



LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Bulletin

There are several things to share this time around, and while they don't all flow into each other seamlessly, they at least can be arranged in some order: a report on what's recently past, a description of an unexpected present, and encouragement to participate in our near future.

PAST: If you weren't with us online for Representative Meeting, you missed hearing for yourself what themes are emerging across our geography. Spoiler alert – one of them has to do with kids. Our Monthly Meetings are seeing more of them! Programs that had just a few kids have doubled in size. One meeting went from not having any to having a bona-fide program in place. Are trends in your meeting similar?

We also created a map of sorts, identifying what work we felt was most important for our YM at this time, and then seeing what energy we had for that work. Some of the categories included nourishing our spirituality; integrating youth; using our shared voice to influence; and growing connections across the YM. We'll use this data to create some proposals for this summer on how we might re-structure our corporate work to align more tightly with our priorities and our resources.

PRESENT: There was one time at New England Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions – decades ago now – when I wandered around grilling a wide variety of people about clerking. I was about to assume that role in my Monthly Meeting and I wanted to hear



advice from as many as possible. I'm sure they all gave me good counsel. I only remember one – I was told that the first task of clerking is to love the Meeting "like a lover." In short: not abstractedly, but fiercely and specifically. In those three years of clerking Beacon Hill I often felt that was, surprisingly, the biggest gift of the role. It was my responsibility to love those people more grandly and with more commitment than I'd assumed before. I did love them, and they loved me loving them, and that virtuous cycle contributed to my conviction that (at the time) it was the best job I'd ever had.

I am similarly grateful to this Yearly Meeting for asking me for love (you make it almost ridiculously easy, I admit)! As we innovate into our future, whatever form the clerking role takes, I hope we don't forget or neglect this

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LEYM Representative Meeting

The Representative Meeting was held March 9 via Zoom. Some 30 Friends were in attendance.

Peggy Daub reported that Green Pastures QM had held its Midwinter Gathering via Zoom the week before with 25 in attendance. They heard a presentation by Ann Arbor Friend Dwight Wilson, 'Answering the Call of My Twin Roots: Black and Quaker,' during which he read passages from his short stories.

Joe Miller from Advancement & Outreach reported on the Quaker 101 sessions hosted by various Meetings. State of the Meeting reports had been received from most Meetings except Athens, Granville and Oberlin. Clerk Susan Loucks invited representatives from those Meetings to give short reports. John Howell, of Athens Meeting, reported that the Meeting has been holding discussions on a statement of conscience concerning the wars in Ukraine and Palestine. He noted that there has not been unity on the question of providing armaments to Ukraine. The clerk urged Meetings that wish to present statements of conscience to bring them up to Yearly Meeting to be considered.

Clerk's Message continued....

aspect. We need to step up as leaders in loving each other, and seeing where we are directed by that love. I'm looking forward to seeing where we go next.

FUTURE: Actually, I know at least one place we're going next – Ashland, OH! There are good details about our Annual Meeting in other parts of this bulletin, so I'll not restate the obvious. We invest significant amounts of our human resources and financial resources into our time together in the summer because we feel it's our best opportunity to grow connections, and personal connections are our lifeblood (particularly for an organization that's geographically dispersed). We can't serve our Monthly Meetings if we don't know them, and we can't serve the world if we aren't connected to each other. Amazing people work hard to make the program accessible and interesting to everyone. If you've never thought about being part of it, consider what it might facilitate to make a good handful of good Friends outside of your Monthly Meeting. If you haven't thought about it in a while, it's time to think again. I hope you can make it – if so, see you there!

A number of Meetings, including Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, gratefully noted an increase in the number of children and young Friends in their Meetings. Birmingham Meeting has taken advantage of the new website support from the Quaker Meetings Network. Red Cedar Meeting has extended its participation in the Faithful Meeting Program through the School of the Spirit. North Columbus Meeting has temporarily relocated to the basement of a Presbyterian church to improve accessibility. Grand Rapids Meeting reported that Manitou Worship Group has been laid down.

Arrangement & Site Committee reported on planning for Annual Meeting. Registration this year will entirely be online. Registration will begin April 1 and end May 10. After May 10 there will be an additional \$10 fee. However, May 10 is a firm deadline for registration for children.

Tom Kangas gave the financial report. He reported that the General Fund is in good shape. He noted that three funds have not been used in years and Finance Committee is investigating transferring these funds to the General Fund.

The afternoon session was focused on brainstorming possible changes in committee structures for Yearly Meeting.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Contacts

Presiding Clerk

Susan Loucks
922 Jancey St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 251-1639
leymclerk@gmail.com

Assistant Clerk

Tbd

Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub
1506 Arborview Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 668-8063
peggydaub@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Tom Kangas
3641 Weston Pl.
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 598-2269
LEYMtreasurer@gmail.com

Database Manager

Donna Lueke
dmlueke@gmail.com

Digital Communications Facilitator

Bill Warters
18746 Old Homestead Dr.
Harpers Wood, MI 48225
(313) 371-2932
leymworker@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor

Christopher Farrand
110 E. 291st St.
Willowick, OH 44095
bulletinleym@gmail.com

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor,
MI 48104
(734) 761-7435 leym.org

2024 Annual Meeting

“Friends Together: Outpourings of the Spirit”

June 13-16 at Ashland University – leym.org/annual

You’re Invited to LEYM 2024 Annual Meeting! Lake Erie Friends will be returning to Ashland, Ohio for our summer gathering and we’d love to have you join us. Our theme is “Friends Together: Outpourings of the Spirit.” Based on the strong response to the workshop call (we have a dozen accepted workshops – see descriptions below), it seems that people are excited about getting together to share their gifts and make new connections. Registration will be fully online this year (see details later in this issue), opening on April 1st. As part of this process, registrants will be provided access to a mobile app making the schedule and other key information easy to view when needed.

Plenary to Feature Paulette Meier

As reported in our last Bulletin, the Friday evening plenary session will feature singer/songwriter **Paulette Meier**, who is known for her collections of Quaker chants and her children's peacemaking music. She will be assisted by Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar Monthly Meeting). The plenary title is “Opening To and Pouring Out the Spirit through



Contemplative Communal Chant.” Paulette will also be offering a workshop on Chant Composing and Singing.

Celebration of George Fox’s 400th Birthday

On Saturday evening, we will celebrate George Fox’s 1624 birthday with a variety of creative and contemplative activities. We invite you to volunteer to help out at the party (see registration form volunteer section), and to start thinking about creative contributions you or your Meeting might want to

bring to share as part of the celebration. The Program Committee will be following up with additional information as the plan emerges.

Online access to events via Zoom will be limited. People wishing to remotely attend our Friday evening Plenary and the various business sessions should register for Zoom access information at the Annual Meeting webpage.

The schedule below provides a high-level overview of the many events our annual meeting features, including worship and Business sessions, worship sharing, Bible Study, workshops, lunch-time table discussions, an Open House at the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, informal birds-of-a-feather social time, bookstore and information table browsing, and night owl movies. Something for everyone.

Visit <https://leym.org/annual> to see more about our annual meeting. Please spread the word, bring a friend or family member, and **get registered before May 10th** when the general registration fee will go up.



LEYM 2024 Workshop Offerings

Here are the workshops on offer this year. A true “outpouring of the spirit” from our Friends. The twelve workshops will be divided among three time slots – on late Friday afternoon, late Saturday morning, and late Saturday afternoon. Times for specific workshops will be announced later.

CHANT COMPOSING AND SINGING

Presenter: Paulette Meier (Community Friends Meeting, Cincinnati; Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting)

Description: The intention for this workshop is to learn and sing together some of the longer chants that Paulette composed from Quaker writings, as well as to explore the process of chant writing, followed by participants composing a chant of their own. One need not have any training in music to do this, and all voices are welcome!

The hope is that participants will learn some things about the benefits of chanting, and to engage in and build confidence in their own singing and

creativity. For those who register for this workshop, it would be helpful to come prepared with a brief, meaningful quotation or text that you would like to set to melody, so you can leave with a way to more fully embody its message. Participants may also want to bring a device to record their chants. All participants are invited to leave self-criticism behind; what we contribute is good enough!

IDLE & BLESSED: MARY OLIVER AND WALT WHITMAN IN CONVERSATION

Presenter: Su Penn (Red Cedar Monthly Meeting)



Thursday, June 13	Friday, June 14	Saturday, June 15	Sunday, June 16
TRAVEL TO ASHLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early Worship ● BREAKFAST ● Worship Sharing ● Bible Study ● Ashland Center for Nonviolence Open House ● MFW w Attention to Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early Worship ● BREAKFAST ● Worship Sharing ● Bible Study ● Workshops Session 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early Worship ● BREAKFAST ● MFW w Attention to Business ● Epistle Sharing ● Meeting for Worship & Closing
Onsite Check-in Opens at 12:30	LUNCH (w Newcomer Welcome Table)	LUNCH (w Topic groups)	LUNCH
Executive Committee Mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MFW w Attention to Business ● Workshops Session 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MFW w Attention to Business ● Workshops Session 3 	Executive Committee Follow-up Mtg
DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newcomer Orientation ● Informal Birds of a Feather Time ● Welcome and Roll Call Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal Birds of a Feather Time ● Plenary Session with Paulette Meier & Joann Neuroth ● Evening Collection ● Night Owl Movie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal Birds of a Feather Time ● Fox 400th Birthday Celebration ● Evening Collection ● Night Owl Movie 	

Description: Mary Oliver said of Walt Whitman, "I learned from him that that the poem is a temple—or a green field—a place to enter, and in which to feel." These two poets who could never have met in life nonetheless carry on an eloquent conversation about faith, nature, the soul, paying attention, and lying around in the grass. We will join in this conversation by reading some of their poetry together.



QUAKER SPIRITUALITY AND COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

Presenter: Don Buckingham (North Columbus Friends Meeting, LEYM Rep to Friends Peace Teams)

Description: Through the values of our Quaker Testimonies, many of us crave a richer and more meaningful connection with the Divine and contribution to the well-being of others. There is an outpouring of Spirit within, accessible to everyone, to empower these relationships and create a community of compassion. Join us to learn the spirit-filled love language of Nonviolent Communication and how you can:

- * enjoy a more conscious awakening to the goodness of life
- * experience the divine energy that moves beyond judgmental thoughts and words
- * compassionately tend to your needs while also regarding the needs of others
- * extend nonviolent relationships into peace cultures that transform society

BEING A QUAKER AND BEING AN ACTIVIST: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Presenter: Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting) and Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh Friends Mtg)

Description: This workshop will explore what it means to be not just an activist, but a Quaker activist. How is Friends' activism balanced by, and grounded in, silence, contemplation, and other Friendly approaches? If and when a call to be active for social justice causes tensions within Meetings for

Worship, how might we move forward together?

Over centuries, many Quakers have been deeply involved in social change work that seeks a just peace – a dynamic peace grounded in the Spirit, the freeing up of all people to reach their fullest potential in harmony with one another and the earth.

At the same time, many Friends do not experience leadings toward such outer work in the world, and are drawn solely toward Quaker worship. There can arise division between those of a more "activist" and those of a more "mystic" orientation within Meetings.

We will explore ways to think of these as not truly two camps, or ones with incompatible needs. Rather, when worshipful discernment is practiced, many seeming divisions may turn into creative sources of nourishment for Meetings. Other apparent tensions and contradictions may fall away entirely. Let's dig deeper and see what Friends can say.

This workshop will draw on concepts developed in the pamphlet "Being a Quaker, Being an Activist" released by the Canadian Friends Service Committee in 2023.



TRUSTING THE ETERNAL DIVINE SOURCE AS THE LIVING ROOT OF QUAKERISM

Presenter: Don Badgley (Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting)

Description: A lifetime Friend, Don Badgley will share his vision of a way forward toward renewal and new vitality for Quakers. With the support of his Meeting under a minute of travel and the constant worshipful oversight of his care committee, Don will share some of his journey as a Friend and the ministry to which he has been called. With stories, thoughts (and perhaps a bit of poetry), Don will share his concerns and hopes regarding Quakerism in the 21st Century.

The essential and foundational calling of Friends is to bring about a world more aligned with the priorities of Divine Light and Love. Our foundational principle is that we are led directly by the Divine Light and Guide. We sometimes allow those principles and priorities to be obscured as we focus on the affairs and politics of the world. This workshop will explore ways to preserve a ministry that ever allows the Divine Guide to direct us. Participants will be asked to consider several queries and to share their responses as led in a worship sharing setting.

“Truth is one and the same always, though ages and generations pass away, and one generation goes and another comes, yet the word and power and spirit of the Living God endures forever and is the same and never changes.” – Margaret Fell (1660)



HERE TODAY: DEVELOPING A CURRICULUM AND CAMP FOR YOUNG ANIMAL AND ART LOVERS CELEBRATING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Presenter: Karla Kauffman (Kalamazoo Friends Meeting)

Description: The presentation will focus on a program I developed in 2021 in response to the UN's estimate of 1 million species going extinct before long. Here Today was designed to educate young students about endangered species, why they are endangered, and to develop an emotional connection to species hurt by climate change and human habits. Ideally, students and their families have connected this information to their personal habits.

Here Today celebrates 20 endangered species from around the world, and 5 endangered species local to my county (Logan Co, Ohio, at that time), via a curriculum for 3rd to 6th graders. Students received papers January through May focusing on 4 species from one area plus one local species. They then participated in a summer 5-day Here

ToDay Camp, where an artist helped them design and make plywood art of their chosen species to post outdoors. A community event where they spoke about their species and placed them in the yards of two sponsoring churches finished the week. After a month of public display, the students took their art home.

I will tell the project's story through visuals and paper samples of the curriculum. I will invite participants to explore using Here Today in their home context, or other contexts, as a way of educating us all about some of the repercussions of how we treat the Earth.



ANSWERING THE CALL TO BE "APARTHEID-FREE"

Presenters: Jennifer Bing, Director, US Palestine Activism Program, AFSC; Noor Nabulsi, Communications Specialist, Apartheid-free Communities, AFSC; Zoe Jannuzi, Coordinator, US Palestine Activism Program, AFSC

Description: As people of conscience and loving communities, we stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their call for equal and full rights. Inspired by the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, we want to declare our own communities “Apartheid-Free.”

Let’s build an Apartheid-Free world, starting with our own communities: our faith congregations, cities, campuses, and workplaces. We need to educate ourselves and others about racist laws and state systems at home and abroad, and we want to ensure that our communities do not contribute to the maintenance of Apartheid regimes. Together, we can work to promote freedom, justice, and equality for all.

Come and learn more from American Friends Service Committee staff about this campaign (apartheid-free.org), supported by hundreds of organizations (including Friends Meetings), and how you can make a difference in building toward a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

OUTWARD MANIFESTATIONS OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT: DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES – EFFECTS OF OUR MONEY SYSTEM

Presenter: John Howell (Athens Friends Meeting)

Description: Friends have always been concerned about fair distribution of resources. This concern shapes decisions we make in our personal lives and shapes the kinds of policies we advocate for in our communities and nation. The workshop will

- 1) explore how our current system of money issuance contributes to maldistribution of resources by concentrating wealth, thus perpetuating the immense economic inequities we see today.

- 2) offer some alternative principles of system design, being drafted by a Circle of Discernment of the Quaker Institute for the Future.

- 3) sketch briefly kinds of alternatives under consideration locally, nationally, and globally, and

- 4) invite Friends' responses to these concerns.



BEARING WITNESS TO THE VOICE OF TRUTH

Presenter: Tom Small (Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting); Keith Runyan (General Secretary, Quaker Earthcare Witness)

Description: Quakers are seekers and Friends of Truth. For Mahatma Gandhi, "Truth Is My God." At the center of Gandhi's practice is the discipline of Satyagraha, often translated as "Soul Power," a prophetic, nonviolent response to repressive and violent power. Literally, Satyagraha is simply Sanskrit for "Firm Grasp of Truth," or, even more simply, "Grasp of That Which Is." Workshop leaders will begin with an unfolding of those words as Gandhi and his followers, including Vandana Shiva and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., understood them.

Then, as Friends of Truth, together we will seek our own spiritual unity of being, our own prophetic voice in thought, word, and deed. In workshop format, we'll explore and test our own ministry, practice listening to our "Inward Guide", and share

with one another our own "Experiments with Truth," inviting spirit-within to flow through us and bring Truth to Power.



THE FOUR ROLES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Presenter: Ruth Cutcher (Quaker Voluntary Service)

Description: In this interactive workshop we'll learn about four distinct roles needed in social change movements. We'll engage as a large group with a scenario spurred by the climate crisis, have small group discussions, and come away with a framework for understanding our gifts and strengths and social change role (all ages welcome!).

RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

Presenter: Nathan Kleban (Right Sharing of World Resources)

Description: We'll explore histories of harm and power dynamics in relationships on a personal level, with an eye towards what "making things right" can look like in these circumstances. Then through the use of everyday objects in our lives we'll explore the larger relationships we find ourselves enmeshed in and draw connections to what "making things right" might look like on a global level.

FREE THE FIRE...(THE PEOPLES PROMETHEAN FIRE)

Presenter: R. E Hogan (Athens Monthly Meeting)

Description: I am offering an introductory presentation on the New and Ancient Story of Home followed by guided meditation, conversation, and group self-organizing. Following the viewing of some video clips, this session creates dialogue to consider the healing potential of self-reliant ecovillages and healing biotopes living for earth regeneration. Come and explore together consciousness, tools, methods and strategies for birthing ecological community and civilization(s).

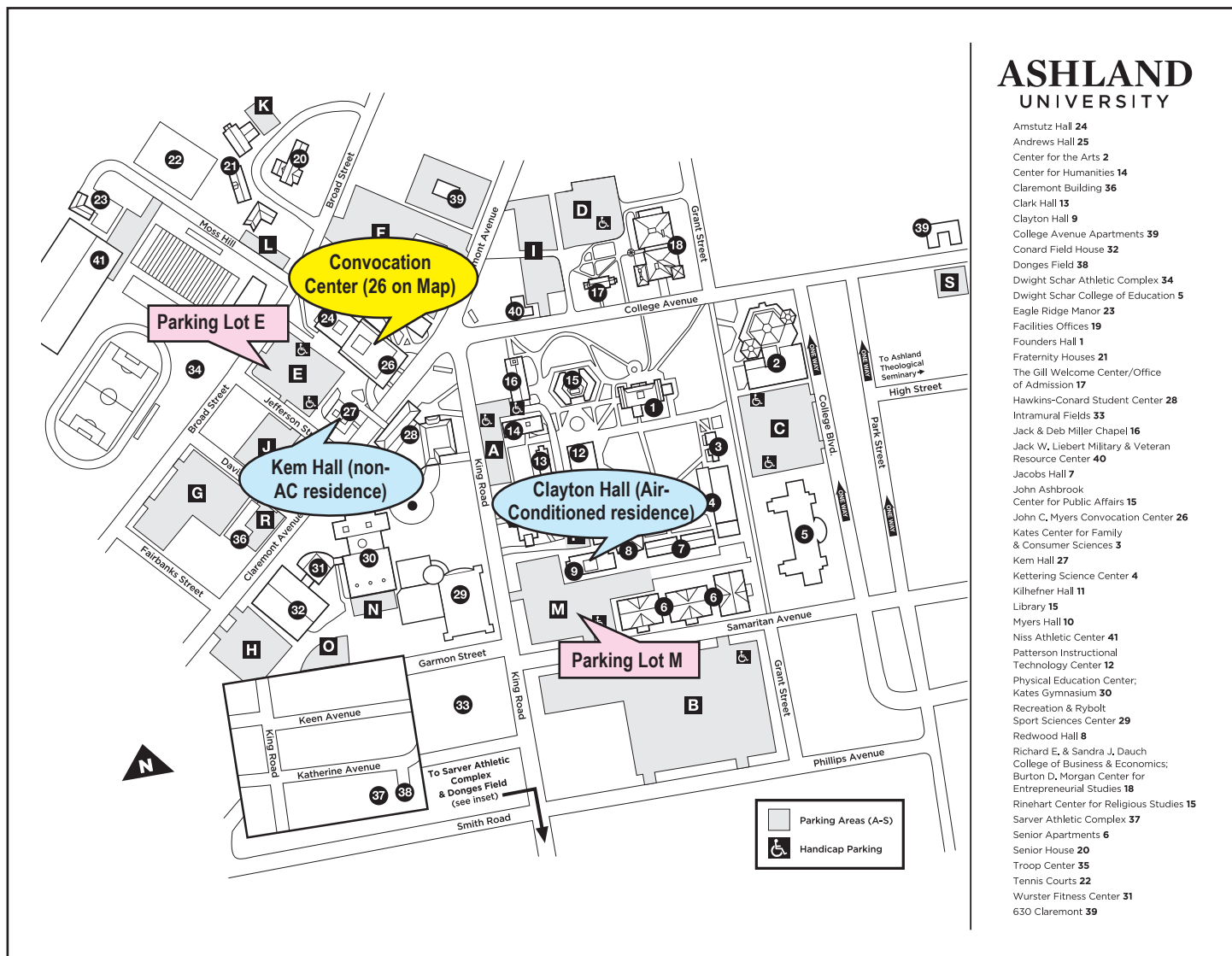
LEYM 2024 Annual Meeting Registration

Visit <https://leym.org/annual> to get started.

Our move, last year, from Bluffton to Ashland University was an overall success. As in any change there were some adjustments for us to make and some things to refine. The Arrangements and Site Committee has reviewed the evaluations and labored to address the issues that arose. Most problems we tackled immediately, while other solutions we consider “in process or experimental.”

Our new online registration form is a simple way for you to indicate your needs. It will calculate your fee and allow you to pay online via credit card. We will also accept payment by check or cash when you arrive. Once registered, you will receive an email acknowledgment with your details.

Registration: The biggest change is launching an online registration. There will be no paper registration. If you are uncomfortable working online, please contact Sally Weaver Sommer, our intrepid registrar, who will fill out the information for you. Sally’s phone is 419-953-9455. If you only have questions (large or small), you may contact her via email sallyweaversommer@gmail.com.



On-campus lodging: At Ashland housing fees are per room rather than per individual. **Kem Hall** is a **non-air-conditioned** building across from the Convocation Center, where meetings and meals take place. Fees are \$40 per night for a double room with bunked beds and \$45 per night for a triple room with un-bunked beds (a limited option.) Volunteers will be available to un-bunk beds in Kem if desired, so please let us know in the comments box of the registration form if you'd like assistance. Beds are higher off the ground than standard beds. We suggest you bring a step stool, if the height is a problem for you, as well as a fan and a reading light.

Kem Regular Double



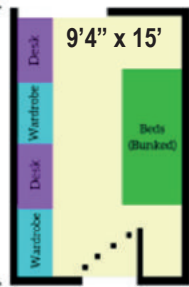
Non-Air Conditioned

Kem Regular Triple



Non-Air Conditioned

Clayton Hall is **air-conditioned** and about a five-minute walk from the Convocation Center. The fees are \$55 per night for a double room. Each room has two bunked beds. Spare mattresses are not available, but sleeping on the floor is permitted. We suggest you bring a reading lamp and an extra blanket. Each room has its own thermostat controls.



**Clayton Regular Double
Air Conditioned**

Additional Registrants:

During this registration process you can add additional registrants who may be sharing your room by selecting "add registrant" near the end of this form. Please indicate each Friend's meal options and linen needs and volunteer interests. By adding their email, they will be signed up to receive the Daily News. If they plan on paying their own fees, they will need to either register for themselves (noting you are their roommate) or arrange to reimburse you later.

If you wish to share a room and have us try to assign a roommate, please check the "assign me a roommate" option found under the "comments" section. We will attempt to make the assignment and adjust fees as directed before you arrive.

Vans and small RVs are welcome to park near Convocation Hall, but are not allowed to set up chairs outside the vehicle. If you plan to stay in your vehicle, check the "off campus" option on the registration form.

Off Campus Lodging: Tent camping and cabins are available at Hickory Lakes Campground, 23 Twp. Rd. 1300, West Salem, Ohio 44287; Tel. 419 869 7587. The campground is about 30 minutes from Ashland University. Rates are \$43 per night for tent space for up to four people and \$75 per night for a cabin sleeping five. Hotels near Ashland University can be found at

<https://www.booking.com/city/us/ashland-ohio.html>.

By staying at a common hotel, Friends can recognize one another, share rides, and chat over breakfast. The closest hotels include: Hampton Inn and Suites Ashland, Quality Inn, Wingate and Super Eight. AirBnb is another possibility. For people planning to camp or stay in a hotel, select the "I'm staying off-campus" item when registering.

Discounts: LEYM seeks to encourage attendance by all members of our community. Registrants under 36 years of age have their general registration fee waived. There are three types of additional discounts available using a coupon at check-out: "First Timers" are those over 18 who are entitled to 33% off of total costs; "Youngster Meals" are those under the age of 13 who get 40% off total meal costs; and a discount for "Program Workers" for those who staff the youth program, run the bookstore, or serve in other staff roles. With the proper code the registration form will calculate the discount. We do not want anyone to stay away because of cost. Those desiring financial assistance should first contact their Monthly Meetings. If needs cannot be met by the Monthly Meeting, contact the registrar.

Get the T-Shirt: This year our online form includes the ability to order one or more T-Shirts! Note that young Friends participating in the Children and Youth Program will get their shirts for free as part of the separate consent form submission process.

Consider bringing: A coffee mug (the dining hall has very small ones), a note pad and writing utensil, a robe to wear to the shared bathroom, your own pillow and blanket (or two if you are in air-conditioning), a reading lamp, a multi-outlet extension cord or power bar, a step stool, a fan, additional towels, bubbles, or other fun outdoor equipment.

Why not Visit a Small Worship Group

Friends who may be traveling this Spring and Summer may want, and are encouraged, to attend meeting for worship with Worship Groups that are a part of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Some of these groups are in areas of popular vacation spots. Following is information that may help facilitate a visit.

1) **Pine River Worship Group** (Michigan) meets on the 1st and 3rd First Day of each month, 10:30-11:30 am. Meeting is held on the Campus of Central Michigan University at the Wesley Foundation (in the library), 1400 South Washington Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Contact for confirming a visit is Laura Gourlay at (989) 621-6986 (phone or text) or via email at lauragourlay@hotmail.com.

The following worship groups meet in locations in attenders' homes that vary from week to week. Day, times and contact information for specific locations are set forth below:

2) **Tustin Worship Group** (Michigan). Tustin is about 10 miles south of Cadillac. Members meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Friends should contact: Mitzi Ruswick at (231) 829-3440 or Betsy Erickson at (231) 829-3328.

3) **Somerset Worship Group** (Pennsylvania). Somerset is on I-76 (Pennsylvania Turnpike), about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. It meets at 10 am on First Day. Friends who wish to visit should contact Brenda Benner by email (blbenner66@hotmail.com) or Carol Famariss by phone (814) 443-3010 and they will receive the location on Saturday for meeting for worship the next day.

4) **Erie Worship Group** in northwest Pennsylvania meets at 10:30 am on First Day. Contacts are: Pamela Moore (215) 593-6795; Clemence Ravacon-Mershon, (814) 587-3479 andre14@earthlink; or Linda Williams (814) 825-2030 desertplumpt9@aol.com.

Nominating Committee: A Message and Greeting

Members of Nominating Committee look forward to talking with Friends about opportunities to serve the Yearly Meeting. We're especially eager to get to know you, Friend, who are new to us, and learn about your unique gifts and leadings. We look forward to those conversations. LEYM offers so many opportunities to serve. There's a place for everyone who feels led to contribute. You can learn more about LEYM's organizational structure – our officers, committees, and so on – in our Policies and Procedures document, available online at <https://leym.org/policyproceduresmanual/>.

In the meantime, if you have such a leading, we hope you'll reach out to one of us on the Nominating Committee. We don't need to wait until June to learn about you and where you feel led to serve. With our thanks and appreciation,

Stephanie Charlot, co-clerk
(mynaturalfamily@gmail.com) Red Cedar Monthly Meeting
Rick Adams, co-clerk (radamswilliam@gmail.com) North Columbus Monthly Meeting
Wink Covintree (wcovintree@mac.com) Birmingham Monthly Meeting
Mike Hinshaw (xochitl23@frontier.com) Wooster Monthly Meeting

Fall Youth Retreat

The 2024 LEYM Fall Youth Retreat for youth in grades K - 12 will be held **September 27 - 29, 2024**, at Temple Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio. Please contact Diane Mott (Broadmead MM) at mottfam45@gmail.com for information and registration materials. We hope to see your family there!

State of Meeting Reports Due

State of the Meeting reports by all Meetings and Worship Groups are due on May 15, 2024. Please send the reports to both the Ministry and Nurture Committee for LEYM at flo@dougandflo.com and to Publications and Archives at cooperdaub@hotmail.com.

Birmingham Meeting Activities

We continue to meet at the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce in person and on zoom. For the moment it meets our needs. It is a large room and after meeting we share with one another drinking coffee or tea and snacks. We have an average participation in person around fourteen and on Zoom the average is five.

Last year an eleventh grader joined us and we are happy to have a young adult with us once again. She attends First Day School, learning all she can before she heads off to college. We will miss her. Over the last year or two we have gained new attenders wishing to learn more about Friends. We now have an Adult First Day School that meets separately from the First Day School for younger folks. And occasionally, we do have some younger children who attend.



We joyfully get together once a month for potlucks, getting to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere outside the confines of Meeting. We also have an active Spiritual Formation group which adds greatly to our community. Further strengthening our Meeting are the ties we have with the American Friends Service Committee, Alternatives to Violence, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Michigan Friends Center and Quarterly and Yearly Meeting.

These activities bring knowledge and connection within our Quaker family.

Having connections within the Friends community and our local community is very important to us. Twice a year we provide and serve lunch at a local church.

A new committee is working on food insecurities in our area. We are always open for opportunities to strengthen our neighborhood ties.

Come and visit in person or drop in on Zoom.

Your Friends at the Birmingham Meeting

Memorial Meeting for Adele Looney

Dear Friends,

With sadness, we must tell you of the passing of Adele Looney. On February 4th, she died peacefully at her home in Wadsworth. Her son and daughter and other family members were with her. She was just nine days short of her 101st birthday.

A Memorial Worship Meeting will be held for her on **Saturday, May 18, 2024** at the First Mennonite Church, 405 Trease Rd., Wadsworth, at 3:30 pm. Following the meeting, the family will provide a basic meal. Friends may also bring a dish to share in honor of Adele's fondness for potlucks and the fellowship they allow.

Adele and her husband John worked tirelessly for peace and social justice. Many of your Meetings' members knew and worked with them. Please share the information about her Memorial Meeting with your membership.

Thank you.

Janet Dando

Akron Friends Meeting

dandojanet4@gmail.com

Dear Friends:

When this minute is shared with others, if you could please mention that anyone who desires to attend the common meal after the memorial should please send me a RSVP at my email below. Also the only people who were with my Mother on the day that she died were me and two aides. When she actually died, it was just me. I began playing classical music for her by a Spanish composer, Enrique Granados. Her eyes had been closed. She opened them when she heard the music by a composer who, with his wife, had been killed during World War 1 by a torpedo attack at sea. We gazed at each for a while as I repeatedly told her that I loved her. Eventually, she very slowly closed them forever.

Mark Looney

518-275-2456 mwl99@yahoo.com

LEYM Calendar 2024

April 1: Online Registration for LEYM Annual Meeting begins.
May 10: Registration deadline for Annual Meeting.
May 15: Due date for State of the Meeting reports.
May 16: Quakerism 101: "Quaker Organizations"
May 18 : Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Spring Gathering.
May 30: Deadline for all committee reports and advance documents.
June 13 to 16: LEYM Annual Meeting, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio.
June 30 to July 6: FGC Annual Gathering, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
July 1: Due date for Meeting Statistical Reports.
July 30: Submissions to next *Annual Records* due.
September 27 to 29: Youth Retreat at Tempel Hill.



FGC Annual Gathering: 'Rooted in Story'

June 30th to July 6th, 2024
Haverford College
Haverford, Pennsylvania

Registration opens April 9, 2024

For more information:
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>

Memorial Meeting Planned for Leslie Walden

A Memorial Meeting is being planned for **Saturday 8 June 2024** at 11:00, for Cleveland Friend Leslie Walden, also a longtime member of Detroit Meeting. Details are being finalized. For information contact clevequakers@yahoo.com or margaret.walden@gmail.com.

LEYM Committee Clerks 2023-2024

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

Adult & Family Program

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon
andre14@earthlink.net

Advancement & Outreach

Joe Mills
millrae@juno.com

Arrangements & Site

John Sommer
sommerjs@bluffton.edu

Finance

Joann Neuroth
jneuroth@gmail.com

Ministry & Nurture

Flo Friender
flo@dougandflo.com
 Shelley Kotz
sh.s3ktz@gmail.com

Nominating (co-clerks)

Rick Adams
radamswilliam@gmail.com
 Stephanie Charlot
mynaturalfamily@gmail.com

Publications & Archives

Jeff Cooper
cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Youth & Children's Program

Diane Mott
mottfam45@gmail.com