

Community Companion

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

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



Volume 20, Issue 5 May, 2014

Presiding Clerk:

Kate Anthony

Assistant Clerk:

Frank Huss

Recording Clerk:

Paul Buckley

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Erin Bagus

Lisa Cayard (clerk)

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

Sunny Rhein (SA)

(SA) is special assignment

Newsletter:

Deborah Jordan

Email: djordan@fuse.net

Editor & photographer unless noted

Jean Crocker-Lakness

j.crockerlakness@gmail.com

Submissions for the June newsletter due by:

Monday, May 27, 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

Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am

- May 2 6:00 Welcoming for new member Chuck Moore, contact Jamie Fota for details
7:30 Peace and Social Concerns movie night. See page 4
- May 4 Meal Carry in after Meeting for Worship: FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible. 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!
- May 10 Meetinghouse workday from 10AM to 4PM.
- May 11 Second hour: Meeting for worship with attention to business
- May 18 Miami Quarterly Meeting will be held at Englewood Monthly Meeting, starting with worship at 10:45.
- May 18 Second hour: Consideration of the draft section on Integrity for the OVYM *Faith & Practice* (M&C)
- May 25 Second hour: Presentation on a book of Anthony Benezet's writings by the editor, Dave Crosby
- In This Issue:

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Caretakers: Alan Wight and Grace Conrad Childcare: Emily Spring, Margaret Arney

Fifth Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco; Use of Time, Recreation

Do you examine thoroughly your behavior in regard to work, leisure, diet and the use of drugs, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, thus trying to avoid and to discourage practices that interfere with health, sensitivity or social responsibility? Remembering the parable of the talents, do you exercise fully those that God has given you? Do you endeavor to minister humbly and sensitively to the needs of other that they may attain their full potential?

April 13, 2014 Business Meeting Summary

Submitted by Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

Fifteen Friends opened the meeting with a period of worship during which the clerk read from “How Quaker Meetings Make Decisions” on the Britain Yearly Meeting website.

Treasurer’s Report. The General Fund is getting low. The bank balance to budget ratio is only 4%, below our goal of 6%. The possibility of combining the Greening of the Meetinghouse fund with the Building Reserve Fund was discussed and **approved**. The money market fund will also be closed.

The **Cannon Fund** trustees are considering whether to continue to let the fund grow. Funds are available for causes which fit the three criteria of individual spiritual development, peace and social action projects, and other discretionary needs fitting the purposes of our Community Friends Meeting.

The **Stewardship Committee** continues to discuss divestment from fossil fuels and how to manage the Building Reserve Fund. They requested a threshing session be held on divestment. The committee also proposed the creation of an endowment account to provide an opportunity for those who wish to gift the meeting to help care for the meetinghouse. This would be a vehicle for gifts with the interest to flow to the Building Reserve Fund. After much prayerful consideration, no unity on an endowment fund emerged.

The **Nominating Committee** has nearly completed its work. The latest draft will be emailed. Friends were asked to look the draft over and give the committee feedback.

In March, the **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** showed the movie, “The House I Live In,” which described the relationship between the War on Drugs and mass incarceration. They will follow this with another movie on the criminal justice system, “Broken on All Sides,” focuses on mass incarceration and how it intersects with race, poverty and the character of the criminal justice system, on May 2. Discussion of the book, “The New Jim Crow,” using AFSC’s book discussion guide, is continuing through April.

The committee also has discussed priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and selected five to be sent to FCNL:

- A) Reform the criminal justice system
- B) Restore and strengthen programs that prevent and mitigate poverty and improve access to education, training, health care and jobs
- C) Support solutions to counter and mitigate global climate disruption
- D) Reduce injustice in the electoral process through advocating for voter rights
- E) Promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Eliminate drone attacks.

In response to a request from the Nominating Committee, they have created a new description of the operations of the committee:

***Peace and Social Concerns Committee** is part of the way our Meeting implements the Peace Testimony and other Testimonies of Friends. We seek to inform ourselves and the Meeting of events, especially local events that help to work for peace and justice and to encourage participation. We work to provide action opportunities for ourselves and the Meeting. We join with other local groups, including the Cincinnati Peace Churches group, the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, and others to support each other’s peace and justice work. We **provide Sunday services for incarcerated people through the TJM worship team**, provide dinners through Tender Mercies homeless shelter, and volunteer time to the Free Store Food bank.*

The **Religious Development Committee** is looking for a teacher for primary class for May. The committee also discussed the increase in childcare expenses this year which is due to Second Hours ending later on Sundays.

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** reported that planning for the August 16 “Exploring Quaker Diversity” event is progressing. Two presenters have been recruited to represent Evangelical and Friends United Meeting Friends and they have good leads on people to represent Conservative and FGC Friends.

April 13, 2014 Business Meeting Summary, continued

The **Library Committee** has produced a list of duties and library procedures. They have raised the question of who should oversee the audiovisual equipment. They do not believe it should be in the library.

They also asked that the meeting consider its hopes and desires for the use of the meeting library. Currently, the library space is used as a gathering place before and after meeting for worship on Sundays, as a committee meeting room during the week and on Sundays, and as a private space for one member of Ministry & Counsel after meeting for worship on Sundays. All of these are good activities, but they interfere with members and attenders using the library as a library, especially at key times on Sunday, and for the library committee to do its work in the library space.

Additionally, the library is not as physically accessible as it could be. Some of our members and attenders cannot maneuver around the six chairs (or more) that are typically in a very small room and many are physically unable to move the heavy chairs to get to the library materials. This is especially so for anyone using a wheelchair. We recommend removing several chairs from the space to improve access to library materials. Committees are encouraged not to use the library for meetings on Sunday.

The library inventory is still in progress, hampered by committee member's schedules and access to the library. The **Ministry & Counsel Committee** is working on a Memorial Minute for Byron Branson. They have been maintaining quite a few ministry support and anchoring committees for members of the meeting and may need some additional resources and support for this work. They have contacted OVYM Religious Nurture & Education Committee for possible support, and may also contact the FGC Traveling Ministry Program for additional resources.

The next **Miami Quarterly Meeting** will be held on May 18 at Englewood Monthly Meeting, starting with worship at 10:45. They will be reviewing state of the meeting reports.

The **OVYM Executive Committee** met on April 5 at Wilmington College. The annual budget meeting preceded the executive meeting. Quaker Heights is having trouble filling beds and meeting their budget, as are other elder care facilities. The statistical report shows a decline of 31 in yearly meeting membership. This is due, in part, to improved record keeping. The OVYM Planning Committee is hard at work planning for the annual sessions in July.

There will be a meetinghouse workday on May 10th from 10AM to 4PM.

SAVING STAMPS FOR QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

For a number of years our Meeting has participated in a project of saving postage stamps--both domestic and foreign. They are sent to a Friend in California who collects them for all the Meetings and sells them to dealers to raise money for such Quaker organizations as Right Sharing of World Resources, American Friends Service Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation. Since the project started, over \$50,000 has been collected and distributed to Quaker organizations.

Follow these simple instructions:

1. Almost all stamps are valuable, although some have greater value.

- Stamps should be cut from envelopes with 1/8" to 1/4" of paper around the stamp.
- For foreign mail **include the envelope as well**. There are many dealers who collect foreign envelopes.
- Save the envelopes of domestic mail dated prior to 1946.
- Dealers are paying bonus prices for:
 - domestic and foreign cancelled stamps
 - domestic envelopes stamp attached in original condition prior to 1970
 - foreign envelopes with stamp attached in original condition with current or old postmarks, picture postcards with stamp attached
 - unused postcards
 - U.S. Mint sheet stamps
 - stamp collections
 - There is also a market for get well, birthday, and valentine cards prior to 1940, Quaker Religious material prior to 1960, baseball cards and coin collections

2. Place any of these items in the plastic see-through box inside the doors of the smaller credenza by the front entry door of Meeting

New Library Subscriptions, submitted by Peggy Spohr

Four new subscriptions have begun arriving in the Community Friends Meeting Library. Current issues are shelved in the magazine rack on the back wall or on the "Newer Titles" shelf. Have a look!

What Canst Thou Say? - a publication produced by Friends with an interest in mystical experience and contemplative practice.

Types and Shadows - a quarterly publication of Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts, showcasing literary, visual, musical and performing arts within the Religious Society of Friends.

Quaker Life - the official publication of Friends United Meeting, a community of Quaker Christians across the world.

Pendle Hill Pamphlets - Each year Pendle Hill publishes five new pamphlets, each about 9000 words in length. The Pendle Hill pamphlets have been an integral part of the Pendle Hill Quaker center since 1934. The pamphlets are written from the personal experience, study, and insights of the authors, concerning spiritual life, faith, and witness.

**Peace and Social Concerns**

Submitted by Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Clerk

Community Friends Meeting's Peace & Social Concerns Committee is hosting a movie night Friday, May 2nd at 7:30 p.m. This is the third of three events we are holding this year to raise awareness about the character and effects of the criminal justice system.

We will be watching "Broken on All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration, & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the U.S." The movie explores mass incarceration and the intersection of race, poverty, and the criminal justice and penal systems. The film contains interviews with a variety of experts on the topic, both inside and outside these systems.

The movie is about an hour. We will have a short discussion following the film.

FGC: the Gathering: The Gathering will be close to home this year. An easy drive from Cincinnati.

June 29-July 5, 2014. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering> for more info

From the Stewardship committee, submitted by Mary Anne Curtiss

To those of you who use Kroger cards: It's time to renew your support for Community Friends Meeting through you Kroger Plus card! It is April again, and between April 1 and April 30 Kroger needs everyone to sign up again to have Kroger donate a proportion of your purchase price to Community Friends. This amounts to a very substantial contribution. They take this off THEIR taxes, and it also is a way for them to give back to the community who shops at Kroger's, a win-win situation endorsed by your Stewardship Committee.

The process often has a short glitch or two but is very do-able. Just sign on to www.kroger.com. It seems like they often somehow do not have your previous password, or you likely have forgotten it, so please be near your email prepared to receive a link to create a new password. This takes almost no time. Once you get signed on to www.kroger.com, it is quite easy to find how to renew your support for Community Friends Meeting, number 80890 (but you don't need the number) for another year. If there is any problem, the helpline is [1-800-294-4438](tel:1-800-294-4438) during business hours weekdays.

It's not entirely clear what happens if you do not sign up again by April 30. You can in fact sign up all during the year—but they ask you to sign up by 4/30. In fact, all of our cards "expired" on April 1, so the sooner the better!

Green Living Exchange & Plant Sale was held on Sunday, April 27 which turned out to be a beautiful spring day. Money from the plant sale benefits the FUN (Friends in Unity with Nature) committee.

Photo to right: Kate Anthony
prepares for the Plant Sale
Photos by: Elyce Benke

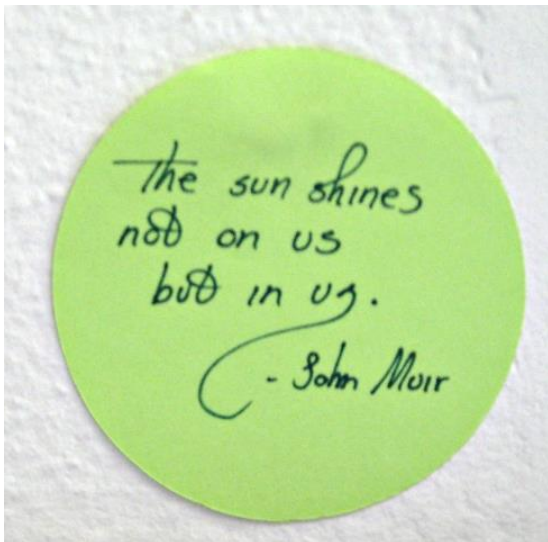




Photo to the left: Happy plant buyer- Eileen Bagus
Below: Happy plant buyer- Marjorie Isaacs with Kate Anthony.
Photos by Elyce Benke



The difficult job of plant selection: there were too many varieties.
Don Rucknagel selects for his plants.
Photo by Jean C-L



Deborah Jordan chooses her plants. Don Rucknagel continues with his selections.
Photo by Jean C-L

Green Living Exchange, photos by Elyce Benke



Sue Brungs presents Henrietta and how to raise chickens in your back yard.



Rhonda and David Pfaltzgraff- Carlson enjoy the presentations. Photo by Judy Ganance

Judy Ganance shares about voting with our dollars by using the website: www.goodguide.com which rates over 210,000 products on health, environment and social responsibility.

Photos below and to the right by Elyce Benke



Deborah Jordan produces the 7th annual Central Ohio River Valley (CORV) Local Food Guide to help people eat local and sustainable food.



Mary Anne Curtiss knows all about biking in Cincinnati and many other places

Photos to the right by Judy Ganance



Clockwise from upper left: Jamie Fota and Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson singing the compost song, Jean Crocker-Lakness and Elyce Benke (who coordinated the Green Living Exchange) admiring a plant, Alan Wight sharing a poem, and Marjorie Isaacs talking about renewable energy and solar electric panels on her home.