



## New to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting?

Welcome, Friend! We're glad you are reading this and invite you to consider becoming active in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

What we are: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is a group of monthly meetings and worship groups in western Pennsylvania, much of Ohio, and Michigan's Lower Peninsula. We are all associated with Friends General Conference, often seen as the most liberal branch of Quakers in North America.

When we meet: We hold two large gatherings a year. Our Annual Meeting is held at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio, over four days in late July (July 25—28 in 2019). To plan and prepare for those sessions, we hold a one-day Representative Meeting on a Saturday in spring (April 6 in 2019; see page 3).

What we do: Some people see the Annual Meeting as a "Quaker Camp" where one can meet Quakers from a broader region. The setting, in a small town, gives ample opportunity for relaxation, building community, and spiritual growth in between the business meetings that inform us and keep our organization humming along. The social justice minutes we adopt can magnify concerns of a local meeting. Workshops, worship sharing, and Bible study at

Annual Meeting are good opportunities for personal growth. People who bring children or grandchildren are grateful for the skilled and loving care available and the lasting friendships among the children. In between meetings, our committees communicate and cooperate with local meetings and worship groups.

A former clerk explained it this way: "Yearly Meeting is a way for each of us to embrace a larger Quaker world outside of the monthly meeting. It is not the only way, of course, as many people find this larger world by attending the Gathering of Friends General Conference or becoming involved in organizations such as the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, or others. But Yearly Meeting holds the distinction of being a uniquely easy, cost- and energy-efficient, and family-friendly way to meet and embrace a wider world of Friends. The four summer days we spend with one another have led to life-long friendships, spiritually uplifting experiences, and deep personal growth for many among us." ~ Eds.

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## Speaker and Theme Announced for LEYM Annual Meeting July 25—28 at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio

The **Program Committee** has announced that the theme for this summer's Annual Meeting is ***Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with Your God*** [from Micah 6:8]: ***Finding Our Calling in Disturbing Times***. Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC General Secretary, will give the plenary address on "It Takes Courage: Quaker Values in Action."

Joyce joined AFSC in September 2017. A transformative Quaker leader, she has a depth of experience in strategic planning, financial and personnel management, fundraising, and communication spanning 27 years. Prior to joining to AFSC, Joyce served as the director of the Ramallah Friends School in Palestine, where she led a diverse staff of over 170 educators and administrators for 13 years. Earlier she worked in international development focusing on minority and refugee rights, gender equality, economic development, and humanitarian support. She served as the country director for Palestine and Israel with Oxfam-Great Britain, chaired the Association of International Development Agencies there, and worked as a program officer and project manager at various United Nations agencies. Joyce holds a master's degree in Organizational Management and Development from Fielding Graduate University in California.



*Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC General Secretary*

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leym.org

### *Why do you attend Annual Meeting?*

We'd like to hear from you, and will publish selected responses in the spring *Bulletin*, due to be published in late May; please reply by May 15. That issue will also include descriptions of Annual Meeting workshops, a complete schedule for all four days of Annual Meeting, all you need to know about registering for this mid-summer event, and possibly more on the plenary speaker. ~ Eds.

PDF copies of  
*The LEYM Bulletin*  
are available at  
leym.org

# Representative Meeting

April 6, 2019 at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

The 2019 LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6, at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

A **light breakfast and lunch** will be offered for those who register in advance. A donation of \$10, more or less, for meals will be appreciated. For other attendees, there are restaurants ten minutes away.

**Childcare** will be provided for those who request this by March 16 (see registration form, at right).

## Schedule for Saturday, April 6:

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, April 5**, at the same location, starting at 7:00. Supper will be provided for Executive Committee members and their traveling companions at 6:00; suggested offering \$5.

*Friends are invited to stay for worship with Ann Arbor Friends on First Day at 9:00 or 11:00.*



*Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse and Quaker House*

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(To be received by **Friday, March 16, 2019**)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting or Worship Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons for **Saturday lunch** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons for **Friday supper** \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarians (#) \_\_\_\_; Omnivores (#) \_\_\_\_

The following children expect to attend:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

### Overnight Accommodation (please check)

\_\_\_ I (we) will make our own arrangements

\_\_\_ I (we) need information about area hotels/motels

\_\_\_ I (we) need hospitality with Friends on:

Friday, April 5 (# people) \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, April 6 (# people) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please email or post this information to:

Thomas & Nancy Taylor  
324 Hilldale Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

*netaylor@comcast.net*  
734-995-6803

## Annual Meeting Workshop Proposals Invited

The Program Committee of LEYM is requesting proposals from Friends for workshop presentations at our 2019 Annual Meeting (on July 25—28 at Bluffton University). The theme is *Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with Your God: Finding Our Calling in Disturbing Times*. The deadline for submission is **Friday, February 15**. We cannot guarantee that proposals submitted after that date will be considered.

We expect to provide about ten workshops on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Each workshop will last an hour and 45 minutes, and should have some relationship to the theme.

Please submit the following for each workshop proposal:

1. Name and monthly meeting of leader(s)
2. Committee or organization, if applicable
3. Title of your workshop
4. One or two paragraphs describing the content of the workshop, including its relationship to the theme of the Annual Meeting.

All proposals should be sent to Susan Hartman, [susandhartman@gmail.com](mailto:susandhartman@gmail.com), no later than February 15. We look forward to receiving proposals from individuals or committees and hope that Friends will have thoughtful and interesting ideas to share with all of us.

LEYM Program Committee:

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), clerk; Aran Reinhart (Broadmead); Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor); Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor); Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor)

*This column intentionally  
left blank (back of  
registration form).*

**Happy Birthday to Claire Davis**  
(Broadmead), who turned 100  
in early January!

## Thanks and Farewell to Mathilda Navias

Mathilda Navias, Meeting Worker for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for nearly ten years, is leaving us in May to move to Rochester, New York. Mathilda is the author of the book *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* (2012), which sets out how Quaker process works within the context of both history and different varieties of Friends. She has served Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on several committees and as the database manager for many years, while also participating on committees within both Broadmead Monthly Meeting and Friends General Conference.

Mathilda's contributions to the life of our yearly meeting have been valuable both in her deep experience with process and her commitment to improving communication within LEYM. She has made innumerable additions to our website (leym.org) and constantly sought improvements that made communication easier, both within our committees and within the monthly meetings and worship groups of our yearly meeting. She has been a valuable asset for several presiding clerks and assistant clerks while serving as Meeting worker. One explained:

"She was a kind of Quaker process coach for me. At times she'd speak up during a business session, at times she'd take me aside and offer suggestions or information privately, and at times I'd just call her up and ask her views about something or other."

Another expressed gratitude for the "guidance and care she's taken over the years to ensure that our yearly meeting runs smoothly and is Spirit-led." She has been reliable and resourceful, imaginative in her approach to problems, and painstaking in keeping track of data. Many thanks to Mathilda for her service, and we wish her and her husband, Dan Bell, Godspeed in their new adventures within New York Yearly Meeting.

Although Mathilda is irreplaceable, Friends must be found to take on two posts that she has held for many years, Meeting worker and database manager. Below and on pages 6–7 are an interview in which Mathilda describes the rewards and challenges of being Meeting worker and a job description with instructions on how to apply. The job description for database manager appears on page 8.



### An Interview with Mathilda Navias, Yearly Meeting Worker

*Q. When did you become Yearly Meeting worker for LEYM?*

A. In 2009, Merry Stanford, then Clerk of LEYM, brought forward a recommendation to hire clerical help. At Representative Meeting that year, LEYM contracted with Jo Steigerwald of Cleveland Meeting to assist with the logistics of the upcoming Monthly Meeting Clerks Consultation and to help LEYM's volunteer webmaster organize and update LEYM's website. Executive Committee reported that Jo did a wonderful job, but soon after she started, she accepted a full-time job in Cleveland. In October, LEYM's Executive Committee hired me to replace Jo, and I began work in November 2009.

*Q. What do you find rewarding in this work?*

A. I've been able to use my particular skills and interests in the service of the Yearly Meeting. I've created an infrastructure that helps Friends communicate easily.

When I've served on LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee, I've appreciated the opportunity to be in contact with all the meetings and worship groups as Yearly Meeting worker. This has also given me the opportunity to be aware of what's going on in each group and bring any concerns or good news to the A&O Committee.

*Continued on next page*

I enjoy making things more efficient and easier for Friends in monthly meetings and worship groups while also expanding the information we collect from them. For instance, instead of sending blank forms every year for the annual statistical reports, I now pre-fill the form with the information I already have and send it by email. Moreover, I've created one place Friends can turn to for information and help when they have questions.

I've had a lot of fun with the website, adding information and re-organizing how it can be accessed. The website now includes information on monthly meetings and worship groups; contact information; a page on YM scholarships and financial aid; resource pages in many areas; links to other Quaker organizations and interest groups; information for the use of monthly meetings and LEYM committees; and more.

I like working independently, and seeing needs and being able to address them. I like being in the middle of things and knowing what's going on. At this point, I'm the person who has served the longest in one continuous stretch on LEYM's Executive Committee, either as clerk of a committee or as an invitee as Yearly Meeting worker – since 2005.

When I first started this work, I ran into resentment from a number of meetings, who said that the only time the Yearly Meeting contacted them was when we wanted something – money or a report. Along with work of LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee, consciously reaching out to meetings and worship groups and asking what we could do to help, that has turned around. Now, I often get a "thanks for the work you do" along with a requested report.

*Q. What are the challenges of the work?*

A. There are certain tasks that have to be done at a certain time of year or by a certain date. A great deal of work is done following Annual Sessions, for instance, when the website gets an annual update using information from the annual statistical reports. Throughout the year, there are emails to respond to in a reasonable period of time.

Sometimes I get stuck trying to do something new – or that I haven't done in a while – on the website. I've learned to stop at a certain point and do something else for a while.

*Q. What does a Yearly Meeting worker need to know?*

A. *Familiarity with Quakers*, meetings, and the organizational structure of the Yearly Meeting will be needed. I recommend reading LEYM's *Policies and Procedures* manual and the most recent *Annual Records* from cover to cover and attending Representative Meeting, Annual Sessions, and Executive Committee meetings (as invited).

*Work with computers:* Maintaining the website (currently in WordPress); managing listservs; email correspondence; word processing at the level of using mail merge functions, creating and working with tables, and saving files as PDFs.

*People skills:* Working with Friends in meetings and worship groups; communicating with the presiding clerk, who oversees the work of the Yearly Meeting worker; and interacting helpfully with email and phone inquiries.

*Organization:* Getting the job done in a timely fashion and keeping accurate records of hours worked.

*Q. What personal attributes help someone do this job?*

A. A self-starter; working well independently; a desire to serve others; attention to detail.

*Q. What reasons for applying for this position would you give to someone who is thinking about it?*

A. The structure of the job itself: it's part-time (currently 120 hours a year), done from home, and you can set your own schedule. It's an opportunity to serve Friends, to bring your skills and initiative to the work, to get to know many Friends in the Yearly Meeting, and to become intimately acquainted with the workings of a yearly meeting. It's an opportunity to stretch spiritually.

## Could You Be the Next Yearly Meeting Worker?

*A paid part-time position working from home – currently 120 hours a year*

The Yearly Meeting worker's primary task is serving as webmaster, which includes an annual update of the website following LEYM's Annual Meeting in late July – early August. The Yearly Meeting worker manages listservs (email lists) and gmail accounts for LEYM clerks and others as needed. Other tasks are ongoing or done on an annual basis, such as collecting annual statistical reports from each meeting and worship group. Additional projects are assigned at the discretion of the presiding clerk, who oversees the Yearly Meeting worker. The position requires a self-starter who can work independently and keep track of when particular tasks need to be done. Reports on work done and issues that have arisen are made to Executive Committee and Annual Sessions.

This is a collaborative position which involves working with others, particularly the database manager. Familiarity with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends and business is needed, so attending most Representative Meetings and Annual Sessions is a good idea, especially in order to track when changes need to be made to LEYM's *Policies and Procedures* manual. While some tasks need to be done in a timely fashion, particularly the work following Annual Sessions, others can be done at the worker's discretion.

*Hours and Pay.* Currently, the position is for 120 hours a year at a rate of \$20 per hour. The position is that of an independent contractor rather than an employee. The worker provides the computer and common software, and works from home. Reimbursement is available with receipts for out-of-pocket expenses such as copies provided for a meeting.

### Applying for the Position of LEYM Meeting Worker

Applicants should write a letter describing their interest in the position to the clerks' table of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and **send it by March 8, 2019**. The following information should be included:

- An explanation of the applicant's expertise and experience relevant to the tasks described in the position description.
- A description of the candidate's connections to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting or any of its constituent meetings and worship groups.
- Names and contact information for two references.

Applications are invited by MARCH 8, 2019.

Submit to:

Nancy Reeves, clerk ([LEYMclerk@gmail.com](mailto:LEYMclerk@gmail.com))

Jo Posti, assistant clerk ([jo.posti@gmail.com](mailto:jo.posti@gmail.com))

Peter Wood, recording clerk ([peter.wood@comcast.net](mailto:peter.wood@comcast.net))

*Mathilda Navias,  
LEYM Meeting worker*



## Seeking a Database Manager

The database manager is named by the Nominating Committee to serve a three-year term, renewable indefinitely, usually one year at a time. The database manager works under the oversight of the Publications & Archives Committee, but is not necessarily a member of P&A. Below is a summary of the tasks. Find more specific details in our *Policies and Procedures* (available at [leym.org](http://leym.org)) or contact the current database manager, Mathilda Navias ([galaxy@woh.rr.com](mailto:galaxy@woh.rr.com)), for more information.

The database manager:

- \* Maintains and updates the LEYM database of information about the slate of appointments, monthly meetings and their place and time of worship, contact information for Friends, and more; it is currently in Microsoft Access.
- \* Provides contact information for LEYM Friends to LEYM officers and committee clerks, as needed.
- \* Provides a directory for the *Annual Records* of Annual Meeting attenders; LEYM officers, committee members, and representatives; and monthly meeting officers and committee clerks/conveners, etc.
- \* Provides to Friends General Conference a list of addresses for members and active attenders annually, on request.
- \* Prepares annual Statistical Report forms for quarterly, monthly, and preparative meetings and worship groups.

Please contact Clémence Mershon ([andre14@earthlink.net](mailto:andre14@earthlink.net)) or Mathilda Navias ([galaxy@woh.rr.com](mailto:galaxy@woh.rr.com)) if you have questions or leadings.

**Friends General Conference** has announced that, thanks to a generous donation, prices are reduced considerably for young Friends attending the Gathering this year (at Grinnell College, Iowa, June 30 – July 6): the children and teen's program fee is waived; 50% of children and teen's meals are covered; more scholarships are available to families and teens; and the Adult Young Friends Program fee is cut. See [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering).

## Corrections to LEYM Budget

In the fall 2018 *Bulletin*, an expense line for attending conferences with Quaker values was inadvertently omitted from the LEYM budget shown on page 7. The \$1000 allotted to this line was, however, included in total expenses.

Meanwhile, it seems that the Meeting did *not* approve a budget line for scholarships to attend a Quaker college or university or participate in a post-secondary internship or fellowship (see page 10 for a draft proposal to establish and implement such a budget line), though \$1000 for this purpose was shown in both the fall *Bulletin* and the *2018 Annual Records* (page 41), and was shown as approved in minute YM2018-37. What we (and Finance Committee) believe to be the correct budget follows.

### Corrected LEYM Budget for 2018–19

#### Expenses

Travel	\$2,000
Office Administration	500
Contract worker	2,400
Publications	3,200
Advancement & Outreach	200
Ministry & Nurture	50
FGC contribution	6,000
Records project	100
FWCC Travel	1,800
Youth Activities Fund	1,000
High School Teen Retreat	0
Spiritual Formation	300
Attending Conferences with Quaker Values	1,000
Olney Friends School	3,000
Consultation Fund	0
Ministry scholarships	0
Service projects	0
Insurance	500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,050</b>

#### Income

Contributions	22,600
FFC Dividends Income	1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,600</b>

**Surplus** **\$1,550**

**Suggested contribution per member: \$30**

The editors regret the errors.

## News from LEYM Executive Committee

At its meeting in Oberlin on November 10, the LEYM Executive Committee approved the following appointments:

Clerk of Peace & Justice Committee: Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit, 1-year term)

Assistant Clerk for Youth & Children Committee: Kate Enger (Cleveland, 2-year term, stepping up to clerkship in 2nd year).

Representative to FCNL: David Snyder (Oberlin, second 3-year term)

Continuing Representative to AFSC: John Deikis (Ann Arbor, extended 1 year)

In addition, Executive Committee appointed Friends to serve on two ad hoc committees established to follow up on proposals for scholarships brought forth at the 2018 Annual Sessions. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Greg Mott (Broadmead) agreed to draft a process for allocating funds for travel to conferences reflecting Quaker values (a budget line approved last summer, but needing clarification on process). And assistant clerk Jo Posti (Pittsburgh) volunteered to suggest a way of distributing scholarship funds for LEYM Friends attending Quaker colleges or universities or participating in a post-secondary internship or fellowship for a Quaker organization (a proposal held over for further seasoning). These draft proposals appear on pages 10 & 11.

Finally, Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) and Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) agreed to review our *Policies and Procedures* and update it to reflect current practice.

To familiarize Friends with LEYM committee work, the *Bulletin* is including brief descriptions of a few committees in each issue:

**Earthcare Committee** helps Friends understand and move toward better stewardship of the Earth.

**Finance Committee** plans and manages the Yearly Meeting's finances, proposes an annual budget, and advises on the Yearly Meeting's investments.

**Ministry & Nurture Committee** offers meetings and worship groups support as they seek to strengthen and enrich their meetings for worship and the spiritual vitality of Friends. The committee encourages meetings and worship groups to undertake an annual assessment of their spiritual condition. The Committee oversees LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program and traveling ministers from the Yearly Meeting.

Detailed descriptions of all committees appear in *Policies and Procedures*, available at [leym.org](http://leym.org).

## Online Courses at Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, in Birmingham, UK, offers online programs, taught by experienced tutors and accessible to anyone, providing online learning opportunities that give Friends the chance to deepen their connection to the Spirit, discover more about the Quaker tradition, explore contemporary issues, and learn about Quaker roles. Sample topics include "Being a Quaker Clerk," "Deepening the Life of the Spirit," "Bible Study for Quakers," and "Let Your Life Preach." To learn more, visit [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk) and under "Find a Course," click on "online course."

## **DRAFT: Proposal for a Scholarship Fund for Quaker Colleges and Universities and Post-Secondary Internships and Fellowships**

*“Ideally, Friends educational institutions seek to create intentional community and prepare participants for engagement in the work of the world. A Friends educational institution is more likely to incorporate spiritual values throughout its programs if it has a solid core of students, parents, and graduates who understand and actively support Quaker principles and practices.*

*People who have experienced Friends concerns for simplicity, equality, justice, and compassion in our educational institutions often have a significant, positive influence in their wider communities. Because these institutions embody our ways of worship, our social testimonies, and our commitment to service, they are an important form of outreach to the wider world.”*

*~ Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, 2017*

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) is committed to supporting Friends who choose to attend Quaker colleges and universities for their undergraduate education. LEYM has proposed creating an annual budget line item that can be used to support students who meet all of the following criteria:

- Applicant is a member or junior member of a monthly meeting or worship group that is a member of LEYM.
- Applicant is attending a member institution of the Friends Association for Higher Education as a degree-seeking student or is participating in a post-secondary internship or fellowship for a Quaker organization such as Quaker Voluntary Service, Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, Quaker United Nations Office, or Quaker Experiential Service and Training.
- Applicant will be a full-time student or intern / fellow during the school year following disbursement.

For consideration, applicants must send the LEYM treasurer the following:

- Letter from their monthly meeting clerk affirming their membership or junior membership in the meeting.
- Proof of registration at one of the institutions listed above. This can be a print-out of their class registration or letter from the registrar.
- Address of office that check should be sent to, along with student ID number or any additional information treasurer should include when sending the check to the institution.

**Deadline:** The application deadline will be before LEYM's April Representative Meeting. All materials should be received by the treasurer prior to that date for consideration at that meeting. All qualified applicants will be considered, with the line item in LEYM's budget being evenly divided among them. If there aren't any applicants during a particular year, the funds can roll over and will be made available in subsequent years.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Jo Posti at [jo.posti@gmail.com](mailto:jo.posti@gmail.com).

# DRAFT: Allocating Scholarships for Travel to Conferences Reflecting Quaker Values

## Background:

At the request of the LEYM Annual Sessions in 2018, a budget line that had been created in the 2017—18 budget to assist our members to attend the White Privilege Conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in April 2018 was retained in the 2018—19 budget. The Finance Committee explained this proposed addition in Minute YM2018-22: “Establishing a line item without a supporting fund for Conference Attendance. This would be for conferences such as White Privilege, conferences sponsored by Friends organizations, and others in keeping with Quaker testimonies and values.” This proposal was approved as part of the budget in Minute YM2018-37. That minute also states that Friends asked for criteria to be developed for using this line.

## Definition of eligible use of funds and procedure for filing requests:

Conferences reflecting Quaker Values can be considered as the following:

- Conferences developed by or sponsored by Quaker groups.
- Conferences whose purposes are closely aligned with Quaker testimonies, such as peace, equality, integrity, and simplicity.

Persons wishing to request funding from LEYM to assist in attending a conference reflecting Quaker values should submit a form [being developed] to the clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at least six weeks before an answer to the request is needed. The form should be accompanied by a statement of support from the clerk of the Friend’s monthly meeting or their designee. Funding decisions will be made together by the presiding clerk of the Yearly Meeting, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Ministry & Nurture Committee, or their designees.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Peggy Daub at [peggydaub@hotmail.com](mailto:peggydaub@hotmail.com) or Greg Mott at [mott@findlay.edu](mailto:mott@findlay.edu).

## **Memorial Minutes from LEYM Monthly Meetings Now Available Online**

The Publications & Archives Committee is pleased to announce that some 40 memorial minutes for Friends from LEYM meetings are now available at the LEYM website ([leym.org](http://leym.org)). The alphabetical list can be found by going to the “Resources” tab on the home page and selecting “Memorial Minutes.” Additional memorial minutes from earlier years will be added over time.

## **Cash Your Checks, Please!**

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw asks that Friends who receive checks from LEYM please cash them without undue delay. Thank you.

## Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Meeting December 2018

Seven Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends attended the Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in Washington, DC during the week November 27 — December 2, 2018. We were Nancy and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), Erick Williams and Margaret Nielsen (Red Cedar), Michael Fuson (Granville), David Snyder (Oberlin), and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie). While at the meeting, we met with other FCNL Advocates and General Committee Members to lobby our Representatives and Senators. We were joined for Senate lobbying by Frank Cochran, a Friend from Connecticut whose family has long owned a summer home in Michigan.



*Michigan contingent of Friends  
in the office of Senator Gary Peters*

FCNL has been in business for 75 years, so one of our activities was to celebrate that anniversary with the presence of families of Raymond Wilson and Ed Snyder, the two late Executive Secretaries, and a conversation between Joe Volk, Executive Secretary Emeritus, and Dianne Randall, the current Executive Secretary, about how the Committee has developed over the years and new directions it may be taking in the years to come.

One of the most captivating talks at the meeting was by Amelia Kegan, FCNL Legislative Director for Domestic Policy, encouraging us to lobby for the Farm Bill with its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) Program, “America’s most effective hunger program.” Amelia’s passionate, heartfelt talk is available on the FCNL website. “Taking food away from the hungry is not a jobs program,” said Amelia.

Text & Audio:

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/saving-america-s-most-effective-anti-hunger-program-1758>

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/quakerlobby/videos/254043641938238/>

This year’s Ed Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament & Building Peace was given to Representative Ro Khanna (CA-17), who has displayed leadership in advancing legislative priorities consistent with those of FCNL. Representative Khanna was there to accept the award and to thank FCNL for its work. He informed us that the Senate recently passed a war-powers resolution, one more step in giving the power to make war back to Congress from the Administrative branch, which has usurped this right at least since 2001.

At the Annual Meeting, Friends came to unity on the list of Legislative Priorities which 270 Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations had worked and reported on during the year (see next page). The FCNL Policy Committee had developed a draft from all these submissions during the summer and autumn. With a growing staff, FCNL is able to handle a longer list of priorities than in years past. Thanks to Friends and our friends for giving increased support to this important work.

Another impressive FCNL video to watch on the website may be found at [fcnl.org/takei](https://www.fcnl.org/takei). This is the testimony of George Takei, an actor who was among the many Americans of Japanese descent incarcerated at Manzanar in the eastern California desert from 1943 until the end of WWII. A longer version of his report is on the web as well. It is well worth watching.

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor),  
LEYM Representative to FCNL



## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

Friends Committee on National Legislation

*A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest*

### Legislative Priorities for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

Approved by FCNL's General Committee on December 1, 2018

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), God's spirit has led Friends to be a prophetic witness and to take action in the world. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) brings Friends' spiritual values and testimonies to bear on U.S. public policy decisions. FCNL solicited the views and concerns of Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to help discern the following priorities for our lobbying and public education work during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020):

- Peacebuilding, diplomacy, and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- Reduction of military spending and armed interventions.
- Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- A criminal justice system that is just and equitable, eliminates mass incarceration, and promotes law enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- An immigration system that promotes and respects the rights, safety, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants.
- Equitable access for all to participation in an open and transparent political process.
- Ending gun violence including through the support of policies informed by public health best practices.
- Witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties.
- Economic justice and equity; strengthen programs that meet basic needs including universal access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- Sustainable solutions to climate change, including reducing fossil fuel use, increasing renewable energy, strengthening environmental protections, promoting international cooperation, and protecting vulnerable populations.

Friends are called to promote genuine equality of opportunity and communities in which everyone can safely live, learn, work, worship, and love. In each priority we will identify, expose, and work to eliminate institutional racism, institutional sexism, and other forms of systemic discrimination. We are mindful that our nation has a special responsibility to redress the consequences of its long history of slavery, race-based discrimination, and oppression.

FCNL seeks to collaborate across the political spectrum to advance these priorities. FCNL's work will be based on legislative opportunities, specific expertise, leadings, and available resources. In addition, *The World We Seek* (FCNL's Policy Statement) gives FCNL the flexibility to respond to crises and to important legislative opportunities, as Way opens.

## News from LEYM Monthly Meetings

### Red Cedar Friends Meeting: A Year's Work on Anti-Racism

We began 2018 with some momentum toward concrete anti-racism work because roughly three dozen RCF attenders had participated during the fall of 2017 through January 2018 in a series of workshops led by Tara Scott, a Lansing-area Buddhist teacher and founder of the Three Jewels Sangha. Tara led 12 of us at a time through a reflective weekend-long process that started with self-inquiry about justice, healing, and liberation, moved through inner discernment of what authentic responses grew from the values we discovered, and culminated in how to develop those into skillful actions in the world.

In 2018 we followed that beginning by inviting interested Friends to gather monthly on the second Monday to consider what brings us “Spiritual Grounding for Racial Justice.” We’ve explored a smorgasbord of awareness resources – watching videos (a “De-Coded” episode or two, Robin DiAngelo on White Fragility, and a movie on the Anita Hill hearings during the Kavanaugh hearings), reading things and working through unfamiliar vocabulary important to disrupting our unconscious racism. We’ve posed and answered queries about coming to awareness of how we’ve been socialized into white-supremacy and what encourages and blocks us from taking active roles in dismantling it. We are about to begin considering together the FGC report on systemic racism within the RSoF with an eye to looking for concrete changes to make in our meeting. So far (in response to a survey question about what the walls of our meeting-house say unconsciously about us), we’ve re-done a welcome display of photos that reflect accurately our current mix of skin-shades and are eying warily the classic Edward Hicks depiction of native peoples. We have scheduled an Adult Religious Education session later in the spring to bring our thoughts to the larger meeting and ask their responses as well. We’ll also read together the excellent articles in the January 2019 issue of *Friends Journal*.

A separate (though overlapping) group has met twice to pursue what Cambridge Friend Wendy Sanford calls “restorative reading.” Deliberately choosing books by authors of color, explaining things from their point of view, we consider ourselves to be “restoring” gaps in our awareness and knowledge left because unconscious white supremacy has robbed us of the richness of hearing everyone’s voices around us. We selected our first book from the bibliography of Wendy’s not-yet-published memoir (*Walking On Eggshells*) about waking up to classism and racism in her bones: the novel *Jubilee*, by Margaret Walker (about a biracial enslaved person during Civil War times). And we are currently about to meet to discuss *If You Don’t Go, Don’t Hinder Me: The African American Sacred Song Tradition*, by Bernice Johnson Reagan.

Beginning in September 2018, Red Cedar Friends Meeting provided the venue for *Doing Our Own Work: An Anti-Racism Seminar for White People*, facilitated by Melanie S. Morrison and Jax Lee Gardner. The seminar consists of more than 40 hours of “class time.” Anti-racist action and reflection form the heart of *Doing Our Own Work*. Each participant is invited to identify a “sphere of influence” that serves as the focus of action and reflection. *Doing Our Own Work* is designed as a supplement to, not a substitute for, contexts where people of diverse races discuss and strategize together how racism can best be challenged and dismantled. The seminar is a program of Allies for Change ([alliesforchange.org](http://alliesforchange.org)).

Five Red Cedar Friends participated in *Doing Our Own Work*, two of whom received full scholarships from the Meeting. We highly recommend this seminar. Ask Allies for Change about their future schedule. ~ Carolyn Lejuste

## Minute Responding to Gun Violence in Our Society

*Pittsburgh Friends Meeting adopted the following minute  
on November 11, 2018, soon after the shooting at the Tree of Life  
Synagogue, a short distance from the Pittsburgh Meeting House.*

The Pittsburgh community has been shaken to its core by the violence inflicted on our Jewish neighbors at the Tree of Life synagogue. Earlier in that same week, two African Americans were murdered in Kentucky in an act of hate after a gunman failed to gain entry to a predominantly Black church. In response to these events and to the pervasiveness of gun violence in our society, we at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting affirm our commitment to our testimonies on Equality, Peace, Caring, and Community.

We affirm a security that arises from a spiritual source. Wherever worship happens, whether in a synagogue, church, meetinghouse, or park, the space created around those worshipping is sacred. Suggesting that worshippers secure their sacred spaces with guns places the burden on the victims of violence everywhere and is unequivocally intolerable in a country that claims to protect religious freedom. Instead of weapons, we seek to eliminate sources of fear and division. We publicly denounce rhetoric that seeks to pit one segment of our society against immigrants, people of color, and people of different faiths. Hate speech by our elected officials, combined with easy access to guns, is a deadly combination that our country cannot tolerate.

In the face of this violence and hate, we at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting will remain a welcoming and caring community, while affirming and living into our peace testimony. We will make conscious efforts to build connections with individuals, marginalized groups, and the larger community. We will model the vulnerability of inclusiveness grounded in radical love. We will continue to work to promote peace by supporting initiatives that restrict access to guns and by demanding the return to civil discourse in our country. We unite with our Jewish neighbors in their teaching that, "It is not [our] responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are [we] free to desist from it."

## Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Has Sanctuary Guest

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting has been hosting a guest in sanctuary since October 31, 2018. Many people within the Meeting are contributing to the hospitality needed for our guest, an immigrant from West Africa who has lived and worked in the U.S. for 15 years and has two children here who are U.S. citizens. Members of our meeting are participating in this witness of faith along with people from a number of other local congregations. Together we provide a rotating schedule of people staying in the building 24/7 as "door minders," volunteers to obtain groceries, specialists to advise on legal and medical assistance, and trained tutors in English literacy.

This witness was undertaken after many months of discernment and preparation by our Sanctuary Committee and in our meetings for business. In October 2017 the Meeting approved the following minute in response to the need to protect U.S. residents in danger of deportation because of the government's reinterpretation of who is permitted to stay in the country and who is not:

Our Faith that there is that of God in every person and our compassion for refugees and immigrants among us lead us to offer Congregational Sanctuary, including hosting refugees or immigrants in our house of worship. We do this in unity, through deep spiritual discernment. [Minute approved by Ann Arbor Meeting, October 15, 2017]

Our Meeting's journey has been undertaken as part of a broader community within Washtenaw County, including many different faith congregations who participate in Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary and a large variety of experts on different issues available to us through the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition on Immigrant Rights. Together they form a network that helped prepare and advise us for this work and continue to support us as we carry it forward. ~ Peggy Daub

## News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

### “Stitched,” from Detroit Meeting

Quaker historian Rosemary Moore states that early Quakers had a common expression: “The Kingdom of God is come and is coming.” They lived the Kingdom now, and they lived the kingdom to come. They protested the injustice of the forced tithes, the injustice of the forced religious practice, the injustice of forced obeisance. They lived “the Light Within.”

We at the Detroit Friends Meeting work within the Light for Justice. At

<https://tinyurl.com/ybhcnm39> we share a pastiche of our Faith and Practice—a “quilt” in which we stitch Faith and Practice blocks from individual Friends into a representation of our Meeting community. ~ Samuel Hayes.

### Holland Meeting

Thomas Brouwer, of **Holland Meeting**, writes “We are grateful that we have resumed meeting at Western Theological Seminary in a classroom there. It is a pleasant and peaceful meeting venue. [Holland Meeting had been temporarily worshiping at Hope Church Chapel..]

#### Calendar for 2019

March 20–23: White Privilege Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See [www.fgc.quaker.org](http://www.fgc.quaker.org) or [www.whiteprivilegeconference.com](http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com).

April 6: Representative Meeting, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Ann Arbor, Michigan (see p. 3)

May 4: Spiritual Formation Retreat, place tbd

May 15: Due date for submissions for spring *Bulletin*

June 30: Due date for State of the Meeting Reports

June 30–July 6: FGC Gathering, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. See [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering).

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 25–28: Annual Meeting, Bluffton University

#### LEYM Committee Clerks, 2018–19

(Contact information available in *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website)

##### *Adult & Family Program*

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh)

##### *Advancement & Outreach*

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)

##### *Arrangements & Site*

Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

##### *Earthcare*

Russ Adams (North Columbus)

##### *Finance*

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

##### *Ministry & Nurture*

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

##### *Nominating*

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG)

##### *Peace & Justice*

Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit)

##### *Publications & Archives*

Bill Lefler (Pittsburgh)

##### *Youth & Children’s Program*

Greg Mott (Broadmead)