



## Clerk's Message from Susan Loucks

### I ♥ Quaker Business Meetings!

This may not surprise you, given what I signed up for, but I really, really love meetings for worship with attention to business. I love the idea that God can get down into the weeds with us, be present and revealed in community. I love that even if there is no particular Divine Will for the color of the carpet, there certainly is a Will for our behavior as we select it and that we can discern that together.

I'm not the only one who loves Quaker business – in my professional life of organizational development, I frequently read glowing descriptions of how Quakers make decisions. Our practices have been inspirational to many, including Gerard Endenburg, who used his experience in a Quaker school to develop a system of egalitarian governance (sociocracy) currently used by companies and civic organizations around the world.

I often think we don't love our practices as much as other people do, and I understand that as well. I've sat through plenty of sessions that felt trivial, uninspired, and even (alas) damaging. If you dread business, what gets in the way? Here are some things I've seen:

- ♦ We spend most of our business meetings on things that don't require our input or discernment (informational reports, easy



approvals) and are out of practice when it gets harder.

- ♦ When we do need to make decisions, our process often grants more power to people who don't want things to happen than people who do want things to happen, leaving some groups feeling burned out and stuck.
- ♦ We default to a mode of conversation that feels more typical and comfortable – speaking directly to each other as opposed to letting the clerk calibrate pace and order, or speaking multiple times on a single topic instead of settling down, identifying our best truth, and then releasing it without attachment to influence collective wisdom.

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## Clerk's Message, *continued*

Of course, there are also the challenges of meeting online. With multiple screens it may be difficult for the clerk to make sure that everyone is actively indicating approval (not just saying nothing). However, if you're one of those people that doesn't speak up easily and there's no real space to share concerns, you may lose faith that you really have a voice – and your investment in the process shifts accordingly.

Even more than our business processes, I love the *potential* of our processes and I want to figure out what helps us realize that potential. In my view, the first way to take care of these problems (and many others) is to remember and believe that there's something different, something truly inspired, that we're doing together. Then, the clerk has to take on roles that make it easier for us to participate that way, including preparing us for the kinds of work we'll be doing (when we need to be bringing our real discernment energy, when we're doing some threshing, when we're just listening).

While many of us have witnessed troubling group dynamics in Quaker business processes, meetings often don't have tools to address them. I recently read a book on consensus decision making in faith communities co-authored by a Quaker, who recom-

mended defining "group agreements" or shared expectations of respectful language and behavior. Certainly, putting "how are we doing at conducting our business?" on the agenda periodically could surface some interesting data, as well as reinforce our shared responsibility for good order.

No matter which seat you're in during monthly meetings with attention to business, I'd love to hear about how it's going – what is working well for you, where you're challenged. And of course, I'm looking forward to seeing you all at what I hope will be a dynamic, Spirit-filled set of business sessions in July!

\* \* \*

### Share Your Online Events with Friends Across LEYM

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting seeks to promote online events that reflect our values and that members will find interesting, useful, enriching, and inspiring. We host our own series of online events and are quite open to co-hosting or helping to promote events organized by LEYM monthly meetings wishing to share their event beyond their own membership. If you have an online event you'd like to have co-hosted or just listed in the LEYM events calendar, please share your details via the form provided on the Events Planning Page, <https://leym.org/events/>.

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## **Representative Meeting (Virtual)**

### **Saturday, April 2, starting at 9:00 am**

*This year, Representative Meeting will be held virtually and return its focus to its fundamental purpose as described in Policies and Procedures: “to handle business that has arisen since the previous Annual Sessions and to consider and season matters for the next Annual Sessions.” All Friends are welcome; LEYM officers, committee members, and monthly meeting representatives to LEYM are particularly invited.*

*Watch for further information, including the Zoom connection, on the website and in your email.*

## **2022 Annual Meeting**

### **“Many Roots, One Tree”**

#### **July 27-31, Meeting Virtually**

### **Keynote Speaker: Christian Acemah**

The theme of this year’s Annual Meeting will be *Many Roots, One Tree*. We hope to explore together – through our workshops, our plenary session, and other opportunities with our community – many variations on this theme of deep roots and growing trees. As the Program Committee discerned together the many directions that this theme might take us, we discovered that, within this theme, many areas that concern Friends might be addressed – topics in our paths toward racial justice, environmental harmony, spiritual growth, community development. In the months before the sessions, we will be sharing some of our ideas, and will invite other Friends to share theirs. We encourage you to consider presenting a workshop, or to invite other Friends who may have something to enlighten, challenge, or inspire us to do so. Specifics of workshop proposals are discussed on the next page.

We are delighted to announce that our keynote speaker this year is Christian Acemah, the Head of Olney Friends School, where he has served



*Christian Acemah, Plenary Speaker*

since 2018. A 2001 graduate of Olney, Christian Acemah has spent over a decade working in various higher educational institutions and international and nonprofit organizations. Before coming to Olney, he served as the executive director and special advisor to the board for the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) in Kampala, Uganda. Prior to that, he acted as director of strategy and program development at the U.S. National Academies Institute of Medicine (now called the Health and Medicine Division); visiting

professor of African studies at Quest University; senior research associate at Georgetown University; and executive officer of policy and research at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a partner organization with UNICEF.

We look forward to joining many Friends at this year’s Annual Meeting! Look for more information in the coming months. If you have ideas or suggestions, we encourage you to contact a Program Committee member. (Members are listed in the request for workshop proposals, next page.)



## 2022 Annual Meeting, *continued*

### Request for Workshop Proposals, 2022 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee of LEYM is requesting proposals from Friends from within or outside of LEYM for workshop presentations at our 2022 Annual Meeting, to be held Wednesday evening, July 27 – Sunday, July 31, by videoconference. The theme of this year's Sessions is *Many Roots, One Tree*. The deadline for submission is **Monday, February 21**. 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 for workshops. Each workshop will last up to an hour and 30 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. 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 workshop proposals should be sent to Aran Reinhart at [aranreinhart@yahoo.com](mailto:aranreinhart@yahoo.com), no later than February 21. (Requests for interest group proposals will be sent at a later date). We look forward to receiving workshop proposals from individuals or committees and hope that Friends will have thoughtful and interesting ideas to share with all of us. If you have any questions about workshops or proposals, please feel free to get in touch with Aran at the same email address.

LEYM Program Committee:

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), clerk; Aran Reinhart (Broadmead); Greg Mott (Broadmead); Barbara LeSage (North Columbus); Bill Wartens (Birmingham); Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead); Ellerrie Brownfain (Birmingham)

### State of Meeting Reports Due May 15

The LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee reminds Friends that the annual **State of the Meeting Reports** are due by May 15 and should be sent to Flo Friender at [quakerflo@comcast.net](mailto:quakerflo@comcast.net) (and not to the address posted earlier).

Suggestions for drafting a report can be found on the LEYM website: [Suggested Guidelines for the State of the Meeting Report – Lake Erie Yearly Meeting \(leym.org\)](https://www.leym.org/Suggested-Guidelines-for-the-State-of-the-Meeting-Report-Lake-Erie-Yearly-Meeting) or choose Resources, then Resources for Meetings & WGs, then State of the Meeting.

In Mathilda Navias' book *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches*, she reminds us that:

"Most yearly meetings request an annual report on spiritual vitality from each monthly meeting. . . . Drafting and approving a State of the Meeting Report offers the opportunity for self-reflection and honest assessment of how the meeting is doing. Done carefully, this process can help a meeting grow in understanding and fellowship and deepen its spiritual life." She also mentions some pitfalls such as "the report consists of a 'laundry list of activities,' problems are glossed over or omitted, the report is a collection of individual comments rather than a corporate statement."

We look forward to reading these reports and compiling a summary for LEYM Annual Sessions.

Becky Morehouse & Shelley Kotz, co-clerks of M&N

## Summary of Executive Committee Actions, Meeting October 23, 2021

**Nominating Committee:** Chuck Slayton (Pittsburgh) was nominated and approved as LEYM representative to FGC Central Committee.

[Some time later, taking action by email, Executive Committee approved Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Barbara LeSage (North Columbus), and Ben Kuipers (Ann Arbor) as members of the Adult & Family Program Committee, Susan for one additional year, serving as committee clerk, Barbara for one year, and Ben for three years.]

**Policies and Procedures:** We approved changing the title for Bill Wartens' position from "Meeting worker" to "digital communications facilitator" (Bill's own preference), and reached unity in supporting the proposal made in Annual Sessions to have the Publications & Archives Committee, rather than the Meeting worker, review *Policies and Procedures* annually.

**Ad Hoc Technical Platform Advisory Committee:** We accepted two recommendations that will be considered by the whole Yearly Meeting:

### 1) Maintaining Race and Ethnicity Information

Continue the practice of asking for Race/Ethnicity data during Annual Sessions registration, but not storing it in our monthly meeting membership database, as we don't have a clear use case, explicit sharing permissions, or certainty as to the exact data we want to capture and for what purpose going forward. Can share data we have already gathered with FGC in its aggregate form, but not information tied to individuals. Recommend that more formal contacts be made with FGC to seek their further guidance and perhaps some tools/guidelines for how we might best contribute in a standardized way to a broader effort that may reach beyond just our Yearly Meeting. We want to support FGC and help strengthen our own anti-racist faith community and believe good data may be part of the solution.

### 2) Managing Age-Related Data

Begin storing birth year information for our younger members, converting the current age information we have using a shared generic day and month [e.g., January 1] as a placeholder for actual birthdays. There may also be value in gathering the birth year of adult members, going forward.

### Finance Committee:

1) **Audit:** The 2020-21 audit was completed by Susan Hartman and identified no issues. She again complimented Tom Kangas, treasurer, for the meticulous documentation system he has built.

2) **Surplus Funds:** A suggestion that, instead of varying our annual suggested contributions to match budget needs, we should keep the assessment constant, allowing a surplus to accumulate during prosperous times, was considered. A change is not recommended at this time.

3) **Insurance Changes:** Our liability insurance carrier notified us that our policy now includes a contagious disease exclusion. As legal liability exists only if we were found guilty of "negligent conduct" breaching a duty owed to attendees at our event(s), we take this to mean that we should continue to exercise due diligence in making decisions about when and how to gather.

4) Finance Committee presented a detailed **draft document retention policy**, arranged in a table listing LEYM Retention (Y/N), retention period, and place/means of storage for *Policies and Procedures*, minutes, and various legal or financial documents. This was accepted, and this information will be shared.

**Representative Meeting:** We agreed upon Saturday, April 2 as the date for the (virtual) Representative Meeting.

*Full minutes of this meeting are available on [leym.org](http://leym.org). ~ Eds.*

## News from Monthly Meetings

### Kalamazoo Friends Meeting and Our New Afghan Neighbors

We at Kalamazoo Friends Meeting have responded to the call to help Afghan refugees resettle in our communities by “co-sponsoring” with Samaritas (a Lutheran organization) an Afghan family of six. We’re collaborating with the local Skyridge Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Fellowship.

Our family consists of parents, Hekmatullah and Nasima (who is pregnant), and four children, ages 5 to 12. We’ve supplied them with new beds and bedding, a smart TV, toys, and something they really need to be independent, a used Honda van. We also provided transportation to English-as-a-Second-Language classes and school and medical appointments. The children take the school bus to nearby Lincoln School, where there is a newly established program for refugee children. Two of our members have been giving twice-a-week classes to the children at the meetinghouse to teach them English. According to their enthusiastic teachers, the children are sponges, learning quickly and flourishing.

We in the Friends Meeting, on the other hand, are learning about the Afghan culture, their lan-

guages, ethnic and religious groups, geography, and history. We’re also learning about cultural differences and working on how to communicate despite major language and cultural barriers.

As more and more Afghan refugees come to Kalamazoo needing support, we are discerning how we can extend our time and resources to other refugees as well. For current Afghan families and individuals, the greatest need appears to be not financial but transportation, language, and social and psychological support for the different members of the family. This involves time, energy, and commitment from Friends, who are mostly seniors and who are aware of their limitations.

Nevertheless, we have been brought closer together as a community by our strong desire to help and take on this work and by our Quaker faith. We have also been brought closer to the Brethren and Mennonites in Kalamazoo, conscious of our common values and our purpose: to welcome and support our new Afghan neighbors!

Raelyn Joyce, Co-clerk  
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting

### The Listening Project Considers the Future of Quakerism

**Johanna Jackson**, who first became actively involved with Quakerism at Ann Arbor Meeting about ten years ago, is now a member of State College (PA) Friends Meeting. She travels in the ministry with JT Dorr-Bremme, with whom she formed the **Listening Project**, which she describes as “a series of creative conversations rooted in love.” She continues, “We meet for worship sharing and conversation focused on spiritual nurture and the revitalization of Quakerism. It’s like a combination of [StoryCorps](#) and [QuakerSpeak](#). So far, we have held more than 25 Listening Sessions, which have included Friends from seven different yearly meetings.” Their work was recently featured on QuakerSpeak: [Envisioning a Strong Future for Quakerism – QuakerSpeak](#) (see <https://quakerspeak.com/video/future>).

JT and Johanna are seeking donations for their ministry; to donate, visit [forwardinfaithfulness.org/donate](https://forwardinfaithfulness.org/donate).

Johanna also published two articles in *Friends Journal* in 2021: “Preserving Quaker Heirlooms” (May issue) and “Visions of a Strong Quaker Future” (October), the latter describing how Quakerism and Friends Meetings look to younger Friends. Gabriel Ehri, Executive Director of Friends Publishing Corporation, described this article as “eye-opening and thought-provoking.”

At this writing, Johanna has been back visiting Ann Arbor Meeting for several weeks, during which she and JT gave presentations on their work and their concern for the future of Quakerism.

## News from Monthly Meetings

### 2021 Interfaith Climate Witness, Ann Arbor



On Monday, October 18, 2021, some fifty people came together to sing, pray, share their stories, and bear witness to the urgent need for action on climate change in front of Chase Bank in downtown Ann Arbor. As the world prepared for international climate talks in Glasgow (COP26), we brought a heartfelt request to Chase, asking them to disinvest from fossil fuel companies (especially Enbridge, creator of both Line 3 and Line 5), and use that money to support renewable energy businesses instead. Their parent company, JP Morgan Chase, is one of the world's largest investors in fossil fuel companies. The witness in Ann Arbor was one of 400 activities across the globe organized by Greenfaith, an international organization that brings people of faith together to protect the planet and its inhabitants. Ann Arbor Friends Meeting led the Ann Arbor event.



Thirty people attended from the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting community, with another twenty people from other congregations, including clergy from Brown Chapel AME, St. Mary's Student Parish, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and the Interfaith Roundtable, as well as an unaffiliated Rabbi. We gathered and prayed together in a parking lot, then carried signs down Main Street to the Chase Bank branch at the corner of Main and Washington. There, we stood witness around the building and presented letters to the branch manager to go to the CEO of JP Morgan Chase. We took turns explaining why we were there, sang songs, heard words of blessing and inspiration, and prayed again. We left in the joy of being together, and in the belief that even these small actions, taken in faith and in love, can send ripples of change into the world.

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor Meeting





## News from Monthly Meetings

### Red Cedar Friends Meeting Banks Black

In June 2021 Red Cedar Friends Meeting, in Lansing, Michigan, found unity in a decision to move our long term maintenance funds to Liberty Bank in Detroit. Since then, a few Friends have asked about the deliberations that led the Finance Committee to recommend that we invest in a black-owned bank and the considerations that landed us with Liberty Bank.

As many Friends are aware, the idea of moving some funds to a black-owned bank arose from the Finance Committee's efforts to discern its role in helping RCF live into our anti-racism commitment. We were especially open to opportunities that would put our funds to work in under-served communities. From reading Mehrsa Baradaran's *The Color of Money*, we learned much about the history of black financial institutions – including the structural reasons that have caused so many to fail. Some of the more dramatic collapses involved regulatory chicanery, but Baradaran insists that the central problem has not been mismanagement or the manipulation of rules. Rather, it is the perpetual patterns of social and economic segregation in our society that most severely impede the ability of black-owned banks to reduce the black wealth gap. In a well-functioning banking system, she explains, banks increase the money supply by keeping a fraction of deposits on reserve and lending out the rest to expand economic activity within the community – over and over again. Unfortunately, it has never worked that way for black-owned banks in the U.S. Instead, due to the segregated nature of property ownership and industry, black banks have often ended up transferring black-owned assets to the white market. This was one big-picture insight that we found very informative – and disturbing. We also came to appreciate the additional financial challenge for banks whose main customers make small deposits and frequent withdrawals, which has historically been the case for black-owned banks. These factors reduce the funds banks have available for investment and money multiplication. That structural challenge, in particular, shaped our subsequent thinking because this seemed one aspect we might actually be able to affect.

Though we had initially considered the possibility of moving all our assets, our readings helped us understand that, from a bank's perspective, not all accounts are alike. For the bank's own investment purposes, an ideal customer account is a long-term savings deposit with few withdrawals. We came to realize that – with the intent of addressing financial racism – what would be most useful to a black bank would be for us to move our relatively large, stable, and low-activity reserve accounts to an institution that could in turn lend them out, while leaving our high-service checking account parked where it is. This also seemed a good arrangement for us, as we have had good service from our local credit union and we were reluctant to sever that relationship.

As we began our search for an appropriate financial institution, we were disappointed to learn that Lansing did not have any black-owned banks. That took us to Detroit, which does have two such banks – Liberty and First Independence. Through a discernment process that involved reviewing website information and reflecting on our own intentions, the Finance Committee found unity in recommending Liberty Bank. Liberty is the third largest African American-owned financial institution in the U.S. and is a solid presence in the banking industry. (Once it completes a merger with Tri-State Bank, Liberty is expected to become the largest black-owned bank in the U.S.). Liberty Bank was founded in New Orleans in 1972, and has branches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Michigan. Like all the other banking institutions we considered, it is fully ensured by the FDIC. The description of Liberty's mission and programs, including its [Detroit Home Restoration and Acquisition Program](http://www.libertybank.net/community/detroit.cfm) ([www.libertybank.net/community/detroit.cfm](http://www.libertybank.net/community/detroit.cfm)), gave us confidence that the funds we deposited would help increase home ownership and address other needs of disadvantaged minority communities that have traditionally been underserved.

Friends who are considering the possibility of moving some of their own funds might want to check out some of these resources:



## News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

A new (2021) website on Black Banking that presents some history and other information about black banking in the U.S.

[www.bankblackusa.org](http://www.bankblackusa.org)

Liberty Bank, headquartered in New Orleans with a branch in Detroit.

[www.libertybank.net](http://www.libertybank.net)

First Independence Bank, headquartered in Detroit. [www.firstindependence.com](http://www.firstindependence.com)

Ariel Investments, billed as America's [oldest black-owned investment firm](#), based in Chicago. [www.arielinvestments.com](http://www.arielinvestments.com)

And for those wanting to read more deeply about the history of black banking in the U.S., we highly recommend *The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap*, by Mehrsa Baradaran (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017). Beginning with the 1865 Freed-

men's Savings Bank, Baradaran examines the history of black banking in the U.S. The core of her analysis of the challenges faced by black-owned banks is found on pp. 88–96. Her general argument is summarized on p. 278: "The clear message that emerges from the history of black banks is that relying on these banks to do the work of achieving wealth equality without changing the economic environment in which they operate is unfair, cynical, and fruitless. Insofar as there is segregation and widespread poverty in the black community, banks that exclusively serve this community cannot be successful." [A reading guide for *Color of Money* is available from Susan Waltz, [sewaltz@gmail.com](mailto:sewaltz@gmail.com).]

Susan Waltz  
Finance Committee  
Red Cedar Friends Meeting

## "Climate Coffee Chat" Yields Ideas

More than 20 LEYM Friends gathered by Zoom on Saturday, December 11, 2021, to share news of environmental work undertaken recently by their meetings or worship groups and ideas for future work in this area. Though in-person contact is sorely missed, saving fuel by participating in Meeting virtually rather than driving to a distant location has been a significant savings of fossil fuels for many during the COVID-19 pandemic. Others have increased their knowledge of environmental issues by reading, attending virtual conferences on the environment, and supporting direct action such as the Line 3 protest encampments through Zoom. One person mentioned their practice of writing letters to policy makers and mentoring young people interested in environmental careers. Direct action has been infrequent during the pandemic, but Ann Arbor Meeting organized an interfaith action, asking JP Morgan Chase Bank to invest in renewable energy (*see* p. 7). Several people mentioned projects with food and food waste, including one who doubled the size of their home garden and

another who worked on an urban forest/garden project. Detroit Meeting is planning a new meetinghouse that will be especially environmentally friendly and may feature a garden with native species. Ann Arbor Meeting has made a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030, and created a committee to look at replacements for the Meeting's HVAC system. Some people are skeptical of "feel good" actions that don't have significant effect or have unintended consequences (such as environmental damages caused by making batteries or solar panels) and wonder about "greenwashing" by corporations and policy makers. Others are closely examining the connections between militarism and environmental degradation and between racism and environmental justice. We hope to have more sessions like this in the future to inspire and encourage each other. Please send us your ideas for topics.

Peggy Daub and Richard Tucker,  
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## News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

### In Memoriam

#### David Bassett, 1928 – 2021

**David Bassett**, formerly of Ann Arbor Meeting, died on December 11, 2021, in Rochester, New York, at the age of 93. Before retiring from the University of Michigan Medical School and moving, with his late wife, Miyo, to a retirement community in Rochester in 2005, David was active in both Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Ann Arbor Meeting. For LEYM, David served on the Peace Committee and as a Representative to FCNL. At AAFM, he served as co-clerk with Miyo, and in many other capacities, most notably on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. In the wider Quaker world, David was surely best known for working with others to write and advocate for the World Peace Tax Fund Bill (later the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund Bill and the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act), which would allow individuals who were conscientiously opposed to war to pay a portion of their federal tax to peaceful organizations instead of the military.

Conversations among Ann Arbor Friends since David's death have elicited two fond memories in particular: 1) his constant meticulous note taking, in nearly illegible handwriting in tiny, pocket-size notebooks; and 2) his support for the Meeting's children, conversing with them sincerely, learning their stories, and encouraging them in their endeavors.

#### Lois Golightly, 1931 – 2021

Friend Lois Fay Golightly, of Traverse City, Michigan, passed away on December 19, 2021, age 90. She was preceded in death by her husband and life partner of 55 years, Warren David Lange. Lois attended school and grew up mostly in the Detroit area, later earning a degree and becoming the first female hired in three previously all-male tech labs (automotive/hydraulics) at the General Motors Tech Center. She was (once) a member of the Detroit and Ann Arbor Friends Meetings and active in Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference. She also worked for the AFSC. In addition to travelling to and canvassing door-to-door in the final key states needed to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for women, Lois and fellow

Quakers travelled to Washington, D.C. in 1968 to hold a peaceful, sit-down demonstration (where they were arrested) in support of the Southern Christian Leadership Council. Warren and Lois were also volunteers and supporters of Koinonia Farm in Georgia, the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity International. Long a supporter of civil rights, women's rights, and senior citizens, Lois was a heartfelt activist and community participant until the end. In 1982, Warren and Lois purchased their home in Traverse City, their final "land base," for the 46' ketch sailboat they had built from scratch to live on. A celebration of life will be planned for warmer weather. Memorials to the Women's Resource Center, Traverse City.

#### Connie Bimber, 1928 – 2021

Constance "Connie" Mae Dowling Bimber passed away peacefully on September 28, 2021, at Kendal at Oberlin (Ohio), age 92. For much of her childhood, in Summit, New Jersey, Connie lived with her grandmother, her mother, and two aunts. She derived a sense of gratitude from this time among women and carried a life-long interest in and concern for the welfare of women. Thanks to a scholarship provided by the Summit AAUP and lots of hard work, she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Antioch College, where she met Russell Bimber; they were married in 1952 and built their own house in Painesville, Ohio. While raising three children, Connie was active in the League of Women Voters, co-founded the East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, and taught math at Harvey High School.

Connie became a member of the Cleveland Friends Meeting and served for many years as treasurer of LEYM. Connie and Russell moved to Kendal at Oberlin in 2000, where she joined the Oberlin Friends Meeting, serving the Meeting both as clerk for many years and as treasurer. As a Kendal resident, Connie chaired the Resident Care & Nurturing Committee, volunteered as a Supporting (Kendal) Friend and shopper for the Stephens Care Center residents, was treasurer of the Cardinal Gift Shop, and marched with the Lawn Chair Brigade. She loved bridge and was a champion player.

### In Memoriam, *continued*

In the words of her daughter Barbara, Connie is remembered by her family mostly for the example she set. She was a pacifist when it was not fashionable; during the Cold War, she learned Russian, hoping to build understanding between peoples; and at home she invited immigrants to dinner, so her children would learn to accept and value people from different cultures. In times of

racial unrest, she worked for the NAACP, often the lone white woman at the meeting. She believed it important to be of service to others, to strive to make the world a better place. Connie never shied away from speaking difficult truths, no matter the audience.

*Extracted from the memorial minute  
approved by Oberlin Friends Meeting*

### Report from Olney Friends School

Olney Friends School started the 2021–22 school year with 26 students enrolled and added three more by the second semester. They come to us from Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, as well as Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Malawi, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, and Uganda. We have also welcomed two new teachers and dorm staff, a cook, and a kitchen manager who has revitalized our farm-to-table program. Our board of trustees has expanded from 12 to 14 members!

The virtual guest speaker program inspired by the COVID pandemic has continued this year, with diverse alumni and other guests sharing experiences in a variety of fields including politics, psychology, literature, and the biology of vaccines. Future speakers this year include a career counselor and artist who runs a small business, a senior manager at Disney's Theatrical Group, and the senior VP of Animal Care and Conservation at the Columbus Zoo. Alumni, friends of school, and prospective student families are welcome to attend via Zoom: for announcements and invitations, follow our social media, visit [www.olneyfriends.org](https://www.olneyfriends.org), or sign up for Olney's emails.

Our transdisciplinary curriculum continues to develop. In agricultural science, introduced in 2019, students have been harvesting crops and processing them for storage and meal preparation. In the greenhouse, they are improving the aquaponics setup, pruning lemon and fig trees, and expanding table beds for winter planting. In addition to core subjects, we offer electives such as digital filmmaking, finding your artistic voice, creative writing, instrumental music, and more.

In other news, we repaved our battered driveway last summer, thanks to the generosity of reunion classes. Drivers rejoice! At halfway through the fiscal and academic year, we are also halfway to the \$300,000 Annual Fund goal. Olney is grateful to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends for financial, moral, and recruiting support. Please consider donating to Olney to help it reach its goal for the Annual Fund (<https://www.olneyfriends.org/support-olney/>).

Please note that Head of School, Christian Acemah, will be the plenary speaker at LEYM's Annual Meeting this summer (see p. 3).

Ellerie Brownfain,  
LEYM Representative

Every two years, **Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL)** asks Friends around the country for help in setting the focus of our advocacy work. Starting now until mid-April, you and your community of Friends can participate in this discernment process to influence the priorities that we at FCNL will advocate for during the next Congress, starting in 2023.

Join us for our January Quaker Changemaker event (Wednesday, January 26, 6:30 – 7:30) to get inspiration from Friends' experiences bringing Friends together through this process and get ready to engage your community to do the same. Current Field Committee clerk Deb Hejl and former Policy Committee clerk Alex Stark will discuss the FCNL priorities process with moderator Bobby Trice. Learn about engaging in this process and then take this knowledge to your Quaker communities to inform FCNL's legislative agenda. See <https://www.fcnl.org/events/setting-quaker-lobbying-priorities-118th-congress>.



## LEYM Calendar for 2022

February 19: Mid-winter Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (see below)

March 9–12: White Privilege Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina (see [www.theprivilegeinstitute.com](http://www.theprivilegeinstitute.com))

April 2: LEYM Representative Meeting, via Zoom (see p. 3)

May 7: LEYM Spiritual Formation Retreat (*likely* online)

May 15: Due date for:  
Submissions for Spring *Bulletin*  
State of the Meeting Reports (see p. 4)

May 21: Spring Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

July 3–9: FGC Gathering, Radford University, Radford, Virginia (see [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering))

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 27–31: LEYM Annual Meeting; via Zoom (see p. 3)

September 1: Due date, submissions for *LEYM Annual Records 2022*

September 15: Due date, submissions for Fall *LEYM Bulletin*

## LEYM Committee Clerks, 2021–22

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

### *Adult & Family Program*

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor)  
[susandhartman@gmail.com](mailto:susandhartman@gmail.com)

### *Advancement & Outreach*

Clerk tbd

### *Arrangements & Site*

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### *Finance*

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### *Ministry & Nurture*

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Shelley Kotz (Broadmead)  
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### *Nominating*

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)  
[mikeholaday@att.net](mailto:mikeholaday@att.net)

### *Publications & Archives*

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)  
[peggydaub@hotmail.com](mailto:peggydaub@hotmail.com)

### *Youth & Children's Program*

Christa White (Athens)  
740 274-2308 (text or call)

## Friends Invited to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Winter Gathering

Join [Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting](#) online on Saturday, February 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for worship, socializing, a lively program, and small group discussion. The main program offering is entitled **Michigan's Anishinaabe People's Environmental and Social Justice Campaigns**. We will have two speakers who are leaders in our state's First Peoples campaigns. **Andrea Pierce**, of the Anishinaabek Caucus, will discuss opposition to the Enbridge Line 5 across the Mackinac Strait and the campaign to protect native species of animals (wolves) and plants (manoomin or wild rice). **Stacey Ettawageshik**, of Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, will discuss sexual assault against women in Indian Country, including by workmen in natural gas pipeline camps. Small group discussions will follow the presentation, and we will review Quaker resources for supporting our Indigenous neighbors' justice campaigns. Use Zoom link <https://tinyurl.com/GPQM-Zoom-Winter> to join us.