



Clerk's Message from Jo Posti

Together Apart: LEYM's Response to Difficult Times

When I started writing this column, my focus was on gratitude for how quickly and thoughtfully Friends responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our monthly and yearly meetings. Since then, communities around the world are participating in protests in response to George Floyd's murder by a Minneapolis police officer. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends share the grief and outrage that so many other Americans feel but are also called to respond as anti-racist faith communities.

I encourage you to reach out to LEYM for support as your meetings determine the next right step in this work. We can learn from each other, share best practices, and support Friends in prayer. Friends General Conference and Quaker Voluntary Service have online resources available to help your meeting discern your next right step. Friends Committee on National Legislation's lobbyists are tracking and responding to federal criminal justice legislation proposals and can provide guidance for conversations you may be having with your elected officials.

I know our anti-racism work will be difficult, compounded by the fact that we're doing it in the middle of a global pandemic. Since mid-



March, the Executive Committee has helped to make sure that our meetings are cared for, Friends are supported, and new ideas are considered. I want to give a special thanks to Meeting worker **Bill Warters**, who has helped committees transition to Zoom, has provided technical support for Representative Meeting and online worship, and continues to provide website and email updates to meetings about changes in how we operate. As soon as stay-at-home orders started being implemented, Ministry & Nurture stepped up to host Zoom worship, laying it down once monthly meetings started hosting

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Clerk's Message, *continued*

their own offerings. Thank you, **Shelley Kotz, Rebecca Morehouse, Lisa Klopfer, Linda Mills, Sharon Ottenbreit, and David Snyder**, for responding so quickly and thoughtfully.

I've learned that many of our monthly meetings are seeing increased attendance on Zoom, since meeting online can often be more convenient for Friends than traveling to a meetinghouse. My "travel" during the pandemic has allowed me to visit meetings in Ohio, Michigan, Canada, Mexico, New York, West Virginia, and Florida. My son's graduation from Earlham College was broadcast on YouTube. I've participated in programs hosted by FGC, FWCC, Powell House, and Pendle Hill, and will be dropping in on annual sessions of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, and Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting – something I'd never have been able to do during "normal times."

Without the transportation or logistical challenges that may limit our opportunities to meet, the weekly LEYM drop-ins on Zoom have become a time to sit on the front porch of our digital meetinghouse to connect, share ideas, and offer support to committees and meetings. During this time of social distancing, I've never felt closer to Friends

throughout Ohio, Michigan, and western Pennsylvania.

The creativity that **Thomas Taylor** and the Adult & Family Program Committee have put into this year's new Annual Meeting format has been nothing short of amazing. Thank you, **Aran Reinhart, Claire Cohen, Susan Hartman, Greg Mott, and Steve Morehouse** for reimagining our time together. **Kate Enger, Christa White**, and the Youth & Children's Program Committee have created a program for our youngest Friends that will enable them to build community together on the Minecraft game platform. Thank you to **Jonah Brownfain** and **Noah Molina** for leading the way into a new adventure.

Annual Sessions will also provide online space for **Young Adult Friends** and interest groups. We encourage you to spend time in one of those virtual spaces. This year's format makes it easier than ever to drop into Bible study or worship sharing, check out one of the business sessions, and join us for the virtual talent show. It's all free and only as far as your WiFi router.

I also encourage you to visit other Quaker meetings. It's never been easier to be a part of the Quaker tradition of visitation among Friends, and you may find spiritual nourishment in worship or community with other Friends. There are a multitude of ways we can spend some of this time together apart, following the advice of George Fox: "Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you."

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PDF copies of
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are available at
leym.org

LEYM Annual Meeting (Virtual)

July 30 — August 2, 2020

Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds

On-line Meeting. Wow! So much has happened since we announced the theme of our Annual Meeting in the Winter issue of the *LEYM Bulletin* and introduced our speaker. With COVID-19 tying us to our homes, we have learned that the Internet can help us to still reach out and do things together, but in somewhat different ways. At our Representative Meeting via Zoom on April 4, we agreed that this pandemic was likely to continue to disallow face-to-face meetings through the summer and beyond, so we agreed to hold our summer Annual Meeting at the time it was planned for, but via the Internet. By now, we have several models for these arrangements in the work of other yearly meetings and Friends organizations. Many of us have become fairly adept at this way of coming together, and are actually seeing that it has its advantages, such as saving on gasoline and the expense of bed and board.

Program. Due to this different mode of connection, we have needed to alter our program. Engagement by Internet requires full attention, so we have shortened the schedule and built in plenty of breaks to allow us to tend to housekeeping matters at home between periods of being online. Hence, we will have no plenary speaker this year and the business sessions will have no verbal reports. Of course, we all will be missing out on those interesting personal exchanges around the tables at mealtime in Bluffton, so many of our sessions are scheduled to last 90 minutes, which should give space for informal conversation during any time left after the business has been concluded. This is especially true of the worship sharing sessions at 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday, where we will already be in small breakout groups.

Theme. Our Meeting theme - **Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds** - seems even more pertinent than it did last fall when it was approved. Perhaps the lockdown has forced us to let go of old patterns and find new ways of listening to each other and to God/Spirit. Together we will explore the process of listening in all of our sessions, how we can open all our senses to empathize with the other person in love.

Registration and Access. We encourage you to register for your Annual Meeting, to give us numbers to help in planning. To do so, visit the LEYM website (*leym.org*) and go to the Annual Meeting section to find the registration information. Here, you can sign up for the various sessions you wish to take part in, suggest interest groups, and nominate yourself as a potential performer for the Saturday evening talent show (*see p. 16*). We will be using a number of different Zoom accounts, but access to all sessions will be through the same LEYM website. There is no fee for this meeting, but contributions to LEYM are welcome.

The Program Committee: Claire Cohen, Susan Hartman, Steve Morehouse, Greg Mott, Aran Reinhart, and Thomas Taylor, Clerk, with Meeting Worker Bill Warters

See the description of the program for youth and children on the next page, the full schedule of events for adults, young adults, and youth and children on pages 5-6, descriptions of the four workshops on page 7, and an invitation to share in the talent show on p. 16.

LEYM Annual Meeting (virtual) - all via Zoom

Sessions for Youth and Children

See the LEYM Website (leym.org) and go to the Annual Meeting section to find registration information.

LEYM Annual Sessions will include Minecraft worldbuilding and a Minecraft adventure for all children and teens. Minecraft is an online game that focuses on exploration and creativity rather than conflict. Noah Molina has been building some areas to explore, and he and Jonah Brownfain will host a special event during which youth will endeavor to rescue an endangered village together. Noah will also serve as a friendly young adult presence during scheduled sessions to keep the space safe, and will choose game settings to make this Minecraft realm as creative and positive as possible. Young participants will need a Java edition Minecraft membership, which costs about \$27, to participate; memberships are available at *Minecraft.net*. If they already play Minecraft and have a java edition of the game, they do not need to purchase another. Please send Noah Molina each child's username so they can be invited to the realm where they can play together. Noah's e-mail is ockanoah@gmail.com. If your child has friends from other yearly meetings, they are welcome to send their usernames and join in the fun. Please contact Kate Enger at psychdrkate@gmail.com if financial assistance would help your young person participate in the Minecraft activities.

Annual Sessions will also include Zoom time for age-specific activities. If your child would like to participate in these activities, please be sure to provide, on your registration form, the e-mail to which their invitation to the meeting should be sent. Zoom classes are scheduled in between adult activities so that parents can help children sign on, and to facilitate the sharing of computers.

T-shirts are available for purchase. This year's design (right) was created by Passionworks, a studio for artists living with disabilities. Noah Hogan, an Athens Friend, is a Passionworks artist. A small portion of the sale of each shirt will go to Passionworks to support their mission.

If you'd like a shirt, please send your size and mailing address, along with \$17, to Kate Enger at:
75995 Vandyke Road
New Marshfield, OH 45766

Orders must be in by **July 9**. Your t-shirt will be mailed to you in hopes that it will arrive in time for you to show it proudly via Zoom.



Young Adult Friends will have Zoom time set aside for their own use. See the schedule on the next two pages.

Schedule of Annual Meeting Events

Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds

This schedule is provided so that you can plan ahead and choose how you will participate. All information on Zoom sessions will be provided at *leym.org* in the Annual Meeting section.

7/27 - Monday

- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting Basics Training Session - Bill Warters
- 3:00 p.m. Training for breakout group hosts (volunteer on registration form)

7/30 - Thursday

- 11:00 a.m. LEYM Executive Committee
- 1:00 p.m. **Children & Youth Programs - All Ages - Minecraft Worldbuilding**
- 3:00 p.m. Opening Welcome & Orientation - Jo Posti, YM Clerk
Letting Go and Listening - Thomas Taylor, Program Committee
Worship
- 6:00 p.m. **ZOOM TIME RESERVED FOR YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS**
- 7:00 p.m. Workshop 1: Telling Your COVID-19 Story to Congress - Sarah Freeman-Woolpert (FCNL)
- 8:30 p.m. **Teen Friends**

7/31 - Friday

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing in Small Groups OR
Bible Study on Theme of Annual Meeting, April Vanlonden (Earlham School of Religion)
- 10:00 a.m. **Elementary Age Friends**
- 11:00 a.m. Business Session 1
- 1:00 p.m. **Children & Youth Programs - All Ages - Minecraft Worldbuilding**
Committee Meetings
Focus on Quaker organizations (breakouts for AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, QEW, etc.)
- 3:00 p.m. Workshop 2: Bystander Intervention Training - Lucy Duncan (AFSC)
- 4:30 p.m. **Middle School Friends**
- 6:00 p.m. **ZOOM TIME RESERVED FOR YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS**
- 7:00 p.m. Workshop 3: Listening through Relationship: Healing the Earth and Ourselves -
Mey Hasbrook (QEW)
- 8:30 p.m. **Teen Friends**

8/01 - Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing OR Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. **Elementary Age Friends**
- 11:00 a.m. Business Session 2

Schedule of Annual Meeting Events, *continued*

8/01 - Saturday, *continued*

- 1:00 p.m. **Children & Youth Programs - All Ages - Minecraft**
Committee Meetings
Interest Groups (Ideas from registrants in advance)
- 3:00 p.m. Workshop 4: Connecting with Nature as Spiritual Practice -
Gretel Van Wieren (Michigan State University)
- 4:30 p.m. **Middle School Friends**
- 6:00 p.m. ZOOM TIME RESERVED FOR YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS
- 7:00 p.m. **Multigenerational TALENT Show** - Kate Enger, MC (*see p. 16*)
- 8:30 p.m. **Teen Friends Epistle Writing**

8/02 - Sunday

- a.m. Worship with Local Meetings by Zoom (or in person, as available)
- 12:00 p.m. **Elementary Age Epistle Writing**
- 1:00 p.m. **Middle School Epistle Writing**
- 3:00 p.m. Epistle Reading and Closing Meeting for Worship

Committees - Due to the energy required to participate in Zoom meetings, and the ease of meeting at other times via Zoom, most YM committees will *not* meet during this Annual Meeting time. Much of the work of the YM takes place in our committee meetings, and so Friends are most welcome to attend them as they are led. Please refer to the LEYM website (*leym.org*) for contact information of committee clerks and learn from them when and by what means their committees will be meeting around this time.

Interest Groups - We plan to host a couple of informal interest group discussion spaces at 1:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. On Friday, the topic is Quaker organizations (i.e., AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, RSWR, etc.). Saturday will be a time for Friends with common interests to connect (e.g., Quaker Healthcare Workers, Advocacy Team Participants, Friends of Color, LGBTQ, Veterans, etc). Breakout rooms will be announced as interest is shown on the registration form.

Please register for Annual Meeting (free) by July 24

See the registration form on the LEYM website (leym.org), Annual Meeting section.

Registration will open on July 1, with a deadline of Friday, July 24. Although all Friends can attend Annual Meeting events by Zoom, registering and choosing those events you expect to attend will help the Program Committee to prepare and allow you to suggest interest groups, sign up for the talent show (*see p. 16*), and update your contact information. All information on Zoom sessions will be provided at *leym.org* in the Annual Meeting section. There is no fee for participating in this meeting, but contributions to LEYM are welcome: send a check to Tom Kangas at 3641 Weston Pl., Columbus, OH 43214.

All children attending must also be registered to allow teachers and leaders to anticipate numbers and send Zoom invitations. And remember to order T-shirts by July 9 (*see p. 4*).

Workshops at LEYM Annual Meeting (virtual) - all via Zoom

See LEYM Website (leym.org), Annual Meeting section, for the link to join each 90-minute workshop.

Thursday, July 30, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Telling Your COVID-19 Story to Congress:

Virtual Lobbying in Pandemic Times

Presented by **Sarah Freeman-Woolpert**,
FCNL

FCNL staff members will facilitate a Quaker advocacy storytelling exercise on the impacts of COVID-19 in Friends' communities. The content of this exercise is applicable to any communication with Congress, including media advocacy and virtual lobbying. Then, FCNL lobby trainers will lead a session on how to advance Quaker advocacy through virtual lobbying on COVID-19 relief efforts to help ensure the most vulnerable in our society are cared for during this time. This workshop prepares your group to lobby elected officials with a concrete plan and a clear action to make a difference.

Friday, July 31, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Bystander Intervention Training: How to Stand up Against Public Racist and Oppressive Acts

Presented by **Lucy Duncan**,
Director of Friends Relations, AFSC

Learn how to intervene in public instances of racist, anti-Asian, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, and other forms of oppressive interpersonal violence and harassment.

We'll explore "do's and don'ts" of bystander intervention and consider scenarios and how to respond effectively, taking the lead from the person being harassed. Learn not only how to intervene on the streets, but how to teach and train others on these methods.

Friday, July 31, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Listening through Relationship: Healing the Earth and Ourselves

Presented by **Mey Hasbrook**, Kalamazoo
MM, LEYM Representative to QEW

With wisdom from and aligned with indigenous communities through lived stories, we will listen for new Light toward right relationship. This requires healing ourselves as we heal the Earth as a whole community. Combining real-time guest contributors and selected video and printed materials, we will address queries to invite responses in writing, drawing, and/or movement. The workshop will be a welcoming space - interactive and exploratory, inviting open hearts and minds. (Breakouts to small sharing groups will be included.)

Saturday, August 1, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Connecting with Nature as Spiritual Practice

Presented by **Gretel Van Wieren**,
Michigan State University

Have you been spending more time outdoors during the pandemic? What have you been doing and why? What kinds of feelings does being in nature elicit for you? These are some of the questions this workshop will engage. It will explore some spiritual meanings for thinking about our relationship with the natural world, and offer some tips for how we can spiritually connect with nature, especially during difficult times.

Report from Nominating Committee

Seeking a Few Friends

In general, for 2020-2021, we have asked Friends if they could continue to serve on their current committees for another year. Thankfully, most Friends have indicated that they are willing to do so.

Otherwise, the Nominating Committee is seeking Friends who might serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in the following capacities.

To begin at the end of Annual Sessions 2020:

Assistant Presiding Clerk

Recording Clerk

To serve immediately OR at the end of Annual Sessions 2020 as members of:

Advancement & Outreach Committee or
Publications & Archives Committee

Earthcare and Peace & Justice are currently seeking ways forward as working groups with certain concerns, so we are not asking Friends to serve on these committees.

If Friends have gifts needed for the work of these offices and committees, or for serving as Representatives to Friends organizations or members of other committees, please contact Clémence Ravaçon Mershon at andre14@earthlink.net.

Seeking a Database Manager

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is seeking a database manager, to commence work at rise of Annual Sessions (August 2). The pay is \$20 per hour. A job description follows.

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 that committee. Below is a summary of the tasks; find more specific details in *Policies and Procedures*.

- Maintains and updates the LEYM database, currently in Microsoft Access. (A working knowledge of Access is required.)
- Provides current contact information for LEYM Friends to LEYM officers and committee clerks, as needed.
- Provides a directory for the *Annual Records* from Annual Meeting reports, monthly meetings, and worship groups.
- Provides to Friends General Conference a list of addresses for members and active attendees annually, on request.
- Prepares annual statistical report forms to be completed by quarterly, monthly, and preparative meetings and worship groups. The database manager updates the database with the new information and provides current information for the “Find a Meeting” section on LEYM’s website.

Interested? Please communicate with Jo Posti, clerk (jo.posti@gmail.com).

Harassment Discernment Committee - If a Friend feels she or he has been poorly or unfairly treated during our YM sessions 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 is available at leym.org. Members of the LEYM Harassment Discernment Committee for 2020 are:

Lisa Klopfer, Email: lklopfer@gmail.com Phone: 734-436-1031

Aran Reinhart, Email: aranreinhart@yahoo.com Phone: 419-619-6810

Pamela Moore, Phone: 215-593-6795

Peter Wood, Email: petrosh.wood@gmail.com Phone: 517-881-6845

Kate Enger, Email: psychdrkate@gmail.com Phone: 740-591-7255

News from the American Friends Service Committee

I just want to send out a reminder that the American Friends Service Committee was started during a pandemic. It began as a Quaker plan for service to others during a disaster. Through the years, AFSC has been in the forefront of disasters, helping victims of fire, flood, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Now there is an opportunity to serve again during a pandemic.

Here are some things that the organization has been involving Quakers in doing: arranging car protests around prisons and immigrant detention centers to free all non-violent prisoners; providing soaps, hand sanitizers, and masks to immigrants in detention; tracking the increase in authoritarianism around the world during the pandemic; supplying food and PPE for hospital workers and others in West Virginia; supporting and advocating for low-income workers in Georgia who are being evicted for non-payment of rent; working to supply soap and sanitizers to refugees and other displaced people in refugee camps; supplying ventilators and medicines for hospitals in Zimbabwe; providing medical supplies of all kinds to Gaza; buying food from farm fields to take to foodbanks in New Mexico.

Obviously, there are issues all around the world that need to be addressed. The aim is to reduce violence and advance human dignity and equality throughout the world. This is a huge goal, but we can all help in small ways. Please go to the AFSC webpage to find out some way you can help. Can you organize a driving protest around an immigrant detention center in your area? Can you explore ways to stand up to anti-Asian racism? The website will give you plenty of ideas. Thank you.

~ Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead), LEYM Representative to the AFSC Corporation

Reviving High School Teen Retreats?

Robb Yurisko, who led teen retreats in the past, is willing to help revive these events, and some teens appear to be interested. Friends who feel led to help, or even to take leadership as the High School Youth Program Coordinator, are encouraged to contact Robb at ryurisko@gmail.com. He wrote,

I wouldn't mind getting things started and seeing how things unfold – perhaps planning a retreat to see what energy there is among the teens.

Where Spirit leads is best. Some time in discernment with [High School Teen Retreat Program] Committee members about a way forward would be ideal, if there is a need for the work.

Perhaps another Friend in the YM would feel called to the [Coordinator] position. Then I would be happy to serve on the Committee instead.

Visit Annual Meetings Elsewhere

As our clerk's message notes (p. 2), many Annual Meetings are taking place online this year, and Friends can easily "visit" throughout the country. For a full list of annual meetings, see <https://fwccamericas.org/visitation/yearly-meetings.shtml>.

Letter from a Representative to QEW and FWCC

As an LEYM representative with Quaker Earthcare Witness and the Friends World Committee for Consultation, I point us toward the abundant resources generated by these organizations. Current examples include webinars, publications, and pandemic-related insights. Contributors provide views spanning yearly meetings as well as Quaker branches. The materials are useful for matters of discernment by committees of the Yearly Meeting and monthly meetings, as well as by individuals. From my service as a QEW and FWCC representative the past year, I highlight a selection of resources below.

My term for these roles is continuing, so I invite Friends to reach out with questions and inquiries. For committees or meetings that would like to address a theme or specific concern in “real time,” I’m available to explore how Zoom can support this. In closing, I convey a friendly reminder that both organizations do good work with only a few staff, accompanied by volunteers, and always welcome donations. Thank you for considering how you may be led to contribute, corporately and individually.

~ Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo), meymdh@gmail.com

“Covid-19 Resources,” from FWCC Section of the Americas, https://fwccamericas.org/_wp/covid-19-resources/. Multiple web pages address church and meeting responses, online worship opportunities, pastoral care, and planning online sessions.

Quakers Coming Together to Care for the Earth, a video published by the FWCC World Office, May 2019, <https://vimeo.com/336821797>. Friends share testimonies about their commitment to Earthcare. This QEW collaboration includes a pair of leaders from different branches of Friends; most contributors are from North America. The article “Awakening Across the Branches of Friends” introduces the project; see <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/awaking-across-branches-friends>.

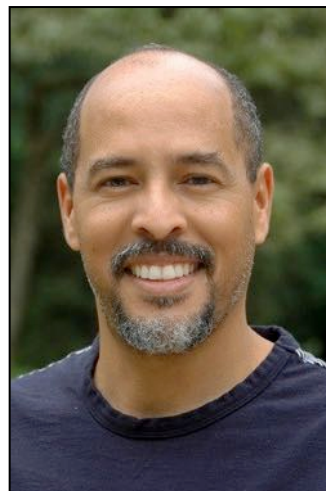
“Sustainability Resources,” a web page from the FWCC World Office, <http://fwcc.world/sustainability/resources>. Find posters, case studies, and 2019 webinars that feature mainly North American Friends.

The Work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, Quaker Speak, November 2019, <https://quakerspeak.com/the-work-of-quaker-earthcare/>. A video introduction to QEW. Among the interviewees are QEW’s General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum, and Communications Coordinator, Hayley Hathaway.

Francisco Burgos Named Executive Director of Pendle Hill

In late March the Pendle Hill Board of Directors announced that Francisco Burgos will become Executive Director of Pendle Hill, effective September 1. Traci Hjelt Sullivan continues as Interim Executive Director until that date. Burgos commented, “I am looking forward to providing spirit-led support and leadership within an organization for which I feel passion and inspiration.”

Since 2017 Burgos has been Director of Education at Pendle Hill. He previously served at the Center for Community Initiatives at the Monteverde Institute in Costa Rica, and from 2012 to 2015 was Head of School at Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica. He has also served with the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and the American Friends Service Committee in Baltimore, Maryland. A Quaker, he attends Providence Monthly Meeting in Media, Pennsylvania.



Traveling Ministry Report

Summer greetings, Friends. I want to take a moment to connect with you about the traveling ministry that I carry. For the past year, LEYM has endorsed the ministry's traveling minute, which is approved by and under the care of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting. This minute is available online at <http://femestiza.com/travel-minute/>.

At present, I am readying a report for access in advance of Annual Sessions. LEYM's Ministry & Nurture Committee has received endorsements from a series of visitations among Britain YM and New England YM, as well as briefer ones with Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and Ann Arbor and Oberlin Monthly Meetings. [See photos of Mey's visits, below.]

Written reflections from my lengthier travels have been published in *BeFriending Creation*, the quarterly newsletter of Quaker Earthcare Witness, <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/befriending-creation>. These pieces are titled "Listening to Roots: Walking in Beauty" (Vol. 32, no. 4) and "Love in the Wilderness: A Path for Climate Action" (Vol. 33, no. 2). As a whole, the messages embody qualities of the invited workshop that I'm preparing for Annual Sessions.

Since sessions this year will be an experiment online as well as shortened, I hope this note invites Friends to (re)connect with the ministry. My website, <http://femestiza.com>, and also Facebook page, <http://facebook.com/sinkdownriseup>, provide past and current notices about travels as well as ongoing ministry during the pandemic.

With Love and Light,
Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo)
meymdh@gmail.com



A few Friends after First Day worship with Windermere Local Meeting (Cumbria) at Gatesfield, a Quaker residential community.



At Beacon Hill Friends House, Boston



Friends from Lancaster Local Meeting at Swarthmoor Hall (Ulverston, Cumbria)

Sharing Thoughts on the Pandemic

*“How did you experience the current pandemic and resulting quarantines?”
Friends of all ages were invited to address this topic through essays, poetry,
meditations, and artwork. Below and on the next page are Friends’ responses.*

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh)

I see the crows outside my study window.
They nibble at the birdseed in the grass,
Fallen from the feeder to the left.
My cat, entranced, is perching on the porch
(Enclosed by glass on three sides out of four).
She watches closely, twitching her rear end,
When suddenly she sees that I am there.
She rolls aside, atremble, moaning, watching,
Waiting for me to take in hand the glove
With rubber bumps; she’s eager to be stroked,
Ready to stretch and purr with pure delight.
In general, she seems truly puzzled by
My constant presence in this strange new time
Of social distancing, which means, of course,
I seldom go outside, and then alone
To walk, to stretch my legs, to nod my head
At other walkers. I am plainly bored,
Depressed and anxious, clearly on my own,
A burden for a friendly soul like me.
Oh, look! A bright red cardinal and some sparrows
Take the place of all the coal-black crows.
It could be worse. Suppose I had no windows?
Suppose I had no books, no magazines,
No puzzles, or perhaps no food or drink?
Yet still I mourn, I fret, I curse, I sigh:
Wondering what will happen, when, and why.

FIRE WORDS

Samuel Hayes (Detroit)

Emily Dickinson I have never seen volcanoes: the explosive poetry inside her geography. Ted Alford regularly casts poetic hand grenades: explosive testimonials. Alice Herz thrust verbal peace dynamite into DFM worship, the silence disturbed. She morphed into a flaming bush, spraying herself with lighter fluid, matching her clothes to extinguish the napalm human immolation. Mike Kelly notes people standing in concentration camp watching a child shredded; a voice cries out, “Where is God?” A voice replies, “God is here.” Humans with the fire virus scratching for breath, alone, deformed into cadavers, frozen in overloaded ice trucks. And in a corpse-pocked land the search for the normal.

WALKING IN THE PANDEMIC

Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo)

Six feet apart
Six feet apart
Two friends together
on Kal-Haven trail, walking
six feet apart.
One on the left
the other on the right
Walking on the very edge
we flank the trail, at least
six feet apart.
On a narrow trail
one speeds ahead,
the other lags behind.
The one ahead looks back to talk.
The one behind slows down.
Single file, we march
six feet apart.
We bow to see wild flowers.
We bend to examine leaves,
Turn right to view hilly woodland,
Turn left to behold a peaceful pond.
Pause to rest.
We dance the do-si-do
and promenade
six feet apart.
In this pandemic,
to walk is to: air
our despair, sing
our blues.
To walk is to: catch
sun rays between April rains.
To walk is to: seek
blue sky amidst gray clouds.
To walk is to:
simply
breathe
sweet air
on the trail.
So,
on the trail, we
soothe our senses
renew our bones
lighten our hearts
free our spirits
marching, dancing, strolling, talking, breathing
six feet apart!

Sharing Thoughts on the Pandemic, *continued*



“THRESHING SESSION”

Aran Reinhart (Broadmead). Marker on paper.

Aran writes that this “word picture” was made “during a threshing session that Broadmead had about life with COVID-19 and what will change because of it. Each color represents one person. I doodle to the cadence of that person’s voice.”

Quaker Soups

The coronavirus has put a temporary halt to **Cleveland Friends’** fellowship around a bowl of soup following meeting for worship, but they have gathered their favorite soup recipes in a colorful 28-page booklet called *Quaker Soups for Good Times and Bad* in preparation for the time when they will again be able to sit together for worship ... and soup.



See https://www.fgcquaker.org/system/files/cloud_attachments/Quaker%20Soups%208%20x%207.pdf.

Mathilda Navias, formerly of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Broadmead Monthly Meeting, writes:

“Greetings. You might want to check out an article I wrote titled “Spiritual Practices for the Pandemic.” It’s about various practices that you can adopt which will potentially help you cope with what’s going on. It has been published in the online edition of the *June Friends Journal*:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/spiritual-practices-for-the-pandemic.>”

GPQM Summer Gathering, Sunday, August 9

Friends are invited to the Summer Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, on Sunday, August 9, at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Michigan. 11:00 meeting for worship under the trees, followed by a picnic and fellowship.

Every year GPQM remembers the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and celebrates peace in this historic Quaker meeting place.

All are welcome. Please bring your own chair or blanket, food, beverage, and mask.

FWCC Seeks General Secretary

Simon Lamb, Clerk of the Central Executive Committee of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), invites applications for the position of FWCC General Secretary at the World Office in London. The World Office plays a unique role in representing Friends worldwide through the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and the World Council of Churches. The *deadline for applications* is January 4, 2021.

Gretchen Castle has served as FWCC General Secretary for the last eight years, during which time she oversaw the 2016 World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru, the growth of Quaker sustainability efforts worldwide, and the birth of World Quaker Day (the first Sunday in October). She currently serves as chairperson of the Christian World Communion Conference of General Secretaries, the first Quaker and first woman to do so.

From the search announcement:

Are you ready to provide both spiritual and administrative leadership to this small and thriving international Quaker organization? Friends from any country in the world are invited to bring your vision for the future of Friends, together with your technological and cultural competencies. You will be directly involved in shaping the World Plenary Meeting and supporting the work of the Quaker United Nations Office. This is an exciting and rare opening for members of the Religious Society of Friends to engage widely with Friends and on the ecumenical world stage. More information is available at <http://fwcc.world/about-fwcc/general-secretary-search>.

Minute on Anti-racism

“Broadmead Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands in solidarity with the peaceful protestors responding to the murder of George Floyd and the systemic racism it represents. Broadmead Friends remain committed to our internal anti-racism work and to nonviolent movements working for racial justice.”

Approved June 14, 2020

Report on Olney Friends School

Olney Friends School complied with the State of Ohio COVID-19 response and sent students home in mid-March. Fourteen international students who were unable to return home stayed on campus while complying with COVID-19 restrictions. All students participated in virtual learning to finish the school year. The School anticipates next fall's enrollment to be higher than this year's, despite the COVID-19 pandemic's negative impact on enrollment. The good news is that the Olney Annual Fund reached its goal of \$300,000.

~ Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham),
LEYM Representative to Olney Friends School

LEYM History Corner

We recently ran across a tiny (3.5 x 4.5 in.) mimeographed booklet titled “The Lake Erie Association of Friends Meetings (Quakers): Directory 1949-1950.” Listed in it were the 12 meetings then part of the association: Ann Arbor, Cleveland, Detroit, East Lansing, Indianapolis, Meadville (Pennsylvania), Morgantown (West Virginia), North Columbus, Oberlin, Pittsburgh, Toledo, and West Lafayette (Indiana). New groups were forming, but not yet holding regular meetings, in Flint and Midland (Michigan) and Delaware and Granville (Ohio). Here's to our history from 70 years ago – some things have changed, but a lot has not! ~ Eds.

Friends Couple Enrichment

Friends' tradition asks us to hold marriages "under the care of the meeting." But how can we do it? It's not so easy when the tight-knit communities of early Friends have evolved into such widespread and diverse meetings. Modern Friends tend to hold back from "interfering" in another's relationship. It is all too rare that couples get together to talk about how their couple relationships are going, to seek emotional support and spiritual nurture for their relationship. In our modern-day meetings, we often don't know how to offer spiritual support to individuals, much less to couples. So how do we hold a marriage or committed relationship under our spiritual care in our meetings?

Friends Couple Enrichment has for nearly 50 years provided just such a ministry of support for couples. It is probable that at least one couple in your meeting has attended a couple enrichment retreat. In these retreats, couples learn a process of deep dialogue – tender listening and authentic speaking. Such dialogue leads to deeper intimacy and more creative ways to address conflicts in a relationship. When used regularly, such dialogues take on the role of a spiritual practice. There may be few better ways for your meeting to hold marriages under their care than to sponsor a Couple Enrichment retreat or to help a newly committed couple to attend a retreat.

You can find out more by going to <https://friendscoupleenrichment.wordpress.com>. Never heard of Couple Enrichment before? Watch the QuakerSpeak video on the Friends Couple Enrichment website.

~ Peter Wood (Red Cedar)

Summer of '68

I remember the summer of 1968. I rode the train to Chicago with my two babies (one year old and three years old), along with a crib, a highchair, a playpen, and a stroller, plus two huge suitcases, to visit with my parents in Gurnee. My dad picked us up at the train station, roped everything on his car, and took us to my parents' house.

I was staying for a couple of weeks, as I did every summer. One day, my sister was home from nurses' training, and my mom suggested that she and I go to Chicago to shop and walk through the park while my sister stayed with my babies. We took the El and planned a lovely day together, with lunch downtown. As we headed to the park, we had forgotten that the news had said there were protesters camped there. It was the time of the Democratic Convention. We still had a good day, even though we skipped our walk in the park and headed home. Mom commented that she was surprised there was not more trash in the park among the tents.

That night we saw the news: Chicago police were driving the protesters and any bystanders down the avenue, using billy clubs and tear gas. They attacked journalists and were throwing people to the ground and arresting them. We were horrified! We had been there in that peaceful place. But, apparently, Mayor Daley did not want arriving delegates to see the protesters.

That summer, there were many riots and protest marches against police violence and the treatment of human beings. It was, indeed, a long, hot summer.

Now I watch my TV in disbelief. It is like déjà vu. How completely disheartening to see that not only have police not improved, but now they were worse than ever and looked like combat troops. How can we, as Quakers, change this dynamic?

~ Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead)

Share Your Talent!

Sign up for the **LEYM virtual talent show** when you register for Annual Meeting. You can pre-record your piece and send it to Kate Enger at psychdrkate@gmail.com. This allows for a wider range of talents, like gymnastics on the backyard apparatus, agility duos with your dog, a short clip of your rock-climbing expertise, a 360° view of the sculpture you created, a brief slide show of all the birds you've attracted to your feeder, or a quick tour of your flower garden.

Please keep in mind that a talent doesn't have to be a song or story, it could be turning a somersault, shooting a perfect basket, blowing an enormous bubble, showing that you can slide into the splits, or a photo of the table you restored, sweater you knitted, or a unique pie crust. Thanks to our virtual format, we can weave together brief, interesting, lovely submissions.

Please send Kate your submissions by Thursday, July 16. If you prefer to perform live, please send a description of your piece to Kate at psychdrkate@gmail.com by July 27. Please note: **All performances must be under 4 minutes in length, and must be child-friendly.**

Looking forward to your talents!

Calendar for 2020

June 28 – July 4: FGC Virtual Gathering, online (see www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)

June 30: Due date, State of the Meeting Reports

July 15: Due date, LEYM Statistical Reports

July 24: Registration deadline for Annual Meeting (see p. 6)

July 30 – August 2: LEYM Annual Meeting, via Zoom (see pp. 3-7)

August 9: Summer Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Battle Creek (see p. 13)

September 1: Due date, submissions for LEYM *Annual Records 2020*

October 1: Due date, submissions for Fall *Bulletin*

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)

Finance

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

Ministry & Nurture

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

Nominating

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG)

Publications & Archives

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

Youth & Children's Program

Kate Enger (Athens)