



Bulletin

Clerk's Message by Mike Holaday



Mike
Holaday

On Lighting One Candle

One morning last fall I woke up early, put the coffee on, poured a cup and sat down in the pre-dawn darkness. Only the cat and I were up. After a bite of breakfast she stretched out on the back of the armchair behind my head, purring. It's crazy to think you know what's going on in a cat's head, but I had the distinct feeling she likes me.

I can be had pretty cheap—all it takes is the affection of a calico cat. But when I realized it was actually gratitude for the quiet company of a fellow creature that I was feeling, and that it was Thanksgiving morning, the whole experience sort of came together. Gratitude, when we experience it, tends to come in small packages.

Gratitude has been hard for me to come by in the wake of the recent national election. Mostly I'm worried and grumpy these days. I seem prone to dark, cold, midwinter thoughts.

A cosmic struggle between good and evil may not be strictly necessary from a theological point of view, but we humans were born to drama, not theology. When the sun looks to be dying and the cosmos threatens to go dark, that's when you want to light a candle or two.

Not for nothing do so many religions feature light in a prominent way this time of year. The symbolism is too good to pass up. Luke, alive to the possibilities, calls Christ "a light to lighten the Gentiles," and down through the ages Christians have lit their yule logs, Christmas candles, and strings of electric bulbs. We can't bring the sun back but we can keep light alive in little ways.

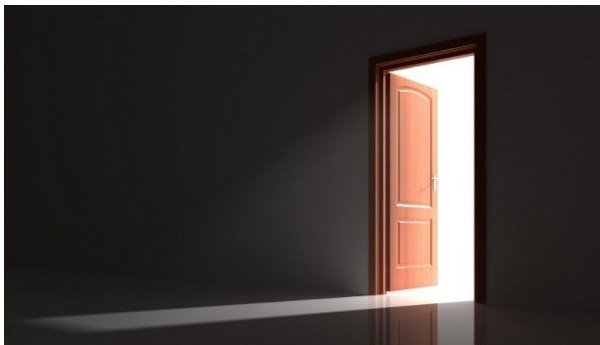
My friend's father is dying. Dear old soul, he's in his 90s, has Parkinson's disease and is slipping into dementia. But he's a

(Clerk's Message continued on next page)

poet and still has a poet's clarity of vision. Recently, as I write this, he said to one of his caretakers, "Let's see. There's Thanksgiving, then there's Christmas. And then it will be time for me to leave."

Hearing he'd said that, I felt a bit small. There isn't a trace of self-pity in that old man, while I have to admit I've been feeling a lot of it.

In the next column is a poem for the season and the times, from a dying poet.



Christmas Night

By Conrad Hilberry

Let midnight gather up the wind
and the cry of tires on bitter snow.
Let midnight call the cold dogs home,
sleet in their fur—last one can blow

the streetlights out. If children sleep
after the day's unfoldings, the wheel
of gifts and griefs, may their breathing
ease the strange hollowness we feel.

Let midnight draw whoever's left
to the grate where a burnt-out log unrolls
low mutterings of smoke until
a small fire wakes in its crib of coals.

News from the Treasurer of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting By Linda Mills

A truly amazing demonstration of our testimony on Integrity has taken place among LEYM meetings and individual Friends. One of the debts of Friends School in Detroit was to the Spanish teacher, Laura Gulas. During a period of time when the school was unable to meet health insurance premiums Laura required an emergency gallbladder surgery. She was left to pay the bills of about \$21,000.00. The Board of the school paid her only \$2000.00 toward her bill. Her husband has been able to negotiate the total down to about \$9700.00. Upon talking to the Gulas-es, it was apparent that the medical bills were a hardship on the family. When word got out as to the situation, Friends rallied to support the Gulas-es with funds to help pay the medical bills. To date, 5 Monthly Meetings and 9 individuals and couples have donated \$7600.00. Inspired by this action of Friends, the Board of Friends School has paid the surgery bill of \$1457.00. Can you believe there is only a balance of \$653.16? It is not too late to make donations to the Gulas debt. Donations can be made payable and sent to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, c/o Linda Mills, Treasurer at 4404 Carver Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. All donations will be sent on to the Gulas-es who are truly grateful and appreciative.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Contacts

Presiding Clerk

Mike Holaday
2615 Shagbark Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 340-5406
mikeholaday@alt.net

Recording Clerk

Nancy Reeves
855 Drake Drive
New Franklin, OH 44216
(330) 882-5866
neohdiver@gmail.com

Bulletin Editors

Berch and Susan Carpenter
245 Grove Street
Bluffton, OH 45387
(937) 408-4077
berchrc@gmail.com

LEYM Worker and Database Manager

Mathilda Navias
147 Hall St
Tiffin, OH 44883
(419) 448-0578
LEYMworker@gmail.com

LEYM Registrar

Sally Weaver Sommer
118 S. Spring Street
Bluffton, OH 45387
(419) 358-0950
Sally.weaver.sommer@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mike Hinshaw
1641 Southwood
Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 289-7834
xochitl23@frontier.com

LEYM Bookstore Manager

Valerie Groszmann
550 Crosstown Pkwy, Apt 207
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 344-9099
Valerie.groszmann@gmail.com

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 761-7435
leym.org

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITORS:

We pulled this Bulletin together on Inauguration Day, at the end of a dark and confusing presidential election season. Now we are looking ahead to an even darker time, knowing we'll have to actively nurture hope to stay alive. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends offer much hope. Here are reports on good work in Baltimore City, the Peace & Justice Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation. We are invited to take part in a variety of retreats, meetings, workshops, conferences, and short courses. We can join the Quaker presence at a national level; we can join the international Transition Movement coming alive in Bluffton. The LEYM website has been enriched for communication.

Our theme – from darkness into light – was chosen months ago, and now we find it not only fitting, but needed. Beyond events we needed images to contemplate, and we found them in three poems: one came with Clerk Michael Holaday's statement; a second from Broadmead Friend Aran Reinhart; a third from the well-known poet Jeff Gundy. To illustrate the theme we were sent photographs by Margaret Walden. Enjoy, and take heart.



Susan and Berch Carpenter
carpentersusan788@gmail.com
berchrc@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-2	Clerk's Message	Mike Holaday
2	News from Green Pastures QM	Linda Mills
3	Greetings from the Editors	Susan & Berch Carpenter
4	Report on FCNL	Nancy Taylor
5-6	Report from FCNL	FCNL Staff
7	Black Lives Matter in Baltimore	Mathilda Navias
8	Peace and Justice Actions in LEYM	Lucia Anne Kalinosky
9	Resources on the Web	Mathilda Navias
10	Quakerism 101 Course in Birmingham	Marvin Barnes
11-15	Workshops and Retreats	Green Pastures Mid Winter Gathering
		Transition Movement Training
		Workshop with Arthur Larrabee
		Retreat at Friends Center, Barnesville
		Contemplation and ActionSiena Retreat
		Pendle Hill Workshop on Mindfulness
16-17	AFSC at 100 years	John Deikis
17	Theme and Speaker: LEYM Meeting 2017	Claire Cohen
18	Representative Meeting Advance Registration	Joe Mills
19	"Night, the Astonishing ..."	Jeff Gundy
20	Committee Clerks and Calendar	Berch Carpenter

Report on the FCNL's work in Washington, D.C. By Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting

In recent years Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has put extra energy into encouraging f/Friends to develop on-going relationships with members of the US Congress ... ones that will enable us to become not only recognized when we go to their offices or when we phone, but also to be trusted by them to speak informed truth. Building a relationship doesn't mean you have to like the congressman or woman, or even agree with them. It does take a commitment to listening, engaging, sharing our point of view and asking them to listen to you. It takes Quaker patience, and lots of practice.

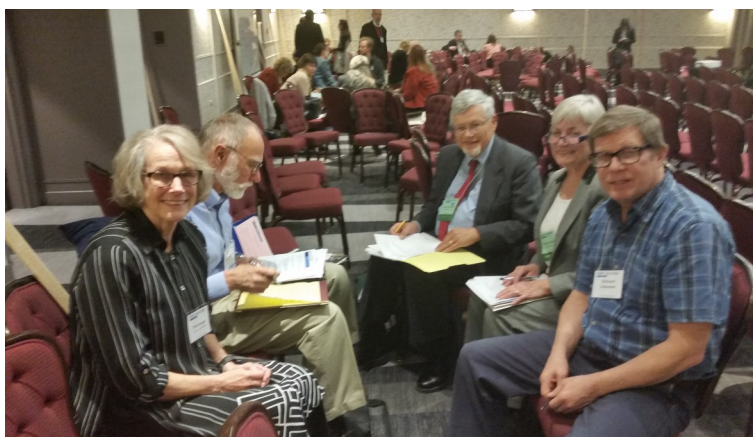
FCNL has two newish programs to help with this work. The **Advocacy Corps** is made up of college students, recent grads, and young adults who organize in their home communities for advocacy of things like climate change legislation.

Advocacy Teams are groups of people of any age who commit to building a relationship with their team, their members of Congress and with FCNL for the long term. From mid-July to mid-September, team members from across the country logged more than 80 lobby visits with members of Congress and their staff, and published more than 30 letters to the editor.

When staffers in 450 congressional offices were asked about the most effective lobbying strategies, overwhelmingly they identified **constituent visits**.

Do you have an issue that is dear to your heart and needs your attention and advocacy? Is there pending legislative action about that issue – either in Washington or in your own community? Then I urge you to study all sides of the issue, get in touch with your legislators to talk with them about it, and make your views known. Begin a relationship with your senators and representative, and build on it.

The FCNL staff in Washington, D.C. is not disheartened by the recent election; they are energized and ready to increase their efforts to take the message of the four We Seeks to the lawmakers of our land. Below is a photo showing five lobbyists from Michigan, strategizing their lobby visits to Senator Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters and to several Representatives on the Sentencing Reform & Corrections Act (S.2123), Sentencing Reform Act (H.R. 3713), and The Recidivism Risk Reduction Act (H.R. 759).



The Michigan Delegation, l-r: Pat Grauer, John Deikis, Jim Crowfoot, Nancy Taylor, and Richard Leinonen

REPORT FROM FCNL ANNUAL MEETING

Three hundred and fifty Friends gathered at the Washington Court Hotel in DC, just two days after an unsettling Presidential election, to hold the 2016 Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation. On the morning of November 10 we went in state groups to visit our Senators' and Representatives' offices to ask them to pass bills on criminal justice (sentencing reform and recidivism reduction) during the rump session of Congress. We six Michigan delegates knew that Senators Stabenow and Peters support these bills, but we want them to influence their colleagues to pass them during the "lame-duck session of Congress" before the January inauguration. We met with aides of the Senators and found them engaged and informed, but discouraged by the election results and very dubious that the legislation will even come to the floor in the next few weeks. Jim Crowfoot and I visited Representative Dingell's office while others went to other House offices, and we all had similar experiences there. We hope to follow up with visits to the members themselves when they come home during Thanksgiving or Christmas breaks, with the intent of further convincing them these issues are urgent and the bills (S. 2123, H.R. 3713 and H.R. 759) need to be passed now.



FCNL Staff and Headquarters in D.C.

Workshops and worship-sharing groups throughout the weekend also helped us to know one another more deeply and learn about the work of our FCNL staff lobbyists. We heard about: the Advocacy Teams: Quakers and friends from across the country who use their power as constituents to build meaningful relationships with their members of Congress; the young adult Advocacy Corps: youth who connect local activists with members of Congress to affect long-term change; the role of Visiting Friends who engage with nearby Meetings and churches to energize Friends to take action; the lessons learned from "failed activism". An impressive panel on "The faith voice in addressing systemic racism" was led by Rev. Jim Wallis, the founder and President of Sojourners, and included Lavidia Davis from Bread for the World and Rev. Leslie Copeland-Tune, the Director of Ecumenical Poverty Initiative. Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of FCNL, was an ever-present guardian-angel and inspiration of centered activism; and the entire FCNL staff (now numbering 42) was available to work and worship with us.

Two issues were the foci of our business sessions. First, we rejoiced that the \$15M Capital Campaign has gone very well and is nearing the goal early. Much of the money coming in has already been put to work, bolstering the inclusion of young people through Young Adult Advocates, revitalizing the Friends in Washington Program, and creating a Quaker Welcome Center at the 205 C Street house next door to the FCNL office. Second we agreed to the new legislative priorities for the 115th Congress, listed below.

This list helps guide the FCNL staff and committees in their work during the coming two years by focusing attention on those issues that are near the hearts of Friends all across the country.

FCNL's Legislative Priorities for the 115th Congress:

- Promote peacebuilding, diplomacy and the peaceful prevention of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- Reduce military spending and armed interventions
- Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation
- Advance equitable criminal justice systems that eliminate mass incarceration and support law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized
- Pursue policies that promote and respect the rights, safety and dignity of all immigrants, refugees and migrants
- Promote equitable access for all citizens to participation in the political process
- Promote policies that reduce economic inequality and poverty, encourage fair compensation for workers and health care for all
- Work to end gun violence
- Continue our witness and advocacy on Native American issues
- Advocate for solutions to climate disruption and its consequences



A highlight early in the meetings was a sing-along with Tom Rawson, a Friend from the west coast who, with the aid of his banjo and guitar and pleasing voice, knit us together in energetic song.



Black Lives Matter: Discriminatory Baltimore City Police Agree to Changes

By Mathilda Navias



Natalie Finegar—LEYM Plenary Speaker, July 2016

Our plenary speaker at LEYM Annual Sessions in 2016, Natalie Finegar, Deputy District Public Defender in Baltimore City, shared with us her experiences of system violation of lower income and black people's civil rights by the police there.

A news article from the Associated Press that appeared in *The Blade* (Toledo, Ohio newspaper) on January 13, 2017, outlines an agreement reached between the city police department and the U.S. Justice Department, which had investigated discriminatory policing practices in Baltimore after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody. Intended to correct constitutional violations particularly in poor, black neighborhoods which were identified in a scathing report released last year, the agreement mandates that officers only stop and/or search people for cause, and must use de-escalation techniques.

Now for the hard work of implementing the changes.

For a UPI article on the same subject, search on “Baltimore agrees to reform police department after damning race report”.



Protest in Baltimore after the death of Freddie Grey (April 27, 2015)

Summary of Peace and Justice Actions in LEYM

By Lucia Anne Kalinosky



Here is a summary of some of the many recent Peace and Justice minutes and actions that have taken place within LEYM since Annual Sessions. The full text of the minutes and statements mentioned can be seen at LEYM.org/peace. For more information on these items, contact the Clerk of the Peace and Justice committee,

Luciaannekalinosky@gmail.com.

- Several Monthly Meetings have made statements on the Dakota Access Pipeline in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Oberlin Monthly Meeting sent a statement of support and a donation to the Standing Rock Water Protectors. Athens Monthly Meeting adopted a minute which includes a list of companies to be boycotted.
- Broadmead Monthly Meeting themed their annual retreat this year around Racial Justice and Implicit Racism. LEYM Friend Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting) led the retreat, which sparked deep discussion and was well received.
- Cleveland Monthly Meeting is an active member of the Greater Cleveland Congregations. This group of over 40 congregations has been working with the County Prosecutor-Elect to set tangible goals on
- reducing over-sentencing and utilizing drug courts and mental health crisis centers.
- Wooster Monthly Meeting continues to strengthen their relationship with the local chapter of the NAACP. They supported an action opposing the sale of the confederate flag at the county fair, hosted NAACP leaders for a discussion on local and national racial issues, and used their annual Alternative Christmas giving to support an NAACP youth program.
- Friends in Ann Arbor continued their work on Israel-Palestine. Many LEYM Friends signed the open letter that the Palestine Israel Action Group wrote to Hillary Clinton concerning Divestment and Sanctions. This letter was sent and posted online with over 375 signatures.

All Minutes and Statements mentioned in this roundup can be viewed at LEYM.org/peace.

Don't see your work featured in this round? Let the Peace and Justice Committee know that your Monthly Meeting has done peace and justice related work or adopted minutes so that we can celebrate your work and get a better understanding of how our Yearly Meeting is being led on social issues.

Contact the Clerk at luciaannekalinosky@gmail.com.



New Resources on LEYM's Website by Mathilda Navias LEYM Webmaster

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 Peace & Justice provided by the Peace & Justice Committee

Resources for Religious Education – links to resources from FGC and other yearly meetings for First Day School and adult education

Scholarships & Financial Help from LEYM

Resources for Outreach provided by the Advancement & Outreach Committee (currently being updated)

Resources for Earthcare provided by the Earthcare Committee (no updates in a long time)

Other resources include:

Contact information for LEYM officers, committee clerks, *Bulletin* editors, and other yearly meeting contacts

Peace and Social Justice Organizations

Calendar of LEYM-sponsored events

Links to other Quaker organizations, peace & social justice organization, Quaker schools, & many others of interest to Friends

LEYM committee resources – good practices & guidelines

Resources for Meetings & Worship Groups (see below)

LEYM queries & advices and LEYM minutes

LEYM's Policies & Procedures Manual

Financial policies & reimbursement forms

Committee descriptions

Resources for Meetings & Worship Groups include:

Contact information for Meeting Clerks & Worship Group Conveners

Web Resources for Meetings

Print Resources for Meetings

List of Information Annually Requested from Meetings & Worship Groups

About the annual queries

Suggested guidelines for the State of the Meeting Report

About the Annual Statistical Report and Memorial Minutes

Request to join the e-mail list for LEYM monthly meeting clerks and worship group conveners

Find information on Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions under an “LEYM Sessions” menu tab. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting now has a menu tab.



A course in Quakerism 101 given by Birmingham Meeting starts January 29, 2017 and open to all those in other LEYM Meetings

Birmingham Friends are about to start another Quakerism 101 session. For those of you who are new to Quakerism, Q101 is **An Introductory Course in Quaker Faith & Practice**.

As expressed on the Reno Nevada Friends website, with a slight modification:

"Have you ever wondered how Quakers came to be? The Religious Society of Friends can be a puzzling spiritual community, different in so many ways from other protestant religions. Even those familiar with Quakerism have unanswered questions. Who were the Early Friends, and how did they manage to invent such an interesting new way to seek God? What led them to worship in silence? How did they arrive at consensus around the Quaker testimonies?"

Looking beyond the simple dress and distinctive Quaker hats of Early Friends, you might be surprised to find commonality with these passionate men and women, the founders who struggled to find spiritual truth and community in the political and social chaos of 17th-century England. To explore this rich legacy, Birmingham Friends this winter will offer six sessions of what we call Quakerism 101, reviewing the emergence of the Early Friends and how their faith developed, and taking a closer look into some of the nuts and bolts of Quaker practice.

Our first session will be held at the Song and Spirit Institute for Peace located at 2599 Harvard Rd, Berkley, MI 48072, following the Worship on January 29, 2017, starting at approximately 12:30pm. Each session will last approximately one and one half hour. The schedule of sessions will be finalized by the attenders; tentatively the subsequent five sessions will follow the Worship each week until completion.

The sessions have been structured to cover the topics of:

- The Beginnings of Quakerism
- "The Inward Light"
- Meeting for Worship
- Meeting for Business
- The Testimonies
- The Meeting Community



Marvin
Barnes

We will explore the history, the people, the theology and the writings of Friends from George Fox to our modern contemporaries. To support our explorations, a new website will be activated to serve as a repository for session reading materials and a place where Session attenders can share questions and ideas. This website will be available to all registrants.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Q101 sessions. Please register by sending an email to marvin@thebarnesfamily187.com; include "Q101 Registration " in the subject line. If you have questions, please send them to the same email address.

"We who are members of the Society of Friends have little to fall back on except our experience with truth. We cannot resort to ritual or creed or ecclesiastical decisions for guidance. We must find our way by seeing the hand of God at work in the weaving of the fabric of daily life."

– Quaker Clarence E. Pickett.

Even if you think you know all about Quakers, please join us for this exploration into the heart of the Quaker world.

Marvin Barnes, Birmingham Friends Meeting

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Mid-Winter Gathering—February 24-25, 2017



Red Cedar Friends Meeting
1400 Turner Street, Lansing, MI

Program

Friday Night: Seedlings (7-9 pm)
Movie: The Point

Saturday: Why Can't We be
Friends (9-7 pm)

Theme: Why Can't We Be F/friends? Who is missing from our meetings, and why?

A youth program will be provided around our theme. All ages are welcome. Information about overnight hospitality and pre-registration is coming soon. Pre-registration is encouraged so we know how many we need to feed. Childcare will be provided for ages 5 and under. It would be helpful to know who might be coming prior to February 19 to help with childcare planning. Children and Youth should dress appropriately for the weather in case of outdoor activities. For more information and registration for childcare contact sharonottenbreit@gmail.com. If you need overnight Hospitality contact April Allison at gpqmhospitality2017@outlook.com. Pre registration is available at gpqmwinter2017@outlook.com. A suggested donation of \$15 per adult is appreciated.

UNEXPECTED LIGHT

By Aran Reinhart

I clearly see the Light coming from his chest.
We are in a busy coffee shop, talking after a discussion about Quakerism.
The whole conversation lasts two minutes, tops.
For only a moment
I can see God's Light in him.
I barely know him,
But I can see that he is a beautiful human being.

I've never experienced the Light this way.
It's so intimate,
Like I've seen this part of him that few people have ever seen,
And I feel so blessed that I could see this.

I want to see the Light
In those people who aggravated me to no end.
I want to be reminded
That they have a piece of the Light, too.
And that I need to honor that Light
And that we are all in the Light.

PDF copies of
The LEYM Bulletin
are available at
leym.org/leym-bulletins

The Transition Movement: a Good Fit for Quakers: Training offered Feb 25-26, 2017 in Bluffton, OH

By
Ken Lawrence (LEYM Earthcare Committee Member)

Many Quakers today, and others as well, feel called to a spiritually fulfilling, socially just, and ecologically sustainable human presence on our planet. The urgency of this calling is growing stronger with the growing awareness of the challenges of peak oil, climate disruption, and an increasingly dysfunctional worldwide economy. The recent US election heightens our realization that we can't depend on government to adequately address these issues.

The Transition Network began in the UK in 2006 and has rapidly spread to communities around the world, including 160 official initiatives in the US and many more unaffiliated groups involved in similar work. Transition communities around the world are developing their own ways to confront head on such issues as climate change and peak oil, developing positive alternatives to "business as usual". Transition is grass-roots and local, working to improve quality of life now and into the future sustainably, resiliently, and enjoyably. Some activities that transition groups are involved in are community gardening, farmers' markets, cooperative businesses, local currencies, alternative energy projects, educational opportunities, sharing of skills and materials, and promoting bicycling.

I have found that many Quakers' concerns for a sustainable and just lifestyle mesh well with the philosophy of the Transition movement, and many Friends are involved in Transition initiatives in their communities. The emphasis on community and local self-reliance is particularly attractive to me. Several of us in the Bluffton, OH worship group of Broadmead Monthly Meeting are involved in organizing a Transition initiative in Bluffton. We are sponsoring a Transition Training seminar with experienced trainers from Transition US to learn about launching a local initiative. Anyone interested in learning more about the Transition movement or starting something in your community is invited to attend. The training will be held February 25-26 at the Sportsman's Club located at 405 N. Spring Street, Bluffton, OH 45817.

Session I	February 25	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Session II	February 26	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration Fee: \$90 before February 3rd, \$110 after February 3rd. Scholarships are available for those who need them. Lunch will be provided both days. Local hotel information is available at transitionbluffton.org and lodging with local families is also available. Send email to transitionbluffton@gmail.org. Checks for registration should be made out to Broadmead Friends Meeting and mailed to Transition Bluffton, PO Box 23, Bluffton, OH 45817.

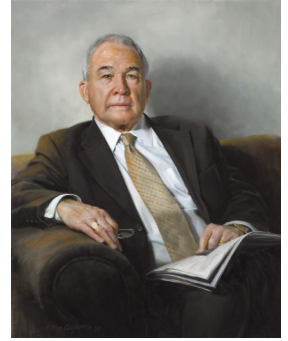


Working Lunch

<http://transitionbluffton.org/>
<https://quakersintransition.wordpress.com/>
<http://www.transitionus.org/>

Arthur Larrabee Workshop on Quaker Process & Clerking at Michigan Friends Center: March 4th, 2017

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will host a workshop on Quaker Process & Clerking with Arthur Larrabee on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Michigan Friends Center. Friends in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting are invited to attend. Arthur is highly regarded by Friends all over the country as a consultant and teacher on Quaker decision-making and clerking. Details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date. There will be a cost, which includes a payment for materials and lunch, approximating \$40.00, depending on the number of attendees. Contact Geoff Brieger at gottfriedbrieger@sbcglobal.net or call 248-547-3073 to let him know if you would like to attend.



Arthur Larrabee

Living Our Ministry in a Secular World :

Retreat at Friends Center in Barnesville, OH, facilitated by Marge Abbott and Honor Woodrow March 17-19, 2017

Apparently insignificant gestures, such as not tipping a hat, can have far-reaching consequences. Is the grand gesture a necessary act of faithfulness, and when is it right to be obedient in the small actions of daily life? Friends whose religious faith grounds their work in the world often encounter secular organizations that leave them feeling frustrated or isolated. What might happen if we develop a more ecological orientation to ministry, celebrate the everyday motions, and see how they might grow the strength and the community to sustain a public witness of our faith as it undergirds our work in the world? We can stand with each other and hear our agonized cries, and we can testify to the sustaining joy that fills our hearts. We can bless each other as we walk together, reminding each other of the flavor of the divine touch that sent us on this path, as we acknowledge the false steps and the helpful learning — the despair and the hope — which have brought us thus far. Our hope for this weekend is that we might raise up the everyday ways in which our lives are intertwined and knit together in and with Christ's Spirit. May we better be able to go forth into the world bearing witness to the Inward Guide in ordinary actions as much as in radical proclamation. The Friends Center in Barnesville, Ohio, is a retreat and conference center for exploring Christian unprogrammed Quakerism and its meaning today. It is rooted in Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Weekend events begin with supper at 6:00 PM on Friday and end with a noon meal on Sunday. Cost for a regular weekend event is \$170 per person, double occupancy. Scholarship aid is usually available. Please register by two weeks prior to start date. Email inquiries or registrations to kenkatharine@earthlink.net. To cancel a registration *within two weeks of the start date*, please phone Fran Taber at 740-425-1248. Earlier than that, email kenkatharine@earthlink.net

Contemplation & Action: Contemplative Retreat at the Siena Retreat Center on Lake Michigan

Join us for “Contemplation and Action: A Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends,” at the Siena Retreat Center, Racine, Wisconsin from April 27-30, 2017. The Siena Center, on the Lake Michigan lakefront, will be beautiful as we move into the season of rebirth and growth.

April Allison of Red Cedar Friends Meeting in Lansing, Michigan, and Roger Hansen of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Meeting will lead the retreat, offered through the School of the Spirit.

Participants will experience the distinctly Quaker manner of knowing solitude in community. Along with individual silent times for prayer, reflection, time in nature, contemplative interaction with scripture, and meeting one on one with retreat leaders, there will also be group silence at meals; ‘active silence’ with participants gathered doing individual handwork, reading, journaling, artwork, and other contemplative work.

At its heart, the retreat is a time when we can simply be with God, attend to the divine stirrings in our souls, and open to grace.

There is a flexible fee schedule. If the full fee seems challenging, you can pay less without asking for a scholarship while other attendees are invited to contribute more.

Schedule

First day:

2-4 PM Arrival and settling in

4 PM Opening worship

5 PM Dinner

Last day:

11 AM Closing worship

12 noon Lunch followed by departure

Times are approximate. A detailed schedule will be sent in advance.

Flexible Fees

Full Cost/ Minimum

Single \$425/ \$240

Discernment questions regarding what to pay

Is the Full Cost of this event within your means?

If yes, can you pay a little more to support another?

If the Full Cost is not within your means, what can you pay?

Have you considered asking your meeting or church for financial assistance?

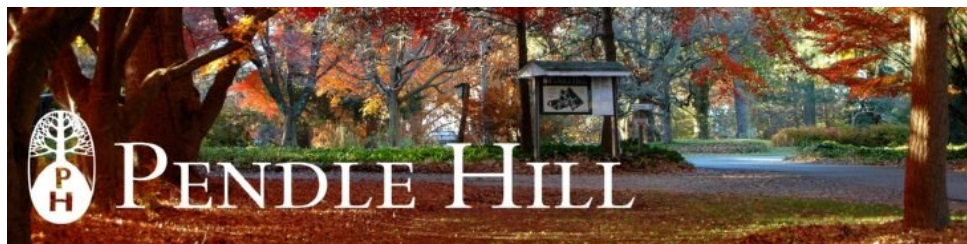
If the Minimum is still too much, please contact us at info@schoolofthespirit.org or call 919-391-0399

Registration is at this URL: <http://schoolofthespirit.org/programs/silent-retreats-2/wi-retreat/>

You can also reach April Allison at aprilallison@heronrising.com for additional information.

A Pendle Hill Workshop Retreat on Mindfulness Meditation with Mary Grace Orr, Anne Briggs, and Larissa Kitenko from March 26 to April 2, 2017

Present in every Moment: Waking Up to Love and Compassion in Our Lives



Mindfulness meditation is a simple technique offered by the Buddha for awakening the mind and heart. This retreat will be a time of silence, with periods of sitting and walking practice, opportunities to talk about your own practice, and formal presentations. It is suitable for both beginners and experienced meditators.

Leaders

Mary Grace Orr is a senior teacher at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Marin County (CA) and the founding teacher of Insight Santa Cruz. A beloved teacher at Pendle Hill, Mary Grace has led retreats here since 1997. She currently lives in Hawaii and teaches retreats both there and throughout the United States.

Anne Briggs is a lifelong Quaker who leads the Insight Meditation Community of Chestertown (MD). She completed the Community Dharma Leader Training at Spirit Rock Meditation Center and has assisted Mary Grace for many years.

Larissa Kitenko, a longtime practitioner of Insight Meditation, studies and practices Buddhism in the Theravadan tradition. She completed the CDLT at Spirit Rock Meditation Center with Mary Grace as mentor, and the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MSBR) Program teacher training with Jon Kabat-Zinn. A volunteer hospice and hospital chaplain, Larissa teaches MSBR, leads the Easton Meditation Group, and leads classes and retreats in Eastern Maryland.

Private room \$1145; Shared Room \$965, Commuter \$685

Note: The fee for this retreat does not include any payment to the teachers. There will be an opportunity to make a donation directly to them at the end of the retreat.

Register Online—Call us for more information: 610-566-4507

100 YEARS AND STILL AT IT!

Submitted by John Deikis, LEYM Representative to AFSC

Did you know?

American Friends Service Committee was founded in 1917 in response to World War I with the goal of both relieving the suffering of war and providing alternatives to military service. Young conscientious objectors drove ambulances, ministered to the wounded, and stayed on in Europe after the armistice to rebuild war-ravaged communities. Following that modest beginning, AFSC responded in numerous ways to human suffering, such as:



- Feeding thousands of children in Germany and Austria in 1919;
- Helping distressed Appalachian mining communities find alternative ways to make a living in the 1930's;
- Distributing food and clothing in famine relief to Russia in 1920-1921;
- Providing relief to both sides of the Spanish Civil War in 1937;
- Sending a delegation to Nazi Germany in 1938 to rebuke the government for its treatment of Jews and to encourage free emigration;
- Providing medical help to civilians during China's civil war in 1941;
- Providing alternative national service to conscientious objectors during World War II;
- Providing relocation services for Japanese-Americans and working to protect their property for the duration of the 2nd World War;
- Sending food to India to relieve severe famine in 1943;
- Leading reconstruction efforts in post-war Europe and Asia;
- Together with the British Friends Service Council, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947;
- Publishing *Speak Truth to Power* in 1955 in response to the Cold War;
- Along with the Mennonites and Church of the Brethren, developing volunteer work camps and response teams that became the model for JFK's Peace Corps;
- Organizing agricultural and medical programs in Algeria following the 1962 ceasefire with colonial France;
- Working to support over 7,000 African American children in previously segregated "white" schools after 1965;
- Providing free medical aid to civilians in both North and South Vietnam, despite U.S. Government restrictions during the 1960's;
- Offering counseling and support to America's young people who refused to fight in the American war in southeast Asia through the 1970's;
- Establishing economic development programs in South America, Asia and Africa from the 1970's to the present day;
- And today working with numerous communities such as Native Americans, immigrants, migrant workers, prisoners, and low-income families on education and justice issues.

AFSC knows that spirit-led work can build the capacity for peace person by person, community by community. In 2017, this key organization of American Quakerism will hold its **100th anniversary**. You can share in this opportunity to celebrate and learn from recent Quaker history.

(More information on the next page)

Peace Works: This is a new website (peaceworks.afsc.org) that collects and shares stories from AFSC volunteers both past and present.

Waging Peace: 100 Years of Action: This interactive traveling exhibit will open in January, 2017 and demonstrate the effectiveness of non-violence to build justice, overcome oppression, and prevent violence. A “mini” version of this exhibit will be available to meetings and churches around the country to inspire us to a ministry of action.

Centennial Summit: Philadelphia will host a summit (April 20-23, 2017) articulating a vision forward for peace and justice by joining movements that are reaching out to make the connection between militarism, racism, and materialism. The gathering will include keynote speakers, academic symposia, activist workshops, art events/performances, and a youth convergence for Quaker leaders ages 16 to 26.

International Forums: To build networks and attention around engaging people in changing the narrative of oppression, AFSC will host a series of forums on key issues such as political violence, business & peace, election violence, and human migration.

You can find out more about AFSC’s centennial by going to WWW.AFSC.ORG.

Theme and Speaker: LEYM Sessions 2017

By Claire Cohen, Program Committee

The theme for this year’s LEYM Annual Meeting is “Quakerism into the New Millennium.” We will be focusing on where we are as Quakers now and where we see ourselves going in the years ahead. In particular, we want to focus on retaining and building membership among our Millennials.

Our Speaker will be Greg Woods whose talk is titled, “Reviving Quakerism in the New Millennium.” Greg Woods is a lifelong Quaker and still holds his membership at Columbia (MO) Friends Meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Over the past dozen years, his faith has been strengthened by his interactions across branches of Quakerism. He now attends First Friends Meeting in Greensboro, NC where he lives with his wife Jeann Bonsall, their infant daughter Margaret Rae Bonsall, and their cat Tuesday.



Claire Cohen

In the past few years Greg has served as Work Camp Coordinator at William Penn House in Washington, DC, worked as Assistant Coordinator of the Young Adults Leadership Development Program at Pendle Hill, acquired his Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and served in ministry with Friends Center at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. Greg is dedicated to and passionate about Quaker service and the role that Young Adults Friends have in its formation and actualization, which has led him to be a founding board member of Quaker Voluntary Service.

Representative Meeting April 1, 2017 at Kalamazoo Meeting

Advance Registration

The 2017 Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 1st, at the Kalamazoo Meeting House. The address is 508 Denner Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006.

(to be received by March 15, 2017)

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Meeting or Worship Group _____

Number of persons for Saturday lunch _____

Vegetarians (# ____) Omnivores (# ____)

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Overnight Accommodation (Please circle)

I (we) will make our own arrangements.

I (we) need information about the motels.

I (we) need hospitality with Friends on

Friday, March 31st (# people) _____

Saturday, April 1st (# people) _____

Please email or post this information to:

Joe Mills
4404 Carver Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

269-375-4414
millrae@juno.com

Schedule

A light breakfast and lunch will be offered. Child care will be provided those who request it by March 15th (see registration form). A donation of \$10.00 for meals will be appreciated.

Registration & simple breakfast 9:00 AM

Meeting for worship 9:30 AM

Greeting & Announcements 10:00 AM

Committee Meetings 10:15 AM

Lunch 12:15 PM

Meeting for business 1:15 PM

Adjournment by 4:30 PM

A meeting of the Executive Committee (Yearly Meeting officers and Committee Clerks) will be held on Friday evening, March 31st at the Kalamazoo Meeting House at 7:00 PM. Committee members are asked to provide their own suppers. If you require hospitality please contact Joe Mills.



“Night, the Astonishing . . .”

By Jeff Gundy

One star only, and all the trees looming, not my enemies
nor my friends. Hölderlin praises the night, “the stranger

to all that is human,” “mournful and gleaming.”
But this night is wet heat and the insects that crave

any blood the way I crave red wine and whisky,
sweet words in a row, and whatever it is we call God.

Inside, the lights shine against the window,
show the stove and shelves, the table with its bottles,

all these homely things shining and the night behind them.
Luna pads to the door and I let her out. It’s late.

I am not a cat or a soldier to be out in the dark,
not the farmer in his roaring combine, taking off the wheat

before it rains. I walked in the hot woods all day,
I read and hummed and muttered on the soul and the spirit,

but there is no more in me than one star might say:
that it fused and changed itself for centuries, consumed

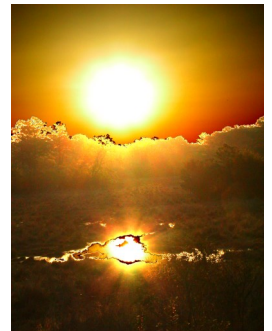
its own being to cast something outward, that its hot light
sailed reckless as Lucifer through oceans of space

to wash up on this undreamed, dark, occupied island,
to be gathered and known, to be spoken among the trees.

Jeff Gundy is a professor of Poetry, Literature, and
English Composition at Bluffton University. The poem
appears in his book *Spoken among the Trees*, Akron Press,
2007, and with permission here.



Breaking Light
Margaret Walden



Chincoteague Sunset
Margaret Walden

**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 Anne Kalinosky (Oberlin)

Publications & Archives
Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

Site & Arrangements
Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

Youth & Children's Program
Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

4/01/2017

Representative Meeting, Kalamazoo,
Michigan

5/15/2017

Due date for submissions to the
Spring LEYM *Bulletin*

6/30/2017

Due date for State of the Meeting
Report

7/15/2017

Due date for Statistical Reports

7/27-30/2017 Annual Meeting, Bluffton,
Ohio

9/01/2017

Due date for submissions for Annual
Records 2017

We are on the Web!
leym.org

