



Clerk's Message

from Mike Holaday



Mike
Holaday

THE OPEN DOOR

Just as we'd settled into silence in meeting recently, a Friend gasped "Oh no!" and dashed across the room. A sparrow had found its way in through the front door, which we'd left open for the fresh air.

Now the bird was frantically trying to get out. It alternately flew into the window screens and lit for a moment wherever it could find a perch. The Friend who spotted it tried to steer it toward the entrance, telling it to "Come this way!" and directing it with her arms.

Other Friends leapt into action. One tried to open a window, and I confess I got up to help. No joy—the windows are double-screened. Another Friend turned off the lights, on the theory the bird would leave if it got dark. Still others were trying to flush it out of the corners and shoo it toward the door, which the bird

obstinately failed to understand. I could see this wasn't working and returned to my seat.

I'm sure I don't need to mention that in this pandemonium we were hardly a Friends Meeting gathered in silent worship any more. A wayward sparrow was enough to scratch that. But one by one we took our seats, settled back into silence and left the bird to solve its own problem.

As the bird continued to circulate in the room, a Friend said this: "We're always banging into closed places we think we're supposed to go through, aren't we? When there's an open door we don't see. May we all find the open door."

Lo, the sparrow did find it, and departed a few minutes later.

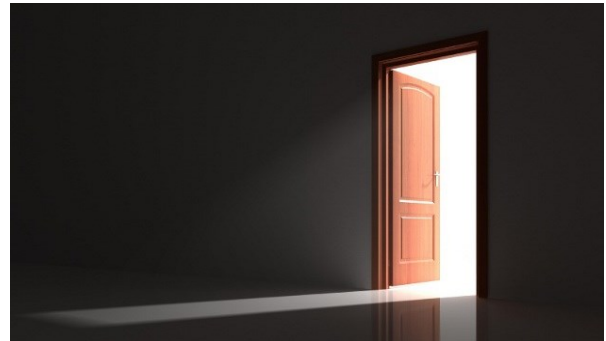
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(Clerk's Message continued from page 1)

As it happens, I myself found the Religious Society of Friends by walking through that same open door, so I couldn't blame the sparrow much for coming in. But I was chagrined to realize how easily I could be distracted from my Quakerism. A bird flitting around the meeting room was enough to do the trick.

It brought to mind a story I came across a few years ago. A young couple were on their way to the hospital in a taxi, the woman in labor. When the cabbie realized she was beginning to deliver, he wanted none of that and put them out on the street. This was in India, in front of a Hindu temple, where worship was in progress. Hearing the commotion outside some women came out of the temple and, sizing the situation up, made a privacy screen with their saris and helped deliver a baby boy. The couple were Muslim, by the way, not Hindu.

May we find the open doors we seek. And may we meet the challenges that come in through those same open doors after we've found them.



*I have opened a door for you
that no man can close.
Revelations 3:8*

*Follow your bliss and
the universe will open doors
where there were only walls.*

Joseph Campbell



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Greetings from the Editors

Welcome to this issue of the Bulletin, the last of 2016, assembled in a time of ripening and harvest, when doors close as we move toward winter and open as we face the next year. The Finance Committee Chair and the Treasurer both report the closing of the books for 2015-16 and the new budget to guide us through the next fiscal year. “Open” is transparency, an invitation to enter, an escape hatch (as for the Grand Rapids sparrow); it’s a liminal transition-area between one dwelling and another, both welcoming and dangerous, ending and beginning.



Susan and Berch Carpenter

Among the various friendly reports we’ve received are embedded some warnings from Friends in Washington, Baltimore, and Wooster; the strongest is a call for humane changes in the criminal justice system from Natalie Finegar, the Deputy District Public Defender for Baltimore. Finegar was our keynote speaker at the annual sessions in July. We have included a transcribed and edited version of the whole 90-minute speech. We decided its message is that important. There are some doors to Baltimore’s Central Booking (a short-term jail) that need opening—some doors everywhere that need opening.

Susan S. Carpenter
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Many thanks to Les Walden for the LEYM photographs, to Peggy Daub for transcribing the plenary speech, and to Mathilda Navias for proofreading the Bulletin. S&B

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Clerk’s Message	Mike Holaday
3	Greetings from the Editors	S. & B. Carpenter
4	News from Finance Committee	Jeff Cooper
5-7	Treasurer's Report	Mike Hinshaw
8	2016 LEYM Work Project	Olwen Pritchard
9	Report: Friends School in Detroit	Joe Mills
9	Olney Friends School Report	Greg Mott
10	FCNL Workshop Report	Emily Wirzba
11- 12	AFSC Report	Dan Seeger
13- 21	Plenary Talk: The Baltimore Uprising	Natalie Finegar
22	Wooster Friends work on Racial Issues	Mathilda Navias
23	Announcements	Berch Carpenter
24	Clerks and Calendar	Berch Carpenter

News from Finance Committee

Below are the financial report for the 2016 Annual Meeting and the approved budget for 2016-17. For Annual Meeting, income slightly exceeded expenses, thanks to donations from Friends. In the budget, expenses (\$21,550) are nearly \$3000 lower than last year, reflecting recent spending patterns and ample balances in supporting funds, though there were three increases: 1) to cover the costs of a financial audit; 2) to increase our annual contribution to Friends General Conference; and 3) to make a one-time contribution to FGC toward the cost of an institutional audit. As in past years, this budget has a slight deficit; if income falls short of expenses, the difference can be covered through the General Fund, which has a healthy balance. Please note that budgeted income is based on a suggested per-member contribution of \$28, down \$4 from last year.

Financial Report for 2016 Annual Meeting

Income	
Fees	
Housing and commuter fees	\$7,671.00
Meals	\$8,477.55
Registration fees	\$6,150.00
Payment for lost key	20.00
Additions and subtractions	
Donations	\$1,108.64
Less first-time attender discounts	(\$724.88)
Less scholarships	(\$5,115.10)
Total Income	\$17,587.21
Expenses	
Housing and commuter fees	\$7,671.00
Meals	\$8,477.55
Honoraria	\$300.00*
Ice cream social	\$379.75
Youth activities	\$221.00
Copies	\$25.80
Total Expenses	\$17,075.10*
Net Income	\$512.11*
Adjustment	(\$.99)
Adjusted Net Income	\$511.12*
(= sum deposited in bank less total paid out)	

*Figures to be adjusted when payment of Honoraria is completed.



LEYM Budget for 2016-17

Travel	3000
Office	100
Contract worker	2000
Finance	550
Publications	2200
Advancement & Outreach	100
Ministry & Nurture	100
Clerk's Fund	300
FGC contribution	6000
One-time FGC contribution supporting institutional audit	1400
Records project	100
FWCC Travel	1200
Youth Activity Fund	1000
High School Teen Retreat	0
Spiritual Formation	300
Olney Friends School	2000
Consultation Fund	0
Ministry scholarships	100
Service projects	600
Insurance	500
Total Expenses	\$21,550
Contributions	19,880
FFC Dividends Income	1050
Total Income	\$20,930
Deficit	\$620
Suggested contribution per member	\$28

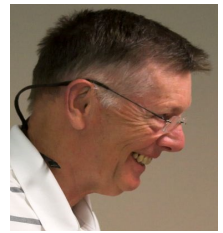


Jeff Cooper—Clerk of the Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report for LEYM

Part 1 of 3

Mike Hinshaw—
Treasurer of LEYM



GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2015/2016 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	220.00	1-Aug
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	4,064.00	3-Feb
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	19-Sep
Birmingham Friends Meeting	480.00	23-Nov
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,088.00	3-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,504.00	11-Apr
Delaware Friends Meeting	384.00	11-Jan
Detroit Friends Meeting	672.00	14-Oct
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	576.00	3-Feb
Granville Friends Meeting	900.00	31-Aug
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	21-Mar
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,056.00	1-Mar
Kent Friends Meeting	697.00	4-Jan
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	182.00	2-Apr
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00	16-Nov
Oberlin Friends Meeting	784.00	16-Nov
Pine River Friends Meeting	352.00	3-Feb
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	4,480.00	13-May
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	1,792.00	21-Mar
Wooster Friends Meeting	480.00	11-Jan
Individuals	110.28	28-Dec

Total Contributions	22,821.28	
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FFC Dividends, Base Account	1,064.71	30-Jun
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Acc.	(2,454.49)	30-Jun

21,431.50	
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TOTAL INCOME

Individual Budget lines, 2015-2016 Budget Year

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	% OF BUDGET	Year-End Transfers to funds	Total After Adjusted Expense	In-kind & Restricted Donations
Travel	4,000.00	1,034.10	26%	1,727.87	2,761.97	554.00
Office	50.00	88.00	176%		88.00	
Contract worker	2,000.00	2,249.34	112%		2,249.34	
Finance	50.00	66.90	134%		66.90	
Publications	3,200.00	1,986.37	62%		1,986.37	
Advancement	100.00		0%		0.00	
Ministry & Nurture	100.00		0%		0.00	
Clerk	300.00		0%		0.00	
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%		4,500.00	
Michigan Friends Center	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%		100.00	
FWCC Travel Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00	100%		1,500.00	
Youth Activities Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund	1,600.00		0%		0.00	
Spiritual Formation Fund	800.00	800.00	100%		800.00	
Friends School in Detroit	0.00				0.00	
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	2,000.00	100%		2,000.00	
Consultation Fund ²	0.00				0.00	
Scholarship Fnd for Ministry ¹	500.00	500.00	100%		500.00	
Summer Work Project	1,200.00	1,200.00	100%		1,200.00	
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%		500.00	
Sub-total	24,500.00	18,524.71	76%	1,727.87	20,252.58	554.00
Misc.						
Totals	24,500.00	18,524.71	76%	1,727.87	20,252.58	554.00

Holding a Balance

by Vermeer



Treasurer's Report – Part 3 of 3

BALANCE SHEET

Location of Assets	CASH ASSETS			Change
	07/01/15	06/30/16		
	Beginning	<u>FF Change</u>	End	
	Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	29,667.11	32,238.64	2,571.53
	Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	31,090.58	29,700.80	-1,389.78
	> Dividends, Re-Invested	1,064.71		
> Change in Portfolio Value is + or -		-2,454.49		
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	7,257.07	6,689.28	-567.79	
> Change in Portfolio Value + or -		-567.79		
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	38,347.65	-1,957.57	36,390.08	-1,957.57
Total Cash Assets	68,014.76	68,628.72		613.96

Allocation of Assets			
General Fund	24,706.13	25,885.05	1,178.92
Granville Youth Fund	7,257.07	6,689.28	-567.79
Annual Meeting Fund	2,732.17	3,320.89	588.72
Youth Activities Fund	6,407.16	6,066.09	-341.07
High School Teen Retreat Fund	8,074.39	8,074.39	0.00
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,327.20	3,027.62	700.42
FWCC Travel Fund	4,739.83	539.83	-4,200.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,500.00	2,000.00	500.00
Summer. Work Project Fund	1,355.00	2,381.89	1,026.89
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Travel Contingency Fund	2,272.13	4,000.00	1,727.87
Total All Funds	68,014.76	68,628.72	613.96

2016 LEYM Work Project

By Olwen Pritchard

For the fourth year in a row, LEYM held a work project in conjunction with yearly meeting. For two full days, from the afternoon of Tuesday 26 July to 11:00 am on Thursday 28 July, five of us volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lima, Ohio. The workers were Peggy Daub, Ellerie and Jonah Brownfain, Sally Weaver Sommer, and Olwen Pritchard.

After an informative tour of the ReStore building, we were set to work dusting and polishing furniture and mirrors ready for resale, sweeping and dry mopping the floors, removing old price tags and replacing them with new ones on four big baskets of school supplies, and testing electrical appliances. On Thursday we cleaned the “Break Room” and tried to reduce the cardboard pile to manageable proportions ready for pick up by the recyclers. Throughout our time in Lima we worked together, had time for Meeting (twice), and interacted with the staff, volunteers and customers at the store. A good time was experienced by all despite the humidity.



Jonah Brownfain, Olwen Pritchard, Peggy Daub, and Ellerie Brownfain



Jonah Brownfain and Olwen Pritchard



Special Report: The Status of the Friends School in Detroit

by Joe Mills

Friends School is not opening this fall. With a large grant from a Detroit foundation, Friends School in Detroit was able to engage Non Profit Financial Foundation (a nationwide non-profit consulting and capitalization firm) to conduct an evaluation and assessment of reopening Friends School. NFF's report was received in mid-May and concluded that upwards of \$3,300,000 would be needed to restart the School. This amount covers payment of all existing indebtedness, provision for necessary repairs and improvements to the present facility, & funds for the first year of operation. NFF also thought a study needed to be undertaken to see if there is a genuine market for a sufficient number of students.

A few board members believe a consortium of local foundations would get together and explore giving significant funding to explore viability of continuing the School, to pay for holding costs of the current facility until it reopens, and for a startup of the School. This information was presented to GPQM in May of this year and the Quarter agreed to give the School over the summer to see if the Foundations would commit to provide the necessary funds for the School to continue. The Quarter plans to make a final decision at its September Meeting for Business. Last word is that the foundations will be meeting in late August to explore a collective financial commitment to continue the School.

Special Report: Olney Friends School

by Greg Mott

It is my pleasure to inform you of the recent events and achievements happening at Olney Friends School. Of significant importance is that Olney has now been USDA-certified as an organic farm and campus. This complements the ever-growing farm-to-table program that allows the Olney community to grow and consume much of its own food. Olney has also renewed its accreditation through ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States). The new project-based curriculum has been implemented and allows for highly individualized learning, leading students to take a greater responsibility in taking initiative for their personal education.



Olney School in Barnesville, OH

Olney has maintained its commitment to good stewardship of the earth and the environment. Researchers from Yale University are currently using Olney as home base for a study of Ohio water and air quality. Olney hosts an annual "passport to fishing" event, administered by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, designed to not only teach youth fishing techniques, but also safety and environmental health. Olney classes consistently make good use of their 350 acre campus and farm as living laboratories for study. Finally, let us join in celebration that Olney has elected NOT to lease its mineral rights to the oil and gas industries.

On a more personal note, I now have a niece who enrolled at Olney this past year as a Sophomore. She is not shy about giving me the "inside scoop". I am happy to say that I am highly encouraged by her account of the current Olney community and education. Olney is a great community and school. Head of school Ken Hinshaw specifically asked me to stress that he wants Olney to be available to Quaker and Yearly meeting families, and to not let finances be an obstacle. They will make it work if it is a good fit. They did it for my niece.

As Olney states on its website, "Olney adheres to basic principles or "testimonies" that draw on Quaker tradition and values. Among these testimonies are truthfulness, simplicity, non-violence, and respect for the good in every person." In today's world, how many places give teenagers these values? Truthfulness.....Simplicity.....Non-Violence....and respect for the good in every person. It is my belief that providing support to Olney is well-aligned with the values of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. I encourage LEYM to continue its support of Olney.

Emily Wirzba, Workshop Leader from FCNL, Comments on her LEYM Workshop: “A Path Forward on Climate Change”



I want to extend my sincere thanks for the kindness and hospitality shown to me while attending Annual Sessions this summer. Your warm welcome made me feel at home and allowed me to have some wonderful conversations about my work at the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the priorities of Lake Erie Friends.

In my workshop held on Friday afternoon, we discussed the unique ability of people of faith to connect with their legislators on a moral level when discussing climate change. A query—borrowed from Portland Friends Meeting—guided the workshop: *Do we imagine that those who oppose such actions [on climate change], or who are as of yet unready to undertake them, must value the environment, love their children or seek justice any less than we do?*

The Quaker commitment to see that of God in each person can guide us as we have frustrating conversations with those who might deny the science of climate change. By focusing on shared values and working in a respectful, patient manner, we can provide support to members of Congress who want to have bipartisan conversations about climate solutions, but don't know how to break through the partisan rhetoric.

FCNL's approach to lobbying has led to some remarkable progress this past year. A Republican resolution acknowledging climate science and committing Congress to act was introduced in September 2015, and now has 14 Republicans supporting it. This paved the way for a bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus in the House of Representatives, where its eight Republican and eight Democratic members meet monthly to discuss tangible bipartisan solutions, such as pricing carbon. Now, Republicans in Congress are voting against bad climate change amendments and are having bipartisan conversations about paths forward.

Though we still have a long way to go, the progress being made is real and tangible. I am filled with hope.

As we consider how John Woolman lived out his beliefs and reflect on how we are personally led to seek justice in this world, I offer up lobbying as one of many important approaches. Please be in touch if you would like to learn more about FCNL's work.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in a wonderful weekend that strengthened my soul and nurtured my spirit.

Emily Wirzba, Policy Associate, Sustainable Energy and Environment, FCNL – emily@fcnl.org



Workshop Scene 1



Workshop Scene 2

Change the Story, Change the World

A Report from the 2016 AFSC Corporation Meeting from the Friends Relations Committee.

By Dan Seeger, Clerk of Friends Relations Committee

Forwarded by Claire Cohen, LEYM AFSC Representative

From across the country, Friends gathered at Friends Center in Philadelphia for the annual meeting of the American Friends Service Committee Corporation. The theme for our time together was “Change the story, change the world: Telling the truth about militarism in US communities and around the world.”

Many Friends arrived early and attended pre-meeting workshops with Reverend William Barber II of the Moral Mondays movement and with AFSC’s Friends Relations staff on the Quaker and Social Change Ministry pilot program. The first formal session, after dinner, began with music and hip hop by City Love; the entire assembly joined in to sing “I believe in you.”

Many of us were challenged by the message that there is as much work to be done for racial justice and equality now as there has ever been. Whether in Ferguson or in Gaza we are still faced with racism, imperialism, and a militarized system of oppression that profits from inequity and runs counter to our vision of shared security based on peace and nonviolence. Throughout the programs, workshops, and sessions we were challenged to “change the narrative.”

In our Thursday evening program, Reverend William Barber II described the work of the Moral Mondays movement in bringing ethics to bear on unprincipled politics. Rev. Barber described the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement as a sign of a “third reconstruction” taking place in the United States. But along with hopeful signs of progress, we are faced with a reactionary response to expanding civil rights and a recycling of George Wallace’s racially coded language: “states’ rights,” “cutting taxes,” and “reclaiming America.” Rev. Barber challenged us to reclaim moral and religious language and continue the work of the Quaker abolitionists and all those who struggled during the Civil Rights Movement.

In the business of the Corporation, Clerk Phil Lord opened the Friday session with silent meeting for worship. Our roll call revealed us to be a widely geographically represented group, from most US yearly meetings and many more monthly meetings. New bylaws were approved by the Corporation that would allow the date of the next Corporation Meeting to be combined with the centennial celebration of AFSC and its work towards peace and justice over the last 100 years. The hard work of the Nominating Committee was noted, particularly the work of Jane Kroesen, the outgoing clerk. We also heard from the Friends Relations Committee who thanked outgoing members for their work on building up the committee’s work over the last few years.

In the General Secretary’s report, Shan Cretin spoke to us about two “overarching strategies” of the AFSC. One is a focus on transformative youth leadership, a process that starts with youth trainings, moves to youth development and youth leadership, and ends up with civic engagement and youth organizing.

The other strategy for AFSC is based on the need to change the narrative around war and militarism. In the past, AFSC has focused on relief efforts after war and conflict through feeding programs and rebuilding efforts. Shan called us to go beyond relief work and change the narrative around war to preventing future wars and building a culture and understanding of shared security. In the DPRK (North Korea) for example, AFSC has engaged with farmers to find simple solutions to increase crop yields in the face of the destabilizing effects of famine. Because of AFSC’s work in the DPRK, we are uniquely situated to counter the call for a military response to North Korea and elevate the voices of its people.

Our workshop sessions carried forward this theme with a sobering look at the challenging work in our midst. Staff from regional and international programs showcased a variety of projects. We were invited to witness the psychological trauma of Palestinian children being arrested, taken alone, in the dead of night, and subjected to brutal interrogations and imprisonments. We were invited to ‘humanize, not militarize,’ working toward a truly just and shared sense of security in policing across race and cultures.

In our Friday evening program, a panel discussion titled, “When I See Them, I See Us: Policing in a community under occupation,” we saw how similar struggles for justice can mutually support each other. The panel featured Ahmad Abuznaid of Dream Defenders, Joshua Saleem from AFSC’s St. Louis office, and Tabitha Mustafa with AFSC’s New Orleans office. The panelists explored the intersectionality of Black liberation movements in the US and the movement to end the occupation of Palestine. In places like Ferguson and Palestine, where policing has become a tool of racialized violence, the same weapons and tactics are used, including teargas canisters stamped with “made in USA.” Israeli and US police also receive the same militaristic training. As allies in a shared struggle, they are seeing that theirs is a movement “to define and advance humanity through our very existence.”

Clerk Phil Lord noted this as the final meeting prior to the 100th anniversary of AFSC in 2017. As we near our centennial, American Friends Service Committee invites your voice and partnership in our peace and justice work for the next 100 years.

The moment you accept what troubles
you’ve been given, the door will open.

Rumi

The next article is an edited transcription of July’s plenary talk by Natalie Finegar, the Deputy District Public Defender for Baltimore City. The talk lasted an hour and a half; the written version uses 11 pages of the Bulletin and includes 27 suggestions for action that Natalie Finegar wrote and emailed to us.

We urge you to read the entire document carefully. It serves as a powerful witness to the experience of being enmeshed in the Baltimore criminal justice system, and what you learn can be applied to other urban criminal justice systems.

Finegar knew “What Would John Woolman Do?” was the LEYM theme for 2016 and found this statement by Woolman:

“Wealth is attended with power, by which bargains and proceedings, contrary to universal righteousness, are supported; and hence oppression, carried on with worldly policy and order, clothes itself with the name of justice and becomes like a seed of discord in the soul.”

Her comment: “It’s a new quote for my job, really, when I thought about it. Why is this not on my bulletin board?”

**If the doors of perception were cleansed
everything would be seen as it is, infi-
nite.**

William Blake

Baltimore's Uprising: A Window Into the Flawed Justice System That Perpetuates Racial Inequalities

Plenary Speech at LEYM July 2016
Natalie Finegar, Deputy District Public Defender
for Baltimore

* * * * *

In the early 2000s, [Mayor] Martin O'Malley decided that he wanted to aggressively attack the crime rate in Baltimore City, particularly violent crime. You can control a lot about what looks like the crime rate in your city by not arresting. You can not-arrest in drug cases and you can not-arrest in robberies and burglaries, and on paper things look pretty good. But you can't do much when someone shows up in the emergency room with a bullet in them or they show up in the medical examiner's office, and then there's not a lot you can do unless you actually drive down the crime rate. He borrowed a theory that was being used in New York at the time that came out of two sociologists in 1982, Wilson and Kelling—the broken window theory—essentially, this idea that you really sweat the small stuff in the neighborhood. If we go after the small, quality-of-life crimes, the broken windows, the drinking on the public sidewalks, urinating in public, etc., with zero tolerance of those, then people will begin to care about their community, and then they will shape up and you won't have a violent crime rate. Well, Martin O'Malley put a personal twist on it. I think he understood that Baltimore was in a different position at that point, and so he did zero tolerance, but he also did zero tolerance that essentially just locked everybody up. I had officers describe this to me, and then a little bit later I got a message through the administration: "Yeah, that's what we're doing." Because if you're cycling through Central Booking (i.e., temporarily locked up) it takes 24 hours before you can get out, get bail set or released on your own recognizance; that buys 24 hours. And it worked. People were happy in Baltimore, initially, particularly people who lived in the better neighborhoods, who worried about the values of their homes going down, what they were going to do about the taxes, how they were going to continue to survive in this community. They were really happy about how Mayor O'Malley was able to drive those rates down.

But on the flip side of it, we went from a situation where we normally had 30,000 arrests to 100,000 arrests in one year. We built systems to be able to operate with the capacities we have: Central Booking was built to hold 1000 and designed essentially for you to go through it in three days and then into what might be considered the County Jail, but for us was called Baltimore City Detention Center. ...

The officers tried to state charges that looked ridiculous because they were told to by their superiors, and the prosecutors who reviewed the statement of charges would say, "I'm not going to even attempt to prosecute this." And so they would do what we called "release without charges" (our clients called them "walk-throughs"). They didn't understand why they got arrested. They would spend 24 hours in Central Booking and then they would be kicked out the back side and told they would never have to show up for court. They would come around to the front side to our office and say, "I don't know what just happened to me." The system had never been designed to handle release without charges.

In the national statistics, you get fingerprinted and they report what you have been charged with to a national criminal database because we really need to know everyone's criminal history across the whole country. And it was reported that you were arrested for "this" and no disposition was ever received, and that would be on



the record forever. Eventually we started to catch a few people with privilege, and privilege with those jobs that meant they'd go through a security clearance. I had someone come from Southpointe, it's a bar area, kind of a party area, and he was arrested for probably getting a little sassy with a police officer, and when his security clearance was being renewed they wanted to know: "What do you ... No disposition was ever received?" Ultimately, Mayor O'Malley proposed some legislation that created an automatic expungement. There was a big photo; it made him look really liberal.

So we're going to arrest you, we're going to lock you up, we're not going to charge you because there were no charges to begin with that a prosecutor would even begin to use, and then we'd just wipe it off your record. Except for the fact that you spent 24 hours in jail and maybe that meant that you were going to lose your home, and maybe that meant you lost a job opportunity, and maybe that meant your kids were taken by the Department of Social Services, and it sure as heck meant that you didn't trust the police.

So community relationship plummeted between police officers and individuals in the poor neighborhoods where the violence was predominately happening. And judges and prosecutors and the public lamented the fact that they couldn't get convictions in some cases and said, "We don't understand what's happening here."

It got to the point where they could no longer present people in 24 hours, which was the Maryland rule, to get a bail set. People were sitting in jail, crowded sixteen at a time in a holding cell designed for eight people, without enough space. You had to take turns sitting in the holding cell. And they would sit there for two or three or four days. We understood by talking to our clients' family members: it was like you were "the disappeared." Family members would call our office and say "I haven't seen my brother for three days, it's not like him. Can't you check to see if he's in there?"

We went down there and took a look at what was happening. It was horrific. Individuals were pounding on the cells. They wanted to know what time it was, what day it was, what was happening with their case. Some were trying to say, "Hey, we have a diabetic in here that you haven't screened and you don't know he's diabetic and now it's an emergency care situation."

"We have somebody who is suicidal."

"We have somebody who is detoxing and we think they've passed out and need help."

You can imagine when you have that many people, probably triple the amount of people that are supposed to be in the holding area – the noise, it's deafening to hear people banging on those metal doors. I have a great deal of sympathy for the correctional officers who are trying to deal with this situation with no training and no resources. They are not inhumane, for the most part. They care about their jobs. They can't tell which is a crisis and which is just somebody saying, "I need to get out of here, I can't take it, I'm claustrophobic," which is kind of a crisis too.

There was an increase in suicides. There was an increase in diabetic deaths and deaths altogether, and it became part of my job to notify family members when people had died.

A man named Raymond Smoot died violently, beaten to a pulp in Central Booking, in the midst of a slew of arrests and overcrowding—and when he died there was kind of a public pause for a moment. Hundreds of people took to the streets for one night and gathered around the jail screaming basically, "Tear down the wall!"

That's the beginning of the uprising, in my mind. It really goes back a good ten years.

Between 2010 and 2014 thirty-one people died in police custody in Baltimore City. It's the highest in police encounters of any region across the State of Maryland. The City paid out \$5.7 million in judgments and settlements of lawsuits, and when they settled a lawsuit they made it so that you were never supposed to speak about the fact that your lawsuit was settled and how much you received. They were basically trying to put gag orders on people.

Flash forward to 2014. In Baltimore City now, it's easy to convince jurors that police officers are maybe not being truthful or maybe are being overly aggressive. Citizens have absolutely no trust in the police, and that causes problems. It used to be a requirement that police had to be residents of Baltimore City. Many of the officers hired then—it was hard to recruit officers for Baltimore City and it is still hard—live in Pennsylvania, Harford County, which is way north of Baltimore City. I hear officers say things in the parking lot, like, "I'm never coming down here, it's a jungle, I'm never going to live here." The perception you have when you come from a comfortable suburb into some of the most difficult parts of the city is that all of the city and all of the residents are like that, and things are antagonized even more.

Throughout my career as a public defender I have always dealt with police brutality. I have dealt with clients telling me about the same officers over and over and over again. I can give you a hit list now and so can my attorneys, because we hear the same stories. Again, I don't think they are bad people. They weren't bad people when they got hired for this job, but they haven't been given the appropriate training and the appropriate tools, and they haven't been given good marching orders, and most of them are still wrapped up in Martin O'Malley's thought: "High arrests means I'm doing my job." They're rewarded for it by their sergeants. You hear people say, "He had x-number of arrests that year. Bravo!" So the desire for many arrests is self-perpetuating.

Let me name some folks you probably didn't hear about who were on the minds of Baltimore City before Freddy Gray. Travon Fox died in a holding cell from what looked like blunt force trauma but was ruled "not a significant injury" and never explained. George King was repeatedly tasered and eventually died in a hospital. Anthony Anderson died of blunt force trauma that was recognized to be in the course of a police officer encounter, but no charges were filed. Tyrone West suffocated during a police encounter, perhaps because of asthma and drug-related incidents, but again there was no clarity. And then right around the time of Freddie Gray we had Keith Davis, who was shot at—I couldn't believe this—41 times by a police officer. He is apparently incarcerated now for a separate charge that they say they have evidence for, and he still has a bullet lodged in his neck. Those folks were on the minds of the citizens of Baltimore when Freddie Gray happened. One individual died during a police encounter and the questions should have all us disgusted and outraged and worried: "Oh, what are we going to do about it?" But the reality is, this was just one more drop in the bucket.

The Department of Justice had been to Baltimore several times. They came after Raymond Smoot was beaten to death, they came again in 2014, and both of those times we heard, "We really got a lot of valuable information. We really learned a lot about Baltimore. We'll be back."

In 2015 they did come again, this time at the invitation of the Police Department. The Police Commissioner in charge at the time of Freddie Gray's death invited them in. I remembered having a conversation with them before Freddie Gray's injury and they said "So what is your impression of what is happening about police relations in Baltimore City and with your clients?" and I said, "It's a powder keg, it's ready to blow, just add a match to it." They were pretty shocked about that.

Then Freddie Gray was injured and in the hospital and the Department of Justice set up what we would call listening sessions. They invited members of the community to come to Coppin State University, a historically black university in the center of Baltimore, surrounded by neighborhoods where some of these individuals were injured, so it really was a good set up. I wondered what was going to happen, because I knew the frustrations of my clients, and I knew they didn't necessarily understand how the Department of Justice hears things. Sometimes, if you're so frustrated and so upset you're yelling and screaming because you're venting your emotions, you get turned off as a crazy person. I was worried about that as I showed up along with a bunch of my colleagues. I've got to tell you, I was never so proud of my city, and of my clients. They stood—dozens of people deep in line—waiting for an opportunity to speak. It was kind of like the culmination of listening to this for twenty years, and the venting that was happening really felt like a kind of healing situation to me.

Then Freddie Gray died, and the powder keg did blow up. The people of privilege, the haves, and the people who didn't really get the extent of what was happening in Baltimore, called it a riot. And those of us who did understand and those who were trying to organize around it called it an uprising. The Mayor stepped in, in the wake of some fires being set and some violence, a little bit of looting, but for the vast majority of situations, it really was a peaceful demonstration. And it really was an attempt to drive home a message about the suffering in the city. It's unfortunate, but the extreme cases get the media attention, and the media flocked into Baltimore. Helicopters were flying over our office. The night I was sitting at home watching the fires getting set and the looting of CVS's, I knew what was about to happen. I knew how Baltimore City police would respond. The only thing they know is "Lock everybody up." "Just get them off of the street so we can calm things down." I went to bed early. My son stayed up and watched historical live TV unfolding the issues he had grown up with. The next day I got up and packed a suit, I packed all kinds of things I need, and I packed a pillowcase and a blanket, because I didn't know when I was coming home again. Honestly. I knew what was going to happen. We soon heard there were 200 arrests. When I was on the phone with the people from my office who worked the jail that night, no one had seen the Com-

missioner; in fact nobody had a statement of probable cause written. Nobody had charges lodged against them, so they literally were just warehousing folks. And because our arrests had gone down dramatically for a while after Martin O'Malley left, none of the corrections officers remembered how to deal with that.

I thought, it doesn't really matter, whether they're going to charge them or they're not going to charge them, I just want to see them get out of the Booking. I remembered the legal maneuvering from before and I knew how to respond to the pressure. I was sitting in my office the night before with another attorney and we were writing a habeas motion – a “bring forth the body” challenge when someone is illegally detained, which is basically what they are doing in Maryland when they hold somebody more than 24 hours without seeing a commissioner—the person who sets the original bail to let people go on their own recognizance. I got a call on my cell phone from the Administrative Judge. We had been in touch, trying to deal with the situation. The courts were closed; we were trying to figure out: could we open up the next day? Could we do bail reviews? I told her I would do bail reviews. She said, “You don't understand how many bail reviews there are.”

I said, “I don't care, Judge. I will bring an army; trust me to do the bail reviews. Don't delay a single person from having their reviews with the Bail Commissioner.”

And she said, “Natalie, sit down.”

I said “I am sitting down; I'm typing this motion at 10:00 at night.”

She said, “The Governor has suspended prompt presentment.”

Governor Hogan's response to “We can't get people to the Commissioner” was essentially to say, “That's okay. Bring them the next day. We'll give them 48 hours.”

He was making the argument that the case that makes the constitutional standard he was using was a Court of Appeals. The judges wrote, “These are our rules about how we process justice,” so it's kind of like reaching over to another branch of government and using their rules. The irony did not escape me that the vast majority of folks that were arrested that night and held in Central Booking were arrested for a curfew violation which I actually challenged the Mayor's ability to impose. Folks were arrested because they were out past 10 o'clock in a peaceful demonstration, and being held, saying in effect: because we arrested all of you folks and just didn't release you in time to follow the citation and can't show up in a court, so now we can't follow the rules. Try to explain that one to me.

The next day forty attorneys showed up. I'd actually recruited a bunch of private attorneys as well as public defenders. Normally we do bail review with five attorneys. We had written a stack of motions. We got into the jail and I basically looked at the Security Chief and said, “You know you're not supposed to let me into certain parts of the jail, and I understand it, but here I am, and you've got a problem on your hands: you're about to lose people, and if you just get us in to them, we will get them out.”

He said, “Good choice.” They didn't know where everybody was in the jail. I put a team of lawyers up there. They limited how many folks we could send. I could respect that, because there was a lot of chaos in the jail, and they did have security concerns. These really bright, energetic attorneys just went and found people by kind of wandering around with this stack of Habeas motions asking, “Were you arrested in the Uprising? And how long have you been here?”

The interesting thing is that in Maryland when you want to challenge the illegal detention of your client from inside the jail, first of all you have to fill out a motion that's about six pages long. Then, because there's a \$150 filing fee because it's a civil case, you have to fill out a whole bunch of information about your client's personal finances to prove that they can't actually pay the \$150 while they're illegally detained. Thankfully, the Administrative Judge found out that I was about to blow my gasket over that one and decided to just waive them en banc. We filed 82 Habeases. Eighty-two times six: all the paperwork that needed to be filled out, laid out on a conference table, had to be filed by 4:30 that afternoon, otherwise we couldn't have a hearing the next day, which means that the clients could have been in for three days by that point. And when you've made one, you have to make four copies, they have to be delivered four different places, and they have to be given to the clerk's office. My attorneys were just fried at that point. I'd been up 36, almost 48 hours, but I could take that. But these folks were really struggling, and our copier broke on top of it. Thank you, state budget. It was like Larry Hogan was just reaching down and making things more difficult.

The first time we sent a stack of motions to the Clerk's office they called us and said "We can't handle all those motions." And I thought, Really? You're going to tell me that my client, who was out at 11:00 at night at a peaceful demonstration, and not violating a rule that we've never even discussed, so our challenge may or may not have been legal, with no real legal penalty attached to it. "She's an attorney so she should have figured that one out."

"And then you're going to say that I follow all the rules with the silly paperwork and everything you want me to do and then you can't accept it because it's just too much for you?" I mean, at that point, I hadn't slept in two days, or eaten a full meal, and my brain was about to lose it. And the Circuit Court Administrative Judge just stepped in and said "Come into my chambers."

I said "Thank you."

At the end of the day, the Attorney General's Office that represents public safety, the jailers, the state agency that holds everybody, turns to their client and says, "You have major liability on your hands if you don't let those folks go." So we filed 82 Habeases and 105 people got released.

It was the first time in my career I actually had more people released than the motions I had filed. I think that's government efficiency at its best, right? Maybe I should get a raise out of that one. But I didn't.

All those papers had to be filed, all those individuals had to be represented, and many of them actually qualified for the services of the office of the Public Defender. A lot of those folks were not actually there for protest. They were just walking by, walking home from a job, walking through, and some people stopped and took a look. So here's the reality: The Mayor imposed this curfew, and yeah, I had to carry my ID around with me in Baltimore City after 10 o'clock, because you were supposed to have a letter from the boss saying you had to work past 10. I'd have to say, "I am the boss, what do you want me to do?" And a friend who's a private attorney could drive into the city at 11 and bring us Chinese food one night. We were all fine. But my clients, and the people who are struggling, and the people who are hovering on just the edge of absolute, dire poverty—they went to work. Because their employers said, "You show up and I'll pay you." They might be paid under the table, or off the books, so there they were, and they were caught and they were arrested.

We saw on the news individuals who were smashing police cars and traffic cones and all kinds of visually disturbing cases. The day we showed up for bail review they assigned the four toughest judges to set bail. They had their theory lined up ahead of time; you could tell they had had a conversation. I had forty attorneys spread out across four courtrooms doing the bail reviews, and what they didn't understand was going to happen was that the world press descended upon them. Baltimore City has traditionally had very high bails. There are a lot of individuals incarcerated right now on what is called felony drug charge and possession with intent to distribute drugs, which can be a low-level kind of person ("I pass a few pieces to you for a few bucks") being held without bail. And we fight that issue. A \$5,000 bail: when I looked back at Raymond Smoot, I thought, "That wasn't too bad of a bail, \$1500, I must have done a really good job," but then I realize how ridiculous it is that he would be on that bail at all. So a lot of individuals had bail that was set higher than that of the police officers charged in the death of Freddie Gray. And the press came to ask, "Are you upset about that?" and I said "No, I'm not upset about that, I want that for my clients." And a police officer walked into the jail and looked at it, and said "I want that for my client too." I don't have a problem with what the officers got, I have a problem with the fact that there are two different brands of justice in Baltimore City.

The judges were unbelievable. They had not been with people from the press and the public who had a different perspective than "just lock them up." They didn't understand that the world outside Baltimore was changing, that many people around the country were changing, and that many people were getting rid of money bail, getting rid of the concept of the bail bondsmen, and understanding that pretrial supervision was the way to go, because keeping people incarcerated just makes things much worse for everybody in the community. Here's the *New York Times* sitting in when a judge says (these aren't the exact words, but they're pretty darn close): "Counsel, I'm not going to listen to that. I'm just presuming that they're guilty at this stage in the proceedings." I understand that the judge was tired, but she just closes them down. What are you going to do? The reporter is there, it's on tape, they wrote it down, and it's what they said.

So the question is, how did we get to this point? We like to joke around in Baltimore City about never quite getting ourselves together, but the reality is there are a lot of fine people in Baltimore, a lot of dedicated people, a lot of people who love the city, and how did we get here?

Well, the same thing has happened in a lot of cities – the war on drugs was the first thing. We’re just going to lock up everyone with drugs. But we don’t have the resources to go after the high-end dealers, so we just go for the local street trade. They’re out there slinging because it’s not easy to get a job, and it’s not easy to get a job because it’s not easy to graduate from high school, and it’s not easy to graduate from high school because a teacher had 30 other students to deal with who had lead poisoning and all these other problems we’ve ignored for years and years and years. Here in the Baltimore City schools you can’t even take a textbook home, so if you don’t understand it that day, it’s tough to be you. But if we’re going to hire you, we want that high school diploma. How about my clients who sit in houses because their mothers are strung out on drugs and they’re raising their younger siblings? They don’t go to school because if they do go to school those children are essentially abandoned.

We know that addiction is a medical issue. I was at a meeting with the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, who had judges and prosecutors (we’re the only defenders around the table; I wonder why they have us sometimes), and she lectured them: “This is a medical issue. And locking folks up is not going to solve the problem.” And then she proceeded to offer a prescription to everyone around the room who would take training to use Narcan, a substance which you can squirt into someone’s nose to prevent them from overdosing on opiates, which in Baltimore City is a huge thing. And less than half a dozen folks availed themselves of the offer to get the prescription. We have a lot of work to do on that issue alone in our country. Addiction is not a crime. It can’t be a crime. If you make it a crime, you are not going to get yourself out of it. If you make it a medical issue, then we have a possibility. Heroin and cocaine are really easy to get in Baltimore City and now it turns out opiates are too. We’re just starting to learn that a lot of heroin addiction in Baltimore City starts out with painkillers, which doctors are really happy to prescribe and pharmaceutical companies are really happy to sell. So give me a break. I have a real problem with you telling me about drug dealers and drug addicts. Who’s the drug dealer? Who’s the person who’s pushing, and who’s the person who’s ignoring the pushers?

One hundred thousand arrests each year, a lot of them not removed from records. People pled time served to get out of jail regardless of whether or not they were guilty of anything, and now they can’t get a job. The thing that’s really difficult is that criminal records have never been easier to get hold of. So many times I hear people say, “Before I let somebody work on my house, I go to Maryland Judiciary Case Search and look up to see if they have a record.” It’s publically available to everybody.

In response, the criminal justice system gave us a problem solving court. You see them on television. You see them touted on the news as really wonderful: warm, fuzzy, feel-good, we’re-going-to-help you situations. And I say to this: “Why did you have to lock them up to begin with?” We know now the instability of just being incarcerated is by itself a far greater punishment than we can imagine. And for most of them, you have to plead guilty to get services: “So let me take that felony drug conviction because the only way I can get an inpatient detox bed is if I plead for services.” I can appreciate that. I understand what you’re telling me: that you think when you go out again, you’re not detoxed and you’re not going to die this time. I get it. You’re telling me you’re going to plead guilty to a felony that maybe you don’t even feel like you’ve committed, because you want that treatment bed. And the purse strings are on the treatment bed. Why? Because judges want to feel like they’re helping people. The system wants to feel like it’s helping people. They don’t want to disengage it from the criminal justice system. And the longer the judges sit on these problem-solving courts, the more they begin to feel that they know how to treat people. Every single time we’ve had a problem-solving court start, we’ve had a well-intentioned judge doing some great things for our clients, and about five years later they’ve bought into another side. I know who’s competent and who’s not competent in mental health court. The last time I checked, none of them had addiction degrees. None.

So I guess the question is, what do we do? Now that I’ve just totally horrified you. So where do we go from here? I’ve got a list of things that I really want you to consider doing. Some of them I’ve tried and some have worked, and some of them are going to take a long time to try, but we have to do it.

Old ways won't open new doors.
Miroslav Rajković

Editors' Note: Up to this point, we have edited Natalie Finegar's oral speech so it's shorter (to fit in these pages) and more readable. The following list of suggestions was written entirely by the author; we have published what was sent to us.

Take Back Your System: Many stakeholders in the system believe they are not only enforcing laws but they are also carrying out justice in ways you approve. Make it clear that you are NOT satisfied with parts of the system.

Court Watch – Judges and prosecutors will behave differently when they know they are being watched by constituents that are concerned about criminal justice issues. They may assume you are there to support incarceration or prosecution in general. Many will ask why you are there and you can offer your concerns and desire to observe what is happening in your system. It is an eye opening experience for many members of the system. We frequently get isolated and do not have a sense of how society has changed its opinions.

Op-Eds – Putting your concerns in the local paper will help emphasize what reforms are being supported in your community. It is easy to find statistics online that may be local or national but help to support your position.

Court Support – Showing up in support of a defendant who has little family or outside resources will undoubtedly change the outcome in their case. Whenever my clients have had court support, the outcomes in their cases improved. Even when there was a conviction, the sentence was much less than I expected. Often I can use the support to negotiate a dismissal.

Phone calls about cases – police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors are frequently elected officials. Therefore, they will often respond to an outpouring of concern over a case. In the past the concerns have mostly been centered on gaining a conviction and a significant sentence. Speak up as a constituent when you believe it is a waste of resources to prosecute a case or incarcerate an individual. If you are the victim in a case, you have even more clout with these officials.

Demand Value for Tax Dollars – highlight the absolute waste of resources to incarcerate non-violent low level defendants pre or post trial. Emphasize the cost value of treatment or diversion programs in exchange for dismissals. The system is spending your tax dollars and you can have a say in how it is being spent.

Legislation: Politicians are always eager to please voters for upcoming elections or concerned about campaign contributions. They also often think their constituents want “criminals” locked up. Educate them on your priorities and opinions on legal reform for the criminal justice system.

Racial Impact on all New Legislation – Minnesota has passed a requirement that in addition to fiscal notes, racial impact notes also must be attached to legislation. Since criminal justice issues have a disparate impact on people of color, this is one way to help highlight the negatives of new laws or increased sentences for crimes.

Parity in Funding Between Geographical areas – in many jurisdictions urban areas have fewer tax dollars to spend on education, social support and financial assistance than their suburban counterparts. Studies have shown that these services can help deter crime. Demand parity in services between the geographical sectors in your locality, county, or state.

Decriminalization of low level offenses – there is an abundance of positive research on the legalization of marijuana or simply making possession a civil infraction. The cost savings are staggering and the taxation of marijuana sales have been significant revenue sources. In addition, consider crimes that are essentially the criminalization of poor people – sleeping in parks, urinating in public, vagrancy, etc. These “quality of life crimes” were created in response to citizen concerns over neighborhood atmosphere. However, we can highlight the cost of prosecuting these individuals and the subsequent collateral consequences that can make future employment very difficult.

Bail Reform – there are mountains of research regarding the benefits of reducing bail or eliminating money bail altogether. It is a growing movement in states and cities and the results have been very positive. Expect signifi-

cant opposition from the bail bonds industry. However, it isn't hard to prove their interests are solely profit-based and that their political contributions are staggering.

Oversight of Correctional Facilities – demand that studies be conducted, regulations be passed and that corrections offer the services they are required to offer (medical, job training, educational). Create legislation that requires work release or more services offered to incarcerated people.

Expungement/Shielding – the ability of the public to access past cases and outcomes is a major hindrance to obtaining housing and employment. Advocate for more opportunities to remove cases from public inspection.

Engage with the “victims” of the system: in addition to the traditionally defined person that has been harmed by a crime, re-define “victims” to include the overly charged, wrongfully convicted, and the families of those serving sentences.

Employment opportunities – advocate for job opportunities for those individuals with criminal records. Engage with members of your Meeting or community to highlight the importance of allowing individuals to prove themselves in a job setting.

Prison Ministry – it is often difficult or impossible for family and friends to visit in prison. Our presence and support can help serve as an encouragement and mentoring mechanism that can change the lives of those serving sentences.

Family Support – there are a host of studies highlighting the destabilization of families when one member is incarcerated. Helping to encourage, support, mentor and assist the remaining family can increase the odds that the family will remain intact and that children in particular will suffer less damage.

Bail Funds – if you can't eliminate bail you can raise money to eliminate the bail bonds function. Or if you cannot afford to post the entirety of a bail, you can offer support even through a bail bondsman. Outcomes in cases are dramatically changed when a defendant is released. Individuals are less likely to engage in plea bargains that will have adverse effects, and even when plea bargaining, incarceration is less likely.

Volunteering with Public Defender Offices – the vast majority of public defender systems are woefully underfunded. Skill sets of all types can be helpful to successful outcomes. If your PD office isn't sure what they can do with “non-legal” assistance, I will be happy to share some of my experiences with all types of disciplines.

Just Listening to Stories – connections with those who have been charged and/or incarcerated will help you identify major areas of reform you would like to address. You will be amazed at what is happening in your jurisdiction. Many of us have very isolated knowledge of the practices of police departments, prosecutors, and jails.

Educate the Public: – members of the general public are never shocked when I advocate for reform. Public Defenders are frequently viewed as being biased and “soft-hearted.” When my concerns are echoed by physicians, teachers, scientists and even law enforcement, our position gains strength.

Story telling: —repeat what you have learned and witnessed.

Bringing defendants/ex-offenders to speak with groups who don't normally interact with poor people or those who have experienced prosecution. Inevitably something individuals can share will be surprising or disturbing to the general public.

Treatment Options outside of Prosecution. – advocate that treatment on demand for mental health and addiction is available in your community. There are many studies that will highlight the reduction in crime and cost savings of offering treatment before an arrest occurs.

Value of Declining Prosecution – even if certain crimes remain crimes, it is possible to educate the public to advocate for prosecutorial discretion in charging.

Radical Reform: —there have been increasing calls for more active steps to take back the criminal justice system and make it reflect our values. These reforms clearly aren't for everyone but it can be valuable to consider their potential impact.

Jury Nullification – increasing numbers of jurors are demanding the standard of reasonable doubt be very strictly held.

Public criticism of judges, prosecutors and even defense attorneys – if you see something that disturbs you and private conversations aren't addressing the issue, consider taking the story to the press, protests, rallies or any public outlet.

Protests – civil disobedience is becoming more popular as a way to address issues, particularly those that center on concerns of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Putting Pressure on Officials at Public Events – show up at hearings, campaign events, fundraisers or any public forum and ask some tough questions. Demand commitment for bail reform, treatment, or any other reform you view being urgent. Press frequent these events and can pick up the story. Politicians are put on the spot to explain their lack of actions for reforms, or the questions may simply raise awareness for an official and/or their general supporters.

Complaints to Oversight Bodies – every professional actor in the system from law enforcement to prosecutors, defense attorneys and even judges have oversight bodies that receive and investigate complaints. Research the mechanisms for raising concerns and make use of them. Too often only criminal defendants make complaints which are then viewed as being a mechanism to escape prosecution.

Videotape – anytime you seen an arrest take out your cell phone and film what is happening. Even if your battery is dead or your camera is broken, hold your phone up as if you are filming. Video changes cases. In the past my clients wouldn't be believed when they described police brutality, theft of property or sexual assaults. Video is neutral evidence. Even without an actual video, the possibility that a citizen is filming a police encounter can change what happens during the encounter.



LEYM Plenary Talk by
Natalie Finegar, Deputy
District Public
Defender for the city of
Baltimore, Maryland

Teaching is not about answering
questions but about raising questions—
opening doors for them in places that
they could not imagine.

Yawar Baig

Wooster Friends Work with Coalition for Racial Understanding and Justice in Local Community

by Mathilda Navias

The headline in Wooster, Ohio's *Daily Record* for September 14, 2016, reads: "New Wayne County Fair booth tackles Confederate flag sales, social justice." The article begins, "Opposing sides on the issue of whether Confederate flags and merchandise could be sold at the Wayne County Fair seemed to reach an amicable truce before the fair began, and it appeared to be holding on Monday." The article tells the story of a booth, called "WayneCountyFairForAll", aimed at educating the public about issues of racism, equality, and white privilege, that was run by a coalition of people from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Unitarians, other area churches, including two Wooster Friends, Joyce Balderston and Sharon Shelly, and students from Wooster College. The "heavy lifting" was done by members of the Presbyterian Church. During the fair, the booth became a place of discussion on issues of racial equality and social justice. Joyce reports that "for us, it was a very rewarding experience. We dialoged with a wide spectrum of citizens and felt our time was well spent."

For Joyce, the impetus to get involved came at LEYM's Annual Meeting in 2015, where she attended the Peace Committee workshop on white privilege. Those who attended were asked to commit to doing something to help make positive changes in their communities. Joyce promised to join the NAACP, which she and her husband Phil did, and she has been attending meetings and discussing what was happening with Wooster Friends.

When the issue came up regarding the Confederate flag being sold at the Wayne County Fair, a group of NAACPers began lobbying the Fair Board. Joyce reports that at first, there was an "us" versus "them" feeling, but by the time the board had decided to allow the WayneCountyFairForAll booth, "the sense of how we would handle the participation was one of education, not confrontation." At the training for volunteers for the booth on appropriate dialogue, "the concept of listening and making it personal encouraged the 'boothers' to make the event a positive experience." The board's decision to request vendors not to display Confederate flags and related items prominently was hailed as progress. Joyce commented, "The whole process has been healthy and became more peaceful over a period of months."

There has recently been another event in Wooster to bring blacks and whites together. Joyce says, "We are just beginning, and hope to find other positive ways to bring about a healthier community. We in Wooster are hoping we can keep the enthusiasm and effort going."

You can read the *Daily Record* article at:

www.the-daily-record.com/local-news/2016/09/14/new-wayne-county-fair-booth-tackles-confederate-flag-sales-social-justice

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting is planning a one-day workshop on Quaker Process with Arthur Larabee. This workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Michigan Friends Center. There will be more details provided in the Winter Issue of the Bulletin.

The LEYM Workshop "New and Ancient Story Play" given by Dick Hogan and Rebecca Gretz was filmed by Ken Lawrence and Sara Brenner at the 2016 LEYM. The entire workshop can be seen on You-Tube at the URL <https://youtu.be/4bCzVuAJuDU>

Announcements

The Broadmead Monthly Meeting

Friends Fall Retreat will be held Oct. 14th—16th at St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. The Franciscan Center is a warm and nourishing place run by Franciscan nuns. Tiffin is on Route 224, forty minutes east of Findlay and an hour southeast of Toledo. Please consider attending if you are able. Child care will not be provided; mature teens are welcome. We hope you will join us. For complete information, go to broadmead.quaker.org/retreat.htm

Dr. Claire Cohen, our presenter, has attended Quaker Meeting off and on since 1973.



Claire Cohen

Claire started attending Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting in 1984, when she moved to Pittsburgh, PA. She has been a member of the Society of Friends for over 15 years. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania American Friends Service Committee. One of the main focuses of the Pennsylvania AFSC has been undoing institutional racism. To that end, it has been sponsoring a local youth group for teens called Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR). Claire is also the representative to the Annual AFSC Corporate Meeting for LEYM and a member of the People of Color Caucus of Friends General Conference. In addition to her Quaker activities, she is currently a member of the Western Pennsylvania Black Political Assembly, was a member of the local black activist group that held educational events for MLK Day and to Commemorate Malcolm X Day every year, and has been involved in a number of other local African-American grassroots groups in the Pittsburgh area over the last 30 years. Claire is also a practicing child psychiatrist, one of only a few hundred in the whole United States. We want everyone to attend the retreat regardless of ability to pay.

If you want to come, please call Kathleen Helbling 419-265-1965 or e-mail her at kathleenhelbling@yahoo.com

Clerking Workshop with Arthur Larrabee – Pendle Hill November 18-20, 2016.

This is an opportunity for both new and experienced clerks of Friends' meetings and committees to meet and think together about the role of presiding clerk. It is expected that each person will leave the weekend with new energy and enthusiasm for being a clerk, feeling well-grounded in both the theoretical and the practical. There will be handouts, exercises, and opportunities to share experiences, with most work being done in a whole-group setting.

Arthur Larrabee is a lifelong Friend and member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. He has led many workshops on clerking, including annually at Pendle Hill. He has served as clerk of his meeting, the Committee in charge of Westtown School, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, which he also served as General Secretary for seven years.

See the URL <http://wp.me/p1zxUQ-RP> for details.



Arthur Larrabee

Mathilda Navias, LEYM Webmaster:

Title: Check Out New Resources Section of LEYM Website

Since Annual Sessions, a new section of resources has been added to LEYM's website (leym.org). The website has also undergone some reorganization. You can find the following new or newly reorganized resource pages:

- Resources for Earthcare provided by the Earthcare Committee
- Resources for Outreach provided by the Advancement & Outreach Committee
- Resources for Peace & Justice provided by the Peace & Justice Committee
- Resources for Religious Education – links to resources from Quaker groups for First Day School and adult education
- Scholarships & Financial Help from LEYM

LEYM Committee Clerks
2016/17

Calendar

Adult & Family Program
Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens)
Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh)

Advancement & Outreach
Mathilda Navias (Broadmead)

Earthcare
Russ Adams (North Columbus)
Richard Lee (Red Cedar)

Finance
Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)

High School Teen Retreat Program
Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar)

Ministry & Nurture
Flo Friender (Kalamazoo)
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens)

Nominating
Clemence Ravacon Mershon (Erie)

Peace & Justice
Lucia Kalinosky (Oberlin)

Publications & Archives
Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

Site & Arrangements
Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

Youth & Children's Program
Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

10/14-16/2016
Broadmead Retreat on Racism and
Privilege

10/22/2016
Fall LEYM Executive Committee

1/15/2017
Due date for submissions to the
Winter LEYM *Bulletin*

3/31/2017
Spring LEYM Executive
Committee

4/01/2017
LEYM Representatives Meeting

5/05/2017 Spiritual Formation
Retreat

5/15/2017
Due date for submissions to the
Spring LEYM *Bulletin*

We are on the Web!
leym.org