



Clerk's Message from Jo Posti

Exploring New Ways

In my Clerk's Message last January, I reflected on what a strange time we were living in, in light of the fires in Australia, escalating tensions in Iran, and articles of impeachment against President Trump. Obviously, life has only become stranger, in light of the pandemic, racial injustice, and the recent insurrection at the Capitol, culminating with a second impeachment. Through all of this, my relationships with LEYM Friends have sustained and inspired me.

We're all looking for inspiration. Some of the people who took part in the attempted coup in Washington held signs indicating their Christian beliefs. How can people of faith choose such different ways to express it? What inspired them to travel to Washington to rally around a myth about widespread voter fraud while others watched the rioters on television, horrified by their terrorism? The difference, it seems, is how we each approach truth. As Quakers, we're not called to be on the side of one political party or another but to be on the side of truth. We're often called to respond to difficult truths, like the ongoing racial injustice our country has fomented rather than eradicated. Friends' ability to use truth as a force for good continues to inspire me.



During the past year, I've also been inspired by Friends' willingness to try new ways of connecting. As we prepare for April's Representative Meeting, we have now experienced an entire LEYM calendar year virtually, moving all of our committee and business session work onto Zoom. But rather than simply muddling through the year, we've also experimented with new events such as weekly coffees, interest groups, and worship opportunities online.

Throughout 2020, the ad hoc Visioning Committee has been working to bring forward queries and ideas that have emerged from our months of research, interviews, and discernment. We're looking forward to sharing this with Friends

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Clerk's Message, *continued*

during Representative Meeting. One of the benefits of meeting virtually is that Friends can more easily participate in our work and fellowship without travel. Whether you're a part of LEYM's Executive Committee, the LEYM representative from your monthly meeting, a member of an LEYM committee, or an interested Friend, we invite you to join us on Saturday, April 3, to learn more

about the Visioning Committee's work and to provide feedback that will be helpful to the Yearly Meeting. Look for more information on the next page and watch for email about how to register.

I'm looking forward to seeing Friends at Representative Meeting and being inspired by your visions for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's future.

Request for Workshop Proposals, 2021 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee of LEYM is requesting proposals from Friends for workshop presentations at our 2021 Annual Meeting, to be held Wednesday evening, July 28, to Sunday, August 1, by video-conference. The theme of this year's meeting is *Healing Through Truth*. The deadline for submission is **Monday, February 15**. We cannot guarantee that proposals submitted after that date will be considered.

We do not yet know exactly how many workshops we will be presenting or what time slots will be allotted, but we expect they will be scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Each workshop will last up to an hour and 30 minutes, and should have some relationship to the theme. We will also host less formal interest groups in addition to the workshops. More information about proposals for interest groups will be available in April.

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. Preferred length of time (up to 90 minutes)
5. One or two paragraphs describing the content of the workshop, including its relationship to the theme of the Annual Meeting.
6. Brief description of your format: e.g., will you want to have break-out rooms during the session; is there a minimum or maximum number of people that you would request?

All proposals should be sent to Susan Hartman at 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:

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

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Representative Meeting (Virtual)

Saturday, April 3, starting at 9:00 am

As described below, most of this year's Representative Meeting will be devoted to learning more about the Visioning Committee's work and providing feedback that will be helpful to the Yearly Meeting. Watch for posting of the full report and registration instructions on the website and in your email.

LEYM Visioning Committee Report

During Annual Sessions last summer the clerk announced a new ad hoc committee to explore ways that the Yearly Meeting could be more effective in its functioning and outreach. Six people stepped forward at that time and met virtually between August and January to explore where this wide-open question could take us (eight times as a whole group, with some individual and smaller-group work in between). The group was clear that we were not a decision-making body but realized we could surface important themes and questions and help focus fruitful areas of action and/or further investigation. We articulated our charge as “Bring recommendations to the Yearly Meeting on practices and structures that foster a more vibrant, flexible, engaged, and Spirit-filled organization.”

We understand that information is no substitute for Spirit in discernment, but felt there was value in attending to both! We started the process by identifying people from both within and outside LEYM who might have relevant insights from their own experience — leadership of other yearly meetings and within this yearly meeting but also people who represented different generations and levels of current engagement. We interviewed approximately 19 people, asking questions including:

- What in your yearly meeting stands out as being energizing, life-giving, or Spirit-filled?
- What are you doing in your yearly meeting that you would consider a “best practice” worth sharing — whether it is an innovation or has been around for a long time?
- What, in your opinion, are the most important functions of a yearly meeting?
- If your monthly meeting is your spiritual home, what is the yearly meeting beyond that?

Ask and it will be given unto you! There was no shortage of interesting material at the conclusion of the data-gathering stage. When we'd finished reading over our collected notes, we sat with worshipful attention to what was rising up for us and identified a number of themes — and from there, queries and recommendations.

It's now time to bring our work to a larger audience and gather feedback. What resonates and what's exciting? What might we have missed? The Representative Meeting is a great opportunity to learn. As mentioned in the Clerk's Message, we invite everyone interested to attend what will be an interactive session to reflect on what this group has generated, in the morning, and consider possible ways to move forward in the afternoon. Our intention is to see what recommendations, if any, may be appropriate to develop for this year's Annual Sessions.

A complete report on findings, including a description of the themes, the queries, and recommendations, will be available by mid-March. Watch for an email and check the website.

Members of the LEYM Visioning Committee: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), clerk, Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids), Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), and Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor).

2021 Annual Meeting
On the Theme “Healing through Truth”
July 28 – August 1, Meeting Virtually
Keynote Speaker: Paula Palmer

Paula Palmer’s collaborative work with Indigenous peoples began during the 20 years she lived in Costa Rica, where she helped Indigenous Bribri and Afro-Caribbean communities write and 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 executive director of the non-profit organization Global Response, she 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), the International Human Rights Award (given by the United Nations Association of Boulder County), and Pendle Hill’s Cadbury Scholarship. She carries traveling minutes from Boulder Friends Meeting and Intermountain Yearly Meeting. John Meyer will serve as Paula’s elder for LEYM’s Annual Sessions.

Paula’s description of her planned talk follows.

“From Truth to Healing with Native Peoples”

*Living myths from the past cause continuing pain.
Pathways through truth help heal.*

For the past eight years, I’ve labored under a concern for building right relationship with Indigenous peoples. My ministry and my personal spiritual practice have been grounded in the practice of Early Friends, as Rex Ambler describes it. To find peace or healing in their own lives and in the world, Early Friends opened their hearts to the Light of Truth, allowing it to illuminate their darkness and expose their transgressions, leaving them naked — as George Fox said — before the Lord. Early Friends had the courage to do this because they also had faith that the Light of Truth would give them the strength to change what was

not right in themselves, and it would show them a way to healing and peace.

In my ministry, I seek healing for the centuries-old wounds of genocide, colonization, and forced assimilation of the Indigenous peoples of this land. I invite non-Native Friends to open our hearts to the Light of Truth by learning our own histories as settlers who live and worship in the homelands of Indigenous peoples. I invite Friends to let the Light illuminate our transgressions as a religious society that promoted and operated Indian boarding schools where Quaker teachers taught Native children to reject their own languages, cultures,

and spiritual practices. And I share stories of Friends and communities that are responding to the Light of Truth and finding the strength to change what is not right in their relationships with Native peoples. Healing is a long process, but we can begin to feel its power when we start building relationships with Native peoples based on truth, respect, justice, and our shared humanity.

I am looking forward to exploring with LEYM Friends where the Light of Truth may lead us —

as individuals and as meetings — when we gather this summer. I'll offer some resources that can be posted in advance on your website. And I'll also facilitate a workshop titled, "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples." My Native and non-Native colleagues and I present this workshop with faith communities, schools, colleges, and civic groups throughout the country. Our *Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples* program is part of Friends Peace Teams.

Seeking Friends to Serve on Committees Next Year

Starting in February, the Nominating Committee will be looking for Friends to serve on LEYM committees. If you feel led to serve the Yearly Meeting, please answer the call when one of our Nominating Committee members calls you. They are: Jo Steigerwald (Cleveland), Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids), Janet Dando (Akron), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), and Clémence Mershon (Erie Worship Group), clerk.

Second PJ&E Interest Group Discussion Forum

The Peace & Justice and Earthcare Interest Group will have its second discussion forum on Saturday, February 6, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. The first forum was a great success, with many positive reviews. This forum will be on a virtual platform using Zoom. The four hosts and their topics are listed below.

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| Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh) | How Quaker business owners integrate their faith into their work growing and maintaining business. |
| Karen Tibbals (New York YM) | The division in our country runs deep. How can we bridge the divide, and help move our country (and the world) towards peace? |
| Beverly Ward (South-eastern YM) | Decolonizing & Angelic Troublemakers. Quakers seeking to learn and act upon the truth of Quaker history with Indigenous Peoples. |
| Megan Mueller Johnson & Megan Wilson (Ann Arbor) | Prison Abolition, Defunding the Police and Related Issues. |

You must register in order to participate. Sign up for one of these four topics at <https://airtable.com/shrH2qI5JelCIytDI>, and you will receive a Zoom link that will allow you to attend. Please tell a friend. We hope to see you there.

Epistle to all Friends

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

July 30 – August 2 & August 12, 2020

Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

We, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, gathered from July 30 through August 2, in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and other locations including Maine and Honduras, with a final business session on August 12, 2020. Although our physical gathering was limited mostly to groups of one or two, collectively, 155 of us worshipped, carried out our business, and played together using the online platforms of Zoom and Minecraft. Our theme this weekend was “Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds.”

Letting Go

In the midst of a world health pandemic that separates us from each other and a new awakening to the depth and breadth of our long-standing racial pandemic, we found comfort in seeing each other through Zoom and in the LEYM routines we love. We began some days with Bible study and worship sharing, we delighted in our beloved talent show, and we envied our youngest children, who were able to gather in person. While familiar and comforting, letting go of the physically gathered nature of these routines also created new opportunities. A number of Friends who cannot normally attend a physical gathering, due to cost, mobility, time, or other reasons, were able to join us this year for the first (or first in a long) time. Our talent show this year included a number of favorite and familiar acts, among them several musical performances, but we were also treated to a video walk-through of one Friend’s garden, exploration of a Minecraft world occupied by our Youth Program during Annual Sessions this year, paintings, an HTML animation, and some scroll-work pieces of art created during the talent show. We are excited about the possibility that the technology we used out of necessity this year will enhance our work going forward. We are grateful for

the skilled and cheerful wizardry that made Zoom our Bluffton this year, and for inspiring musical interludes from Playing for Change. We are also grateful for the thoughtful planning of a Minecraft world which held our Youth Program, and for the gifts and flexibility of all of those serving our community during this time of unexpected challenges. While we are eager to meet together physically in the future, letting go of the need to meet exclusively in person opens up exciting opportunities for ongoing Bible study, year-round Minecraft connections among our youth, and breathing new life into our Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committees as they explore offering a series of free-standing interest groups during the coming year.

Listening with Whole Hearts

Our Bible study group explored the biblical treatment of five words from our theme: listening, whole, minds, hearts, and being open. Participants shared their personal experiences, and also reflected on William Penn’s view that it is not our own salvation we are seeking, but that of the beloved community.

We heard, again, of brokenness in our beloved community. Racism is a pandemic that predates and exacerbates the COVID-19 pandemic; it is more deadly than COVID-19 to People of Color.

Friends of Color, in an epistle written to Friends everywhere, asked us for respite. “Friends of Color need respite from the insidious lie of white supremacy manifested in daily oppressive traumatic stressors (microaggressions) which have the effect of blaming the oppressed for our own oppression. Friends of Color need respite and support which our home meetings have not provided. Friends of Color are fatigued from being asked to teach white folks.” These dear friends ask us to “do work so that” Friends of Color in our midst “can BREATHE.”

Friends in the antiracism workshop expressed frustration with our meetings' lack of meaningful progress in becoming anti-racist faith communities. The barriers Friends identified are cultural and financial, some limiting our ability to attract attenders, some impacting our work in local communities. Those participating in the workshop expressed a commitment to this work and to continue to have brave conversations, set bold goals, and listen to our Black neighbors and Friends in order to understand our blind spots.

As one step toward becoming more anti-racist, we were encouraged in our bystander intervention workshop to listen with whole hearts to situations involving racism we encounter, to explore what makes us hesitant to intervene, to make our presence as a witness known, and to follow the lead of the individual(s) being harassed.

But we must do more. When our Friends of Color are exhausted not only from interactions in the world at large, but from being othered in Quaker space, we are not doing enough. We encourage all Friends, including those in our constituent monthly meetings, to read "the Outgoing Epistle of the 2020 Virtual Annual Pre-Gathering of Friends of Color and their Families," to sit with the queries they pose to all Quakers, and to do more.

Open Minds

In the Listening through Relationship workshop, we were called to open our minds to explore what imprisons us – and to ponder where we might be led if we shifted our thinking about our relationship with the earth – to explore what would be different if we treated water and its interaction with land as sacred.

Our workshop on Connecting with Nature as a Spiritual Practice encouraged us to find more in nature than its beauty by exploring outdoor forms of meditation, from simply walking or sitting in nature to attentive observation, active listening, restoration work, gardening, play, and activism. We were reminded that among nature's spiritual gifts is its profound *memento mori*, its reminder that all living things must die, and that in these "good deaths" new life is made possible.

A staff member from FCNL encouraged us to open our minds to the power of storytelling as political advocacy, leading us through the steps of identifying and crafting stories we might share as a step to building personal relationships with our members of Congress as we work to heal the world.

We were enriched by our time together, challenged to do more to explore and mend our relationship with the earth, and to more actively and more broadly address the historic and ongoing racial pandemic within our Quaker communities. We long for the physical connections that were absent this year, but leave excited by new possibilities for broadening and deepening our community using the tools that allowed us to meet this year.

In faith,
Jo Posti, Presiding Clerk

In Memoriam

We are sorry to report the death of Claire Davis (Broadmead), 101, and Louise Luckenbill (Oberlin), 83. Claire loved life — her husband, Joe, her children, grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, and many F/friends. She had broad interests, volunteered on numerous projects, and was known for her joyful outlook and faithfulness. Claire was active in LEYM for many years, and served as clerk and assistant clerk in 1981–85. An online memorial meeting was held on January 10.

Louise had a remarkable career in medical education, becoming "the first woman basic scientist hired by the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine to teach medical students." A talented artist, she was particularly interested in the marriage of science and art. She joined the Society of Friends at Athens Meeting, later transferring to Sandwich Meeting (Cape Cod) and becoming an active sojourning member at Oberlin. See her memorial minute on the LEYM website.

Memorial minutes should be sent to Peggy Daub (peggydaub@hotmail.com), clerk of Publications & Archives Committee, for posting on the website and inclusion in the next *Annual Records*.

Come, Engage with the Bible

New Bible Study Program Begins February 20

Join other LEYM members to explore ways to engage with the Bible, led by Maryann Concannon (Red Cedar). We will be using the book *Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends*, by Michael Birkel of the Earlham School of Religion. You will get the most out of the sessions by pre-purchasing the book.

The program will meet once a month on 3rd Saturdays, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. We will meet five times and then explore interest in continuing. In the course, we will use different techniques to study the scripture.

The class begins Saturday, February 20; subsequent sessions will be on March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19.

The book is published by Friends United Press. The Amazon bookstore link is <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0944350674/>.

Questions? Contact Maryann Concannon at anandiyogi@comcast.net.

If you wish to join the program, you'll need to pre-register at <https://airtable.com/shrzajrgp5kffn2mv>.

New Quaker House at Chautauqua

*At the intersection of Chautauqua Institution and the Quaker faith,
we have found a source of the living water. We invite others to this place.*

The Founding Committee of the **Quaker House at Chautauqua** announces the first Quaker Denominational House on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution (chq.org), fulfilling a long-held dream. Friends General Conference had its beginnings at Chautauqua (New York) 120 years ago, and it feels well-ordered to be on the grounds with a permanent welcoming space for Friends and friends of Friends.

The house, a classic (ca. 1911) Chautauqua cottage on a quiet street, has ample space for meeting for worship and four available bedrooms. It offers a place for reflection, study, and sharing, as well as community and family time during the nine-week Chautauqua season. We are especially interested in reaching young adult Friends, families, theologically diverse Friends, Friends of Color, and Friends new to Chautauqua!

We plan to open for the summer season of 2021.

Email: quakerhousechq@gmail.com; look for our website soon!

In the light,
The Founding Committee

Olney Friends School Report

Olney started the year with 26 students and the possibility of two more coming this current semester. This is down approximately ten students from last year. The School was anticipating a higher enrollment for the 2020–21 year, but the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact. In spite of its smaller size, Olney is truly a global campus, with students from China, Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Africa. The School continues to follow the COVID-19 protocols from the State of Ohio for residential schools. Fortunately the campus is large, including the 350-acre organic farm, and students have many opportunities for classes and activities in the outdoors, when weather permits.

In the fall, Homecoming was virtual and well attended. The traditional Olney Distance Run was held with sponsorships and self-reporting times. Finally I won!

The School has continued to shrink its projected budget deficit each year. In fact this year it is operating on a budget that projected no deficits. This is before that pandemic and assumed the same annual fund amount as the last three years. COVID-19 has negatively impacted both admissions and donations; I encourage all F/friends to refer potential students or donate.

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)
LEYM Representative to Olney Friends School

PSALM: NOVEMBER 1

You taught me long ago those who dare to love
must keep themselves open to bleeding
internally if not externally
where even the insensitive can see it.
My heart goes out to You, for we are such pains.
We bundle short comings as though discounts
follow in packages of multiple stuff.
Surely Your sorrow outdistances my own.
Yet I will not disown my agonies.
It is in the naming, not the denial,
that I rise up and stand on loving mountains.
Even above the clouds, I'm grounded
and assured the challenges belong
to You as well as to Your children.
As for the victories, they too will be ours.

Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor)

The above psalm is from Dwight's new book, *Psalms for Solace and Resistance*. Interested readers can purchase the book directly from Dwight for \$25 (includes postage and handling) by emailing him at [dwightwilson@hotmail.com](mailto:dwrightwilson@hotmail.com).

PLEASE HELP

FWCC Section of the Americas is seeking Friends with special talents to assist with its virtual Section Meeting on March 12–21. In particular, the Section needs Friends with ALL levels of technology experience, pastoral care experience, and Spanish-English interpreter skills.

Please address your offer of service to:
heatherg@fwccamericas.org or
robinm@fwccamericas.org.

GPQM Mid-Winter Gathering, February 27

Save the date! Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Mid-Winter Gathering will take place via Zoom on Saturday, February 27, from 10 am to 1 pm. Our topic will be "Getting to know ourselves and each other better." Small groups will meet from 10:00 to 11:45; lunch from 11:45 to 12:15; closing worship, 12:15 to 1:00. We will eat lunch together if Friends wish. Watch for Zoom info at a later date. For information or to offer to help, contact Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), ellerieb@gmail.com, 415-416-9903, or Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), norlinwl@sbcglobal.net, 616-901-8014.

News from Monthly Meetings

Red Cedar Meeting: In January 2021, Friends from Red Cedar released a five-minute video entitled “What Happens in Meeting.” You can find it by searching in YouTube for “RCF What Happens in Worship2.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcxO9ShBrS4>

In late 2020, Red Cedar Friends opened a “Little Free Food Pantry” (in the manner of a Little Free Library) on their property. Passersby are invited to take what they need from it, and it is kept stocked with food and other necessities by volunteers from the Meeting. The photo shows Firmin and Stephanie Charlot at the installation of the “Pantry.”



Kalamazoo Meeting: Statement from October 2020.

The Kalamazoo Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends declares itself to be an Open and Affirming group, welcoming to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. We seek always to heal the separations caused by intolerance, to recognize the diversity of humanity, and to live in an ever more loving and peaceful association with our fellow human beings.

Kent Meeting: Minute on Anti-Racism, July 2020.

This Minute from Kent Friends Meeting (Quakers) in Kent, Ohio, is concerned with the pressing need to actively promote anti-racism during this period of political and societal turbulence. We have all witnessed actions having negatively impacted our marginalized communities, be it through willful neglect, outright deception, or brutal violence, including murder caught on video. With leaders actively exploiting and leveraging schisms based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and income inequality in order to fracture our communities for corrupt intent, it has become imperative for us to act on our fundamental principle “there is that of God in everyone.”

This Inner Light of God, which exists in all people, is being disproportionately extinguished in communities of color and other marginalized communities, not only by direct acts of homicide, but also through explicit racism, through systemic racist policies sewn into the fabric of our society, through the promotion of hate and division in our online, print, and broadcast media, and through our broken politics that feed on the now frightening polarization in our communities. But there is hope, precisely because of this Inner Light which can guide even the most hateful and self-involved individuals toward understanding and compassion.

This may take, and probably will take, tremendous pressure and resistance against policies and systems that are placing people of color in danger every day – physically, financially, socially, spiritually. This pressure and resistance may at times be extremely difficult and dangerous, but the alternative is not acceptable. We simply cannot tolerate living with the gross inequities in opportunity, health, income, and morbidity present in our communities, and which are being exacerbated by those currently wielding the levers of power.

Kent Friends Meeting is therefore committed to taking actions that actively promote anti-racism within our Meeting and the wider community. Guided by the still, small voice within all of us, we will continue our journey toward a more just and peaceful society by taking the following actions:

- Educate ourselves on effective practices and habits fostering equality in all areas of our lives.
- Educate others on what we as a community find to be effective anti-racist practices even as we continually learn.

- Promote and work to elect leaders in our local and wider communities who will enact policies that seek to end systemic racism in government, law enforcement, employment, housing, and any other areas it may be present.
- Reflect on our personal actions, which may inadvertently be racist be it from ignorance, subconscious discrimination, or past familial habits.
- Support organizations, through time or financial contributions, whose values and actions promote a more inclusive, supportive, and sustainable world.
- Actively resist and work to change policies, laws, and actions contributing to racial discrimination and inequality.

These are just the beginning steps of our journey, which we expect will ultimately end with a more just, equal, and peaceful world.

Broadmead Reading Adventures . . .

Deb Thach

The written word seems to be dominating many of our Zoom activities, such as 11th hours after MFW and Spiritual Formation. Several times after MFW this fall, Broadmead has separated into two groups. While some people (mostly from Toledo Worship Group) have been reading and discussing *Truth of the Heart* by Rex Ambler, others (mostly from Bluffton) have been perusing *On Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry* by Brian Drayton. During pre-COVID days the Toledo group had sampled the Rex Ambler pamphlet, which led to the current deeper exploration of George Fox as presented by Ambler. Discussion has focused at times on how language usage has changed over the centuries, as well as the historical reality of George Fox's time, along with our personal reactions.

In October, Spiritual Formation started meeting in the evenings on 2nd and 4th Mondays. Up first for our edification was the Pendle Hill pamphlet *The Testimony of Integrity* by Wilmer A. Cooper. The author views integrity as the essential Quaker testimony undergirding all the others. Cooper examines integrity in four ways: truthfulness, authenticity, faithfulness to conscience, and wholeness. We then started *See no Stranger*, a memoir and manifesto of revolutionary love by Valarie Kaur. This remarkable book has stimulated lively discussion and quiet personal reflection.

Kathleen highly recommends *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine. The author explains the concept and

reality of microaggressions – that each microaggression is a little cut to the heart and that over time the impact of many, many such cuts creates a wound. Providing concrete examples of microaggressions increases one's understanding of the toll microaggressions have exerted upon People of Color. The two Donnas are getting into *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

Judy has read *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett. This novel follows the lives of identical twin girls as their life paths diverge: one passes as White, whereas the other embraces her Black heritage. The author tackles issues of bigotry and racial identity while conveying the corrosive effects of keeping secrets and dissembling.

Rumor has it that books migrate around Bluffton, showing up on various porches during morning walks. The nefarious mystery was solved when I heard miscreants such as Olwen and Sally (and possibly Linda D.) plotting by Zoom to distribute books by Louise Penny and James Patterson (and was Mary Trump mentioned?). The early Quakers would be so very appalled to know such stalwarts of Broadmead were reading fiction and scandalous tell-all books. However, in these perilous times we recognize that our diversions give us respite and refresh our soul, possibly freeing the Spirit to move us along in our reading ventures. Did I hear "That's my story and I'm sticking to it"?

Calendar for 2021

February 6: PJ&E Interest Group Forum, *see* p. 5

February 27: Mid-Winter Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (via Zoom), *see* p. 9

April 3: LEYM Representative Meeting, via Zoom, *see* p. 3

April 7–10: White Privilege Conference (Virtual)
(*see* www.theprivilegeinstitute.com)

May 1: LEYM Spiritual Formation Retreat

May 15: Due date for:
Submissions for Spring *Bulletin*
State of the Meeting Reports
Spring Gathering of Green Pastures
Quarterly Meeting (via Zoom)

June 27 – July 3: FGC Gathering (Virtual)
(*see* www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 28 – August 1: LEYM Annual Meeting,
via Zoom

LEYM Committee Clerks, 2020–21

(Further contact information available in
Annual Records and on LEYM website)

Adult & Family Program

Thomas Taylor
tftaylor37@comcast.net

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