

## **LEYM 2024 Workshop Offerings – June 14 and 15, 2024, Ashland University**

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)

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***

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

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 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](http://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," 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 your 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).