday party at the meeting house in May.



# The Buffam Family has gone to Sweden!

Lena, Sam, Sophie and Ishi Buffam are moving from Cincinnati to the southwestern coast of Sweden for a year's stay. Ishi is taking a sabbatical from the University of Cincinnati to work at the Swedish University of Agriculture's campus in Alnarp.



On Sunday, June 17th, we wished them Bon Voyage with a going-away party that included a special cake made by our culinary artist, Tom Zalla. Although many Friends were at OVYM or travelling, Lynn Funck brought a going-away card on Sunday the 10th for people to sign with their best wishes, which we gave the family on the 17th.

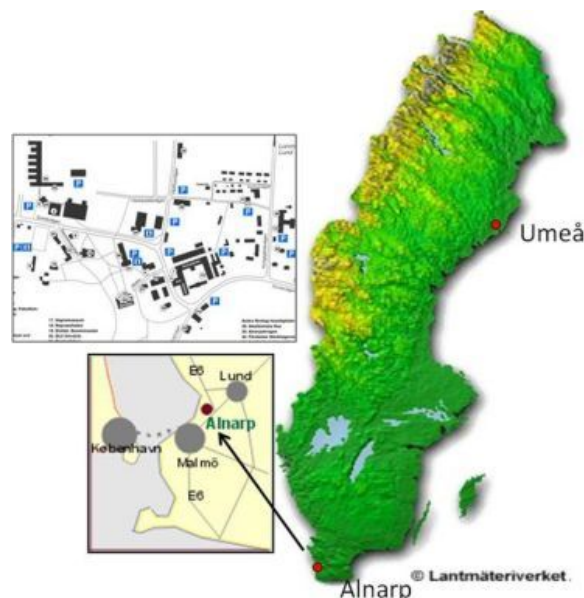
Ishi will be studying the long-term development of green roof systems (A green roof system is an extension of the existing roof which involves, at a minimum, high quality water-proofing, root repellent system, drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium, and plants). At the Alnarp campus, the main activities concern landscape architecture, horticulture, plant production,

agriculture and silviculture. Alnarp Castle is surrounded by Alnarp Park, with 2,500 or so species of plants; trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants from all four corners of the earth are represented.

The family will be living in a light-filled apartment in Lomma, a coastal town north of Malmö, the third-largest city in Sweden. They will be using bicycles as their main means of getting around. Sam and Sophie will be attending Bjerred Montessori school, which has a website <https://www.montessoribjerred.se/>, for those of you who read Swedish. . . There is also a photo of the school <https://www.montessoribjerred.se/index.php/kontakt>

The map to the right shows the location of Alnarp, as well as Umeå, where Lena and Ishi got their graduate degrees.

Ishi has promised to email us updates and photos of their new home and community.



# ***June Meeting with Emily Garlock, Congressman Steve Chabot's Constituent Liaison***

*by Doug Burks*



On June 6, 2018, Doug Burks, Don Rucknagel, Larry Gerke, Susan Gerke and Harvey Tharp, met with Emily Garlock, Congressman Steve Chabot's Constituent Liaison to discuss H.R. 4837 "No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act"

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4837>

to prevent preemptive war in North Korea , and the Joint

Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists Resolution now in the Congress. They also began a discussion on Climate change. The discussion lasted around an hour and it was a good exchange. Doug Burks started the discussion by outlining our purpose for the meeting. He then discussed the cost of war which includes military cost, economic cost (especially due to loss of South Korea trade), relationship with other nations, increased terrorism and loss of life. He then described that declaring war is a Congressional duty and not an executive one by describing Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution and early federalist writings on the issue. He argued that Congress needs to assert it war powers authority and that Congress was more likely to use sound judgement.

Larry Gerke discussed the need for diplomacy. He began by describing what diplomacy is and the need for trained, skilled diplomats who have the experience and knowledge of history to work effectively. He expressed that there is a need to tone down the rhetoric and ultimatums and to enter negotiations over time to come to resolution of differences. Both Larry and Susan stated that we need more diplomats and money put into diplomacy. The cost of military conflict is high both in people and resources. Larry also expressed that such diplomacy needs to be multilateral, including other nations with a stake in the outcome and not solely with North Korea. Susan added that we needed to build confidence that we will keep agreements, since we have broken some recently. It was also argued that more money needs to be allocated to the State Department for increasing the diplomatic pool. Since Representative Chabot is on the Foreign Affairs committee, he should take a leadership role in making it happen.

Don Rucknagel spoke on Thomas Jefferson's view, that he feared by putting war in a president's hands, one person is more likely to make mistake in a decision. Congress in debating an issue has input from many. He then spoke about the fact that many nations have nuclear weapons, including China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, the United States, India, Pakistan, and NATO-member nuclear weapons sharing states (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey), besides North Korea. He also stated that our CIA in 2007 said that Iran was not developing a nuclear weapon because they did not have enough centrifuges to produce military grade nuclear product. We worked out an agreement with Iran about nuclear weapons, so what is the urgent concern with North Korea? He said that he believed the North Korea wants the weapon as a deterrent and that a nuclear exchange is not a high likelihood now. Don stated that we need to support limits on executive power and that Congress needs to act on legislation to limit executive power. It is Congress's duty. Doug added that we ask Representative Chabot to work to strengthen limits of executive of force in the AUMF joint resolution and to add a sunset clause. Support for the AUMF and HR4487 has been bipartisan.

Harvey Tharp introduced our concern about Climate Change. He started by describing the idea of tipping points in climate change: he showed a short video on the release of methane from melting permafrost (swamps) which can be exploded when methane under pressure is released. Methane release is now a major contributor of greenhouse gas release in the United States. Several other tipping points were described. He presented data on



the correlation of CO2 levels and surface temperature. The relationship between CO2 levels and temperature is complex because of feedback loops, with the oceans being major CO2 sinks, but the science is well understood and humans have disrupted the feedback circuit. Chabot in 2010 said in a speech that the evidence of a human cause driving climate change was not conclusive. We argued that it is, and too many studies now support this conclusion: we don't need to be spending money on more such research. We need to spend our resources on prevention, mitigation and remediation. Susan stated that the House has an obligation to do this funding because of their oversight of the budget. The evidence on the melting of ice sheets is another clear indication. Don pointed out that we are all part of the problem, and the solutions, because of our use of energy. He discussed air conditioning which he did not have when he was growing up. We hope to discuss three major areas that we need to address with climate change in our next meeting. These are limiting release of greenhouse gases, remediation (such as geothermal and other interventions) to cool temperatures, and mitigation to lessen the impact of changes.

Susan Gerke ended our visit by talking about the obligation we have to our grandchildren. We need to reduce military spending so they do not suffer the consequences of war. We need to reduce the cost of the spending on military so that they are not laden with the debt. We need to leave them a world that will sustain them. Addressing military/war expenses and climate change economic cost now will enable us to spend more on education, childhood social services, poverty reduction a better future.

Everyone expressed their appreciation to Emily for her careful listening and good discussion. We expressed our hope for feedback from Representative Chabot. We ended with group pictures.



## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

### Sixth Month, June 10, 2018

1. **Opening Worship:** *"Mysticism...is a vital discovery of the divine Life revealing itself here and now in and through a group of persons who are bent on transmitting that Life. It is mysticism not of solitude and self-keeping; it is practical mysticism of life and action."* - Rufus Jones. New Studies in Mystical Religion.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Our expenses continue to slightly outpace our income for the month of May but we are at 11% Expenses on Hand which is over our goal of 6%. Our Water and Sewer bill was higher than expected but the most recent bill had a credit so we think that it was an accidental overcharge. Our phone bill has gone up this year and it was suggested that we try calling Cincinnati Bell and seeing if we can get our bill lowered. The report was accepted.
3. **Nominating Committee Report:** We have obtained nominees for all standing committees for the 2018-2019 meeting year, except for Assistant Recording Clerk. We have, so far, been unable to fill this position. It is also unclear to us whether the Nominating Committee is responsible for soliciting OVYM positions; we have the impression that we do not. Consequently, those positions where the incumbent opted to not renew are not filled. It was particularly difficult to find suitable and willing candidates for Assistant Presiding Clerk. This is partly due to the large number of standing committees we have, in relation to our membership base, but also due to the four-year commitment required for this position as currently structured. Consequently, some members of the Nominating Committee believe that the meeting should consider reducing the length of time required for this position or allow co-clerking, perhaps between the clerk and the assistant clerk or between two co-clerks. We also suggest that the Meeting consider reducing the number of standing committees in favor of ministries led by one or more Friends who solicit or draw others to a particular ministry and who would report on their activities to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, making that committee an umbrella committee for such ministries. The Tender Mercies Ad Hoc Group and the Unity with Nature

Committee could be considered for such a structure with the varying issues now covered by UN becoming ministries driven by whomever feels strongly enough about an issue to spearhead the Meeting's response to it. Such efforts would require a consensus building approach in order to draw additional Friends to an issue. We still need an Assistant Recording Clerk. The report was accepted and there was discussion by the wider meeting about the terms of presiding and assistant clerk as well as the structure of committees. People with experience as clerks felt that the current terms were appropriate. Friends were reminded that all but Ministry and Council committee meetings are open, and nominating committee should not feel undue pressure to fill every possible slot, and to allow room for the committee members themselves to recruit people to help as needed. It was also noted that Nominating Committee had more pressure than normal because Ministry and Council named the committee later than normal. Nominating Committee should normally have been named starting in December. There was discussion about Community Committee and if they need more members. No action items or changes were proposed at this time.

4. **Nominating Committee Action Item:** The Nominating Committee presented the final names for their Officer and Committee recommendations. With the usual editing and correcting we finally arrived at a final report and it was approved. The final report will be sent out on the email list.
5. Community Friends minuted their appreciation of hard work of the nominating committee.
6. The minutes from the 5th Month Business Meeting were not approved. To avoid time constraints the minutes will be sent out on the list serve and approved at 7th Month Business Meeting.
7. Minutes 1-6 were approved.
8. **Peace and Social Concerns:** The committee met on June 4th to discuss the 2nd hour on May 20th. There was a survey sent out based on that work. They discussed the Ashville minute and as a result the committee had a question about our current investment policy. The clerk believes that Community Friends does have a minuted statement on their divestment from fossil fuels, and we do continually evaluate if our investment funds reflect our values, but we have not had a formal minute divesting from anything else. She will find the minute and send it out on the email list. Peace and Social Concerns will be tasked with writing a minute that explicitly outlines our investment policy. The report was accepted.
9. **Stewardship Committee:** No Report
10. **Library Committee:** No Report
11. **Ministry and Council:** A report was shared from the Ministry Support & Oversight Committee for Paulette Meier. Her trip to England seems in good order. Diann Herzog will be accompanying her as a spiritual elder.

**Presiding Clerk:**

Mary Anne Curtiss

**Assistant Presiding Clerk:**

Doug Burks

**Recording Clerk:**

Lisa Cayard

**Treasurer:**

Lynn Funck

**Ministry and Counsel:**

Lisa Cayard

Sarah Hoffman

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

John Sniegocki

Mary Anne Curtiss (ex officio)

Sunny Rhein (SA)

SA= special assignment

**Caretakers:** John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe

**Directory Editor:** Frank Huss

**Newsletter:** Elyce Benke [elycefeliz@gmail.com](mailto:elycefeliz@gmail.com)

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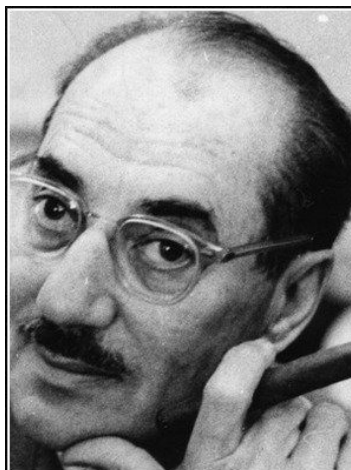
**Miami Quarterly Meeting Rep/Quaker Quill:**

Deborah Jordan [djordan@fuse.net](mailto:djordan@fuse.net)

Besides her various presentations, she will be going on a Quaker Pilgrimage. Pam Cobey will be on that Pilgrimage as well. Paulette has received some financial support in addition to her music ministry fund. She is feeling the light coming through. She is traveling with a minute from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. This support group will meet quarterly. An update on Nominating Committee's work was reviewed. They are working hard. Ministry and Counsel will support their work as needed. The members of the Nominating Committee are Tom Zalla, Sue Brungs, Susan Gerke, Tim Leonard, and Wilhelmina Branson. Mary Anne is willing to work on a Memorial Minute for Marlane Souder Lisa shared Marlane's obituary. Plans for the Fall Renewal were discussed. Lisa will send out a survey and bring copies to the Meeting to get input on possible plans. Pastoral Care needs were discussed. The date for the next meeting is June 24th. The report was accepted.

12. **Community Committee:** No Report
13. **House and Grounds:** Front door knobs replaced and repaired and it cost \$200. The door should reliably latch now. Replacing would have costed over \$1,000 to replace the entire lock. The Caretaker's bathroom sink was leaking downstairs. The cost for a new sink, pipes, and repair was \$995. One apple tree was replaced. Lesser Selendine and Poison Ivy were sprayed with Roundup early in the season. These are the only things they spray. Next work day will be July 21st. The report was accepted.
14. **Religious Development:** Religious Development Committee met on June 3. Committee members and the children signed a thank you card to mail to Sarah Rudolph, our wonderful child care provider for the past three years. A flyer will be posted at Xavier to seek a new child care provider. Plans were made to cover child care during the summer. John David has agreed to provide child care in June and July. Jim Rhein has tightened all the screws on the climber. He will also purchase some needed classroom supplies. A family with three children has begun attending meeting, a welcome addition. The report was accepted.
15. **Adult Religious Education:** No Report
16. **Unity with Nature Committee:** No Report
17. **Outreach Committee:** It was noted that the Festival of Faith will have a Quaker table and volunteers are needed. Jean will email Jim Newbie to see Cincinnati Friends would like to coordinate. The report was accepted.
18. Minutes 6-17 were approved.
19. **Newsletter Committee:** No Report
20. **Tender Mercies:** Continuing to do well.
21. **FCNL Lobbying Group:** They met with the constituent consultant for Steve Chabot to talk about war with North Korea, Authorization of Use of Military Force Joint House Resolution 87, and a short discussion about climate change. The report was accepted.
22. **MARCC Delegates Council:** The new FC Soccer stadium and the effect it will have on the community in the West End were discussed. The report was accepted.
23. Minutes 18-22 were accepted.
24. Closing Worship

**Quaker  
Humor:  
LIGHTEN  
UP!**



If you find it hard to laugh at  
yourself, I would be happy to do it  
for you.

— Groucho Marx —



## ***Paulette Meier and Pam Cobey in England***

*Email from Paulette*

*Photos by Diann Hartsock and Paulette*

“This photo is of the workshop I led for Friends from two meetings: Oxford and Burford. The meeting was very old, dating back to 1709, and it seemed that the Quaker ancestors were present, enriching everyone’s voice as we sang these words from the earliest Quakers.”



“The walk up Pendle Hill seemed not too bad at first, but about half way up I’d decided to give up, it was so steep and difficult. Pam and Diann wisely did not tackle it. A local woman coming back down chatted with me while I was resting, and when she found out the purpose of my being in England, she insisted I must try it. I’m glad I did, although my knees aren’t! “



“The last photo (Pam and Paulette) is from Firbank Fell, the place where Fox found his “great people to be gathered,” — over a thousand independent “seekers” who were here for a big Pentecost Sunday celebration. A very windy place, surrounded by low lying mountains, it’s hard to imagine him speaking in the wind for three hours.”





# ***Quaker House Fayetteville, North Carolina***

*by H.T. Tharp*

My first Quaker House event was only partly sponsored by them. It was March of 2005, the first large-scale march by Iraq Veterans Against the War, to mark the two-year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. We marched through part of Fayetteville with Vietnam Veterans Against the War behind us, along with the left-wing ANSWER coalition (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) <http://www.answercoalition.org/> and the peace churches who held together for much of the protest movement before splitting up over political disagreements.



At the time I was still on terminal leave from having resigned my commission in protest in the Navy. I was a member of the American Legion, and their National Commander released a statement just before the march saying he was opposed to our participating as it could send the wrong message of nonsupport to serving troops. At the time, though, Iraq Veterans Against the War had members both in the military, including me, and actively serving in Iraq. It's been an unfortunate trend, seeing the Legion during the Trump era become a kind of appendage of right-wing politics with the notable exception of their opposition to privatization of the VA. Back to the March: it was noticeably short, but at the same time the dozens of Vietnam Veterans Against the War members arrayed behind us were getting on in years, so perhaps just as well.

In March 2006 the "Walkin' to New Orleans" March with Hurricane Katrina survivors, U.S. veterans and other activists demanded rebuilding of the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. We walked from Mobile, Alabama to New Orleans, Louisiana. I got back to Fayetteville afterwards and met the Director of Quaker House, Chuck Fager for the first time at a roundtable discussion with war resisters. One of the resistor's stories struck me because we had both been in the Air Force at the same time, and news coverage of him seeking conscientious objector status as a physician had been very negative. His argument that doctors could become effective combatants has since been vindicated, as the military has turned their physicians at times into the equivalent of ringside physicians, to patch up their troops and send them back into combat, instead of heal them. Chuck explained the purpose of Quaker House, and it was quite noteworthy when he related hearing that the commanding general at Fort Bragg had told his staff to keep their soldiers away from Quaker House if at all possible. At the time, their efforts to support conscientious objectors were only successful about one seventh of the time, even with a highly supported application.

The next year I was leaving to study Arabic in Yemen for at least six months, but as luck would have it my roommates secured a beachfront condo on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Chuck had asked me earlier about doing some appearances that summer to raise money for Quaker House. This gave me reliable transportation as at the time I was experiencing insomnia to where I wasn't up to such a long drive. I met with three groups of potential donors. After my return from Yemen, I moved to Oregon for several years. Chuck retired, though he's in my clique of active Facebook Friends.



## ***The Ministry of Nature***

Once upon a time, when women were birds, there was the simple understanding that to sing at dawn and to sing at dusk was to heal the world through joy.

The birds still remember what we have forgotten, that the world is meant to be celebrated.

*~ Terry Tempest Williams*

The health of nature is the primary ground of hope - if we can find the humility and wisdom to accept nature as our teacher. . . The true source and analogue of our economic life is the economy of plants, which never exceeds natural limits, never grows beyond the power of its place to support it, produces no waste, and enriches and preserves itself by death and decay.

We must learn to grow like a tree. . .

A healthy community is a form that includes all the local things that are connected by the larger, ultimately mysterious form of the Creation. In speaking of community, we are speaking of a complex connection not only among human beings but also between the human economy and nature . . .

All neighbors are included.

*~ Wendell Berry*

