



## Clerk's Message: How Can We Help?

by Jo Posti

Does 2020 feel overwhelming already? During the first week of the new year, headlines included news about fires in Australia, escalating tensions in Iran, and articles of impeachment. As Friends, we are called to bear witness to injustice and suffering. This responsibility can be overwhelming at times and require discernment that helps us prioritize issues and name our individual and community resources that can affect change.

I love reading LEYM's monthly meeting newsletters to learn more about how your meetings are directing your resources. The work Friends do in our LEYM communities to support immigrants, care for the Earth, grow as anti-racist faith communities, encourage peaceful resolution to conflicts, and support marginalized faith communities is inspiring. Some meetings may feel like they're working harder than ever. With so much work to do, the labor may even feel exhausting.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Executive Committee would like to better understand how we can help. We recently conducted a survey among Friends and sent out a follow-up discussion guide to help us learn more about whether there are ways we can better support our monthly meeting and worship group members.



Some of the queries we've asked Friends to consider are: "How can Lake Erie Yearly Meeting help your monthly meeting or worship group with issues related to finance, meeting house structures, Quaker process, leadership, committees, developing a welcoming presence, etc.?" and "Which specific programs or support could LEYM provide for your meeting or group?"

Needs, technology, and the make-up of each meeting change over time. What may have been helpful ten years ago may no longer serve your meeting well. We'd like to learn more about what LEYM can do to prepare us for the future. We welcome collective and individual

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## Clerk's Message, *continued*

feedback that we will continue to discuss at Representative Meeting in April as well as our Annual Sessions in July.

This year's Representative Meeting will be hosted by Pittsburgh Friends Meeting in our newly renovated meetinghouse (see p. 9). I look forward to seeing Friends who will be here for April's meeting and learning more about the good work you're doing in our LEYM communities.

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### ***Come to Representative Meeting***

Spread the word! Everyone is welcome at Representative Meeting, on Saturday, April 4, at the Pittsburgh Friends' newly renovated meeting house (see pp. 3 & 9). Meeting for worship and committee meetings in the morning are followed by meeting for worship for business in the afternoon. There we hear updates from officers and committees, and season matters for the next Annual Sessions. Members of standing committees and representatives from monthly meetings will be there, and other interested Friends are welcome. Attending is a good way to learn more about LEYM.

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## **Ad Hoc Harassment Discernment Committee in Place**

LEYM now has a **Harassment Discernment Committee**. If a Friend ever feels she or he has been poorly or unfairly treated because of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, or any other factor, he or she can reach out to this committee. Friends who witness harassment are also encouraged to reach out. Of course, if it is safe to do so, Friends are encouraged to seek direct, positive solutions first. The complete LEYM harassment discernment policy can be read at <https://leym.org/2020/01/13/harassment-discernment-contacts/>.

### **Harassment Discernment Committee and Contact Information**

**Lisa Klopfer** (Ann Arbor)

Best contact option: [lklopfer@gmail.com](mailto:lklopfer@gmail.com)

Phone: 734-436-1031

Website to track travels and availability:

<https://sites.google.com/view/2020travels>.

**Aran Reinhart** (Broadmead)

Email: [aranreinhart@yahoo.com](mailto:aranreinhart@yahoo.com). Sometimes I go a few days without checking it. If you really need to contact me quickly, texting or calling me at 419-619-6810 is best. Another good email address for me is [Aran@Transohio.org](mailto:Aran@Transohio.org).

**Pamela Moore** (Erie Worship Group)

Text or email during weekdays, any method on weekends. Email: [pamelamaggie@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelamaggie@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 215-593-6795 (cell).

**Peter Wood** (Red Cedar)

Text is the fastest, most reliable way to get ahold of me: 517-881-6845. But I do get emails, too: [petrosh.wood@gmail.com](mailto:petrosh.wood@gmail.com). Will be in Mexico from February 23 to March 7, and plan to be on the road in my camper van in the month after Annual Sessions.

**Kate Enger** (Athens)

Email (not checked every day):

[psychdrkate@gmail.com](mailto:psychdrkate@gmail.com)

Cell phone: 740-591-7255. Please text or leave a voice mail (I've been getting a lot of spam calls).

# Representative Meeting

April 4, 2020 at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting

The 2020 LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4, at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, 4836 Ellsworth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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 in the neighborhood.

**Childcare** will be provided for those who request this by March 13 (see registration form, at right).

## Schedule for Saturday, April 4:

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 3**, 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 Pittsburgh Friends on First Day at 9:00 or 10:30.*



## ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(To be received by **Friday, March 13, 2020**)

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 my (our) own arrangements

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

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

Friday, April 3 (# people) \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, April 4 (# people) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please email (don't mail) this information to:

Emily Anderson at [emilyanderson257@gmail.com](mailto:emilyanderson257@gmail.com).

PDF copies of  
*The LEYM Bulletin*  
are available at  
[leym.org](http://leym.org)

## Theme of Annual Meeting Announced: “Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds”

### Annual Meeting, July 30 – August 2

The Annual Meeting, on July 30 through August 2 at Bluffton University, is to be centered around the theme “Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds.” With the challenges we face in today’s world, we are called to listen deeply, past barriers we have thought insurmountable, to human beings with different life experiences. What can we learn by listening beyond our own world view?

Our plenary speaker, on Friday evening (July 31), is to be Paula Palmer of Boulder Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, leading us in “Listening to the People of the Land.” Paula works with Jerilyn DeCoteau, an Ojibwa attorney and educator, who is founder and director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Americans. See the article on Paula on page 5.

### Nominating Committee Seeks Friends to Serve

Dear Friends,

At the rise of Annual Sessions 2020, LEYM **Nominating Committee** will be seeking Friends to serve as assistant presiding clerk and recording clerk.

In addition, Friends are sought to serve on the following committees: Advancement & Outreach, Adult & Family Program, Earthcare, Peace & Justice, and Publications & Archives.

We also seek LEYM representatives to FCNL. Please consider whether your talents or the gifts of others in your meeting or worship group might be a good fit for one of these offices or committees. For questions or suggestions, please contact Clémence Mershon at <[andre14@earthlink.net](mailto:andre14@earthlink.net)>. We shall be considering these possibilities closely at Representative Meeting in Pittsburgh on April 4.

### Request for Workshop Proposals, 2020 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee of LEYM is requesting proposals from Friends for workshop presentations at our 2020 Annual Meeting, to be held July 30 through August 2 at Bluffton University, in Bluffton, Ohio. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds.” If at all possible, we hope proposals can be submitted before

**Wednesday, February 5.** However, the *deadline* for submission is **Saturday, 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, including one by our keynote speaker on Saturday. 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 Greg Mott at [mott@findlay.edu](mailto:mott@findlay.edu), preferably by February 5, but 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:

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



## Paula Palmer to be Plenary Speaker at Annual Meeting July 30–August 2 at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio

*There is a way that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story.* – Linda Hogan, Chickasaw poet

If we are patient enough, quiet enough to listen to the land, what stories might we hear? How might these stories move us, challenge us, enrich us, change us?

Our speaker, Boulder Friend Paula Palmer, will share her journey of listening and learning the stories of the lands she knows and loves – the Michigan forests where her German ancestors settled, the Indiana moraines where she was born, the Costa Rican rainforest where she began her lifelong allyship with Native peoples, and the Colorado mountains where she lives today. As Paula listened and learned the stories of these lands, she began to feel and acknowledge connections with the Native peoples who had known and loved these lands before. “Where are they now?” she asked. “What happened to them? What do these lands mean to them? How are they and I connected through the deep history of these places?”

Paula will invite us into listening and sharing our own stories of the land, and then exploring the potential connections and relationships with Native peoples that might emerge. For example, Euro-American families might want to rethink their ancestors’ settler stories, enlarging the narrative to include the history and presence of Native peoples. Meetings might want to learn whose homeland their meetinghouse is built on and consider how to acknowledge this and where it might lead.

Paula will offer resources to accompany her Friday evening talk, and she will facilitate an interactive



workshop on Saturday afternoon, titled “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples.” Paula developed this workshop in collaboration with Native American educators, and they present it at the request of faith communities, schools, colleges, and civic groups throughout the country. Paula travels in ministry with traveling minutes from Boulder Meeting and Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Her “Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples” work recently came under the care of Friends Peace Teams.

Paula’s collaborative work with Native peoples began during the 20 years she lived in Costa Rica, where she helped Indigenous Bribri and Afro-Caribbean communities publish books of their own histories. In the U.S., she worked as a writer and editor for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and *Winds of Change* magazine, a Native American quarterly. For 17 years, as director of the non-profit organization Global Response, Paula organized international campaigns to help Indigenous communities protect their lands and defend their rights. Paula is a recipient of the Elise Boulding Peacemaker of the Year award (given by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center), the Jack Gore Memorial Peace Award (given by AFSC Denver), and the International Human Rights Award (given by the United Nations Association of Boulder County).

## News from LEYM Executive Committee, November 2019

The LEYM Executive Committee, consisting of officers and committee clerks, met at Kendal at Oberlin on Saturday, November 9. Among the reports received and actions taken were the following:

A report on the survey of the LEYM community undertaken during the fall months was given via phone by Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh). There were 119 completed surveys, out of 138 participants. It was good to see that many meetings are content with their financial situations and feel their children's and young adults' programs are strong. There may be tension between the needs of aging communities and the need for greater inclusivity and deeper change. Some meetings are hungry for visitors and seek more contact with other Quakers. How do we communicate better and make people more aware of the forms of communication available in paper and online? How do we integrate the Quaker process of spiritual discernment with quantifiable results? A small group was formed to find ways to expand on the survey, such as a discussion guide for meetings that might get to deeper levels of the issues.

Executive Committee approved changes to the *Policies and Procedures* manual in three categories: 1) changes that reflect new circumstances (e.g., the dissolution of Friends School in Detroit), slight modifications of procedures, or clarification of duties; 2) changes reflecting current practice in the responsibilities of the recording clerk, notably the transfer of some tasks to the database manager and Meeting worker; and 3) minor changes of clarification, wording, or placement within the manual. The revised *Policies and Procedures* is available on the LEYM website.

The Finance Committee reported that an audit of LEYM financial records had been completed, and everything is in order. A scholarship winner for the new fund to support attendance at Quaker colleges was named. EC approved a policy that names of scholarship recipients will not be published.

The Ministry & Nurture Committee announced that a scholarship recipient for attendance at School of the Spirit was approved.

The Peace & Justice Committee and Earthcare Committee continue to explore topics of mutual interest.

The Committee for Youth & Children reported that Robb Yurisko is interested in helping facilitate teen retreats like the Quake that Rocked the Midwest. Young adult Friends need support in their emerging as adult Quakers at Annual Sessions.

The Adult and Family Program Committee announced that the theme of the 2020 Annual Meeting is "Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds," and that the plenary speaker will be Paula Palmer of Boulder Meeting, who will speak on "Listening to the People of the Land" and also lead a workshop (see pp. 4–5 for details).

It was announced that the first annual Ad Hoc Committee on Harassment is being formed (see p. 2).

Prior to the meeting, upon a proposal from the Nominating Committee, EC approved by email naming Michael Fuson to a term as a representative to FCNL. ~Eds.

### Scholarship Application Deadline March 1

*Please note:* The deadline to apply for a scholarship to attend a Quaker college or participate in a post-secondary internship or fellowship at a Quaker service organization is March 1. For details, see "Scholarships" on the LEYM website or visit [https://leymquaker.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/leym\\_scholarship\\_fund.pdf](https://leymquaker.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/leym_scholarship_fund.pdf).

## Scholarships and Financial Assistance Available from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting provides scholarships and financial assistance for Friends within the Yearly Meeting for attendance at a number of programs. Several of these are summarized below. Full details and instructions for application for use of funds are available at the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting website ([leym.org](http://leym.org)) under the menu heading “Scholarships and Financial Assistance” or “Resources.”

### For Adults:

1. *College and Internship Scholarships:* Lake Erie Yearly Meeting provides support for attendance at a member institution of the Friends Association of Higher Education or for participation in a post-secondary internship or fellowship at a Quaker organization. The current application deadline for colleges is March 1.
2. *Attending Conferences reflecting Quaker Values:* The Yearly Meeting supports the cost of attendance at conferences and programs that are in keeping with or promote Quaker values and testimonies.
3. *Consultation Fund:* The Yearly Meeting has a fund to support the costs of consultations among monthly meeting clerks or representatives of monthly meeting Ministry and Nurture committees.
4. *Ministry Scholarships and Grants:* The Yearly Meeting has a fund to support monthly meetings desiring to send a member or attender to the Friends General Conference, School of the Spirit, the Earlham School of Religion, Pendle Hill, etc. for education and training for ministry among Friends.
5. *Spiritual Formation Fund:* The Yearly Meeting has a fund that supports organizing of and attendance at the Spiritual Formation Program retreats.
6. *Traveling Ministries:* The Yearly Meeting supports the work and travel costs of traveling ministers approved by the Yearly Meeting.

### For Youth:

1. *High School Youth Fund:* The Yearly Meeting supports the High School Teen Retreat Program with a stipend for the coordinator, along with direct expenses of the program. (This program is currently inactive.)
  2. *Youth Activity Fund:* The Yearly Meeting supports funding special events for youth, such as trips to William Penn House, the Friends General Conference Gathering, Friends Music Camp, the Yearly Meeting fall retreat, and other programs for youth. It is not for scholarships to attend academic institutions.
- Additionally, the Yearly Meeting offers financial assistance for attendance at its Annual Meeting in July of each year. Such assistance includes discounts for first-time attenders, clerks of monthly meetings and worship groups, and youth.

The Yearly Meeting also provides travel assistance—for attendance at periodic international gatherings of FWCC, for representation at meetings of Quaker organizations, and for other purposes that serve the work of the Yearly Meeting.

**Tom Kangas**, LEYM treasurer, requests that the word “treasurer” not be used when addressing envelopes to him. *Instead*, please write “Tom Kangas, Attn: LEYM,” followed by his mailing address (3641 Weston Pl, Columbus, OH 43214).

## Report to LEYM on the 2019 Quaker Public Policy Institute and FCNL Annual Meeting

A highlight of the Quaker Public Policy Institute in November was the Advocacy Teams Summit, where we celebrated the year's activities of 123 Advocacy teams from 41 states.\* All of us had spent the year urging our senators and representatives to **return** to Congress its constitutional right to declare war (or not) with foreign powers by repealing the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), an extension of the 2001 AUMF which enabled President Bush 43 to send American troops to Afghanistan. All our work seemed to come to fruition when the House passed the repeal of the 2002 AUMF, but our hopes were dashed when Congress cut this amendment out of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the military spending bill. Thus we learn the highs and lows of legislative work in Washington.



*Michigan Friends Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), Erick Williams (Red Cedar), Margaret Nielsen (Red Cedar), Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), Wink Covintree (Birmingham), and Mark Donovan (Kalamazoo) with Zoe Proegler, Legislative Aide to Senator Debbie Stabenow*

During the four and a half days of the FCNL Annual Meeting our time was packed with speakers, discussions, workshops, worship sharing, plenaries, opportunities to work with the excellent FCNL staff, and wonderful food at meal times. Friday was mostly devoted to Congressional office visits, when all the attenders visited their senators and representatives (*see photo above*).

Bridget Moix, Clerk of the FCNL General Committee, did an outstanding job of herding us through a packed agenda with gentle nudges, including the approval of the new FCNL Policy Statement. Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of FCNL, was a constant inspiration in her speaking and in her care for the 55+ staff members. It is especially wonderful to see a blossoming of young people who come as **Young Fellows** for a year of FCNL work or as **Advocacy Corps** members in communities around the country. In addition, more than 400 college students go to Washington for **Spring Lobby Weekend** each year, and this year (March 28–31) they will focus their lobbying on climate change.

FCNL has made good use of the new Quaker Welcome Center, next door to the main office, for dialogue, education, and reflection on Capitol Hill. Also, FCNL has recently taken on the governance and operation of William Penn House, which will give new opportunities to engage with groups advocating for peace, social justice, and a sustainable planet.

LEYM Reps to FCNL: Nancy Taylor, Thomas Taylor, David Snyder, John Howell, Michael Fuson

\*Michigan has Advocacy Teams in Lansing, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, and West Michigan (Newaygo). Ohio Teams are in Oberlin, Cincinnati, and Columbus; and Pittsburgh has a Team. Please consider joining a Team, or starting a new one where you are. Contact Shoshana Abrams ([shoshana@fcnl.org](mailto:shoshana@fcnl.org)) for information on how to get started.



## News from LEYM Monthly Meetings

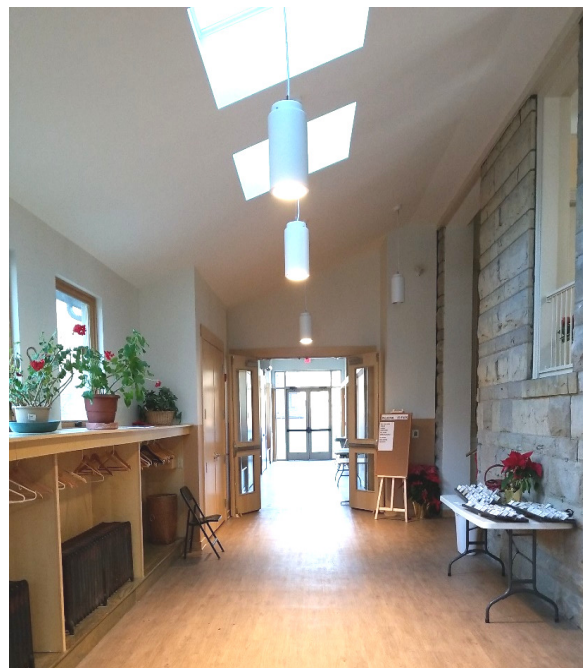
### Pittsburgh Meeting: Building Spiritual Space – Renewing our Meeting House

On December 22, 2019, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting returned to worship in our Meeting Room following a renovation and reimagining of the space, designed to make the space accessible to all members of our community and better suited to our needs for worship and fellowship.

In 2012, in response to a series of maintenance needs and concerns, our Meeting appointed an ad hoc committee to discern a vision for the future of the Meeting Room, and to define a path forward to implement the vision. This committee adopted the name Building Spiritual Space to guide our efforts beyond just the physical and structural concerns. The committee led our community on a process of discernment, identifying needs for accessibility for all users and desires for more natural light, better acoustics, a sense of connection to the outside surroundings, and plainness and simplicity. We engaged an architect who developed a concept that combined accessibility and openness in a simple design. With extensive work by our Finance and Capital Campaign committees, and participation from a broad segment of our community, we developed a plan to move forward. The contractor broke ground in March 2019, and for the next nine months our Meeting community lived through the disruption of construction, at times meeting for worship in the parlor, upstairs in First Day School classrooms, and in a tent in the driveway (below).



Our reinvigorated space includes a new front entrance at ground level, and a level route to the Meeting Room through a large entry hall and a “transition space” between the active life in the Meeting House and the worship within:



The Meeting Room has been opened up with three large portals to the transition space, and new windows and glass doors to the outside. A lift and stairway provide access from the new space to the rooms on the first floor of the old building. In back, a large patio and deck provide opportunities for hospitality outdoors during good weather.



*Friends enjoying the Children's Program following the first meeting for worship in our revised space*

## News from LEYM Monthly Meetings, *continued*

**Detroit Friends Meeting** is thriving these days, with attendance most weeks between 15 and 25, including several children. We recently launched a new website at [www.detroitfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.detroitfriendsmeeting.org)

and are eager to begin exploring the outreach potential of social media.

Our Spiritual Enrichment Book Club meets every month or so and we recently read John Biersdorf's book *Infinite Reach: Spirituality in a Scientific World*. We shared a spirited discussion about our ability (or inability) to comprehend the Infinite.

**Erie (PA) Worship Group** is quite small. Yet each of us is involved with one or more community initiatives which are supported by Friends testimonies. For several years, some of us have been part of an Erie Faith Coalition, which seeks to make the greater Erie public aware of Mass Incarceration and the impact it has on disadvantaged populations. We are also working with those communities to seek ways to mitigate those effects.

Others of us are involved with a nascent Peace Movement, particularly with the Benedictine Sisters, which holds regular and spontaneous Peace Vigils on Perry Square, in front of government buildings.

Several of us are also involved with an environmental coalition to address issues such as banning fracking and successfully shutting down the Erie Coke plant.

**Wooster Friends Meeting** participated in a joint venture with Westminster Presbyterian Church of Wooster to spearhead a fundraising drive that provided a much-needed 15-passenger van for the Immigrant Worker Project (IWP). The drive has been very successful, thanks to the generous support of several area churches and individuals. In fall 2019 the IWP took possession

of a like-new 2018 van and immediately began using it to transport immigrants in the Canton-Wooster-New Philadelphia area of Ohio to court appointments in Cleveland. Having a safe and reliable van saves immigrants from paying exorbitant charges levied by "rideros" for rides to government-mandated appointments.

The Immigrant Worker Project grew out of a dialogue between the growing Latino population of rural Ohio and community leaders in 1999, its establishment guided by a study commissioned by the Ohio Catholic Rural Life Conference. It is easy for Friends to join with the IWP mission of working for social justice and human dignity for rural immigrants.

**Kalamazoo Friends** have been enjoying Friendly Gatherings, an updated take on Friendly Eights. We gather at the Meeting House two evenings each month with members of the Pastoral Care Committee hosting. A brief period of socializing and snacks is followed by a discussion on a spiritual topic. Last year we used a deck of conversation cards on Love, Forgiveness, and Compassion, published by the Fetzer Institute, for our topics. This year we've been watching QuakerSpeak videos and sharing our thoughts on them. This has been a fun way to get to know one another more deeply and an opportunity to integrate newcomers into the Meeting community.



*K A L A M A Z O Oh, what a group!*



**Red Cedar Meeting:** On First Day, November 24, the Adult Religious Education topic was presented by Jeanne Bewersdorff on “The History of the Land the Meeting House Sits on Prior to European Settlement.” Jeanne, a retired teacher and now an educational advocate for teaching and preserving Michigan history, has been researching Native American history of this area since the 1980s.

The following evening, we watched the DVD by Paula Palmer, “Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing Our History and Ourselves.” Paula has been researching Quaker-run Native American boarding schools for several years. She is joined in the video by Jerilyn DeCoteau, who is Native American and part of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

## **Bolivia Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) Quaker Study Tour**

**July 9-22, 2020**



Bolivia Quaker Education Fund is sponsoring a two-week tour of Bolivia and its rich culture and astounding natural beauty, July 9-22. This year there will be an added emphasis on studying climate change and its impact. The tour will be led by Dr. Stanley Blanco, the founder of a non-profit to improve Bolivian children’s health, who is also a bilingual tour leader and international aid manager, assisted by Alicia Lucasi of BQEF and Guido Quispe, a BQEF graduate and environmental specialist. The tour is inspired by the work of Jennie M. Ratcliffe, an environmental research scientist, activist, and Quaker, who makes connections between peace, justice, and ecological sustainability in her book *Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis*. Former graduates of our scholarship program will be among those presenting and assisting with the tour.

Come to learn about Bolivia’s history and culture, from pre-Incan traditions to the emergence of modern Bolivia. Travelers will visit Quaker communities in the Altiplano region to witness environmental adaptations in the high plains. Participants will fly into Sucre, a UNESCO World Heritage site and former capital. The itinerary will include the stunning salt flats of Solar de Uyuni, Quaker communities in the Altiplano, the pre-Incan ruins of Tiwanaku, and Lake Titicaca, ending in the current capital, La Paz. For further information, email [qst.bolivia@gmail.com](mailto:qst.bolivia@gmail.com).

## 2020 White Privilege Conference

The 2020 White Privilege Conference (WPC21) will be held on **April 1 to 4** in **Mesa, Arizona**. The annual WPC serves as an opportunity to examine and explore difficult issues related to white privilege, white supremacy, and oppression. WPC provides a forum for critical discussions about diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social justice, race/racism, sexual orientation, gender relations, religion and other systems of privilege/oppression.

Friends General Conference will be providing discounts as well as sponsoring a Quaker hospitality room for the conference. FGC is also working on ways to support Friends with less expensive overnight housing. Registration for WPC21 opened on January 20. To register with the FGC discount, follow *both* of these steps:

1. Complete the Friends General Conference pre-registration form.
2. Using the discount code in your pre-registration confirmation email, complete the White Privilege Conference registration form on the WPC website.

See <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/enrichment/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/fgcc.white-privilege-conference> to learn more.

### Calendar for 2020

March 1: Deadline to apply for scholarships to attend a Quaker college or participate in a Quaker service organization (*see p. 6*)

April 1–4: White Privilege Conference, Mesa, Arizona (*see above*)

April 4: Representative Meeting, Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (*see pp. 2–3*)

May 2: Spiritual Formation Retreat, place tbd

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

June 28 – July 4: FGC Gathering, Radford University, Radford, Virginia (*see [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)*)

June 30: Due date for State of the Meeting Reports

July 15: Due date for LEYM Statistical Reports

July 30 – August 2: Annual Meeting, Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

### LEYM Committee Clerks, 2019–20

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

#### *Adult & Family Program*

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)

#### *Advancement & Outreach*

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)

#### *Arrangements & Site*

Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

#### *Earthcare*

Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo)

#### *Finance*

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

#### *Ministry & Nurture*

Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) &  
Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor)

#### *Nominating*

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG)

#### *Peace & Justice*

Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit)

#### *Publications & Archives*

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

#### *Youth & Children's Program*

Kate Enger (Athens)