

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter

May 2024

1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | 734-761-7435 | www.annarborfriends.org

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Clerk: Laura Lein

734-879-1728

Meeting Worker: Pat Micks

734-761-7435

Treasurer: Karla Taylor

734-668-6877

Publications Coordinator: Eric Wozniak

734-985-5032

Quaker House Resident Host:

ghrc.contact@gmail.com

The *Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter* is published monthly by the Ann Arbor Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

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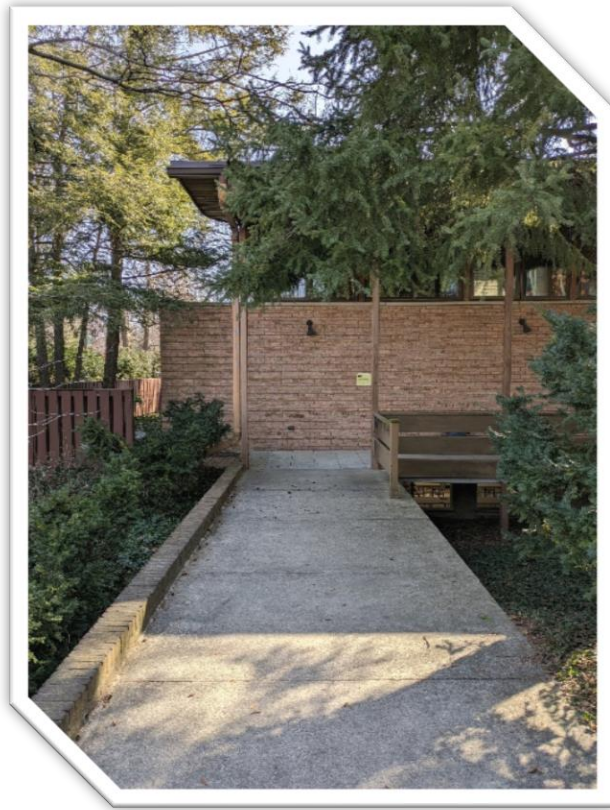


To subscribe to the newsletter and weekly handout, email Eric Wozniak at ericwozn@gmail.com.

Please send any entries for the newsletter to Eric at least one week before the end of the month.

Photos by Eric Wozniak unless otherwise noted.

DONATIONS (Tax Deductible): Ann Arbor Friends Meeting relies on donations from members and attenders to cover over 60% of its budget. You can contribute by check via U.S. mail: c/o Treasurer, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You can also contribute cash or checks in the Contributions Box (on wall next to Meetingroom door) and online at the Meeting's website at: <https://annarborfriends.org/wp/donate/>.



May Meeting for Worship schedule:

- May 5 and 12:
 - The 9:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be **in-person** only.
 - The 11:00 Meeting for Worship will be **blended** (both in-person and on Zoom).
- May 19:
 - The 7:45 Meeting for Worship will be **in-person** only, in the Corner Room.
 - The 9:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be **blended**.
 - The 11:00 Meeting for Worship will be **blended**.
- May 26:
 - The 9:00 Meeting for Worship will be **blended**.
 - The 11:00 Meetings for Worship will be held in **parallel** (**in-person** only in the Meeting Room, with a separate **online** Meeting on Zoom).

AAFM Event Calendar

* = See Meeting announcement for details

For all Meetings for Worship, including Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom> (Zoom Meeting ID 818 7021 4329).

Wednesday, May 1

7:00 What Does it Mean to be Quaker?
Corner Room and Zoom *

Thursday, May 2

7:00 Membership and Outreach; Zoom
Contact scooper@mi.rr.com for
Zoom link

Sunday, May 5

9:00 Meeting for Worship—In-person
9:30 Committee for Children and Families;
Living Room, please contact
[Claire Tinkerhess](mailto:Claire.Tinkerhess) if you will
require childcare
10:05 Earthcare Committee; Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8585173612>
Passcode: earthcare
11:00 Meeting for Worship—Blended
First Day School; Living Room *
12:45 P&SJ speaker: AFSC Director of Quaker
Engagement, Brian Blackmore;
Meeting Room & Zoom *
3:00 M&C Committee Meeting

Monday, May 6

2:00 Meeting for Walking *
7:00 Reading and Discussion; Zoom *
7:30 Finance Committee; Zoom, Contact
susandhartman@gmail.com for link

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 JAG — Justice Action Group; Contact
Lynn Drickamer at
ldlynn@umich.edu for Zoom link.
7:30 Quaker House Committee;
Living Room and Zoom.
Contact esbrannon@gmail.com
for link

Saturday, May 11

2:00 Peg Powell Memorial *

Sunday, May 12

9:00 Meeting for Worship—In-person
10:05 Property Committee; Corner Room
11:00 Meeting for Worship—Blended
12:45 M&C Sponsored Forum:
Our Faith and Practice on Community *

Monday, May 13

2:00 Meeting for Walking *
7:30 Peace and Social Justice; [Zoom](#)

Wednesday, May 15

7:00 What Does it Mean to Be Quaker?
Corner Room and Zoom *

Thursday, May 16

10:00 FCNL Washtenaw Advocacy Group;
Chelsea Library *

Friday, May 17

12:00 PIAG — Palestine-Israel Action Group

Sunday, May 19

7:45 Meeting for Worship—In-person
9:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to
Business—Blended
11:00 Meeting for Worship—Blended

Monday, May 20

2:00 Meeting for Walking *
7:00 Technology Committee; Zoom

Saturday, May 25

9:00 Property Work Party *

Sunday, May 26

9:00 Meeting for Worship—Blended
11:00 Meetings for Worship—Parallel
12:15 Potluck
12:45 P&SJ speaker: Stacey Ettawageshik of
Uniting Three Fires Against Violence *
6:00 YAF Dinner *

Monday, May 27

2:00 Meeting for Walking *

Wednesday, May 29

6:30 Women's Meeting; Meeting Room

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Day School Activities:

At the rise of Meeting, May 5, the children will hold a meeting for worship to **honor and say goodbye to the maple tree**. All are invited to attend. An announcement will be made in Meeting regarding details.

This week, Molly T. and Julie will gather all children older than nursery age to learn about and reflect on the maple tree in the backyard in preparation to honor and say goodbye to it at the worship following the rise of Meeting. The nursery will be open and available for our smallest friends.

CCF is seeking the following items for use in the First Day School classroom downstairs: A table or floor lamp, a coffee table, throw pillows, beanbag chairs, and a throw blanket. If, in the course of spring cleaning, you find these items and would like to rehome them, please contact [Molly Tinkerhess](#) or [Julie Kim](#).

What Does it Mean to Be Quaker?

May 1 & 15, 7:00 p.m. | Corner Room & Zoom

The Membership and Outreach Committee invites Friends young and old to join an open exploration of the faith and practices of Quakerism. This is an opportunity for all members and attendees, new or experienced, to ask questions about Quakerism. This session takes place in the Corner Room and on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom>.

Meeting for Canoeing

May 4, meet at 10:00, launch time 10:30 | Hudson Mills to Delhi Rapids

We'll meet at [Hudson Mills Metropark](#), off North Territorial, at 10:00 for a lovely trip down the Huron. To borrow a canoe or kayak, check with Thomas Taylor at (734) 995-6803. You can also rent a craft from [Skip's at Delhi](#): (734) 769-8686. We recommend [making reservations](#) soon as May 4 is their opening day. Bring: sun hat, water, packed lunch, water shoes, rain gear.

Open Singing

May 5 & 12, 10:15 | Meeting Room

Hymnals will be provided. Hosted by Thomas and Grayson.

AAFM to Host AFSC Director of Quaker Engagement

May 5, 12:45 | Meeting Room & Zoom

Brian Blackmore, the Director of Quaker Engagement for the American Friends Service Committee, will be speaking with interested F/friends under the auspices of the Peace & Social Justice Committee.

For over 100 years, AFSC has been bringing together people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge injustice and build peace around the globe. Most recently, AFSC workers who staff programs in Gaza and on the West Bank in Palestine, have come under extreme duress and have themselves lost family members in the Israeli attacks. AFSC has been moving decisively to bring aid to trapped Palestinians and to put pressure on the U.S. administration in Washington, demanding a complete cease fire and release of hostages.

AFSC uses an intersectional approach addressing *global peace, prisons & policing, migration & immigrant rights, and economic justice*. With programs in 18 states and 12 foreign countries, it is sometimes difficult to understand the way that Quaker values inform AFSC's work around the world.

This will be an opportunity to learn and to dialogue with Brian on a personal level. Please join us at 12:45, Sunday May 5, in the Meeting Room or via the AAFM [Zoom link](#).

— John Deikis, AAFM Liaison to AFSC

Meetings for Walking

Mondays, 2:00 | All are welcome

On **May 6**, we will walk in the [County Farm Park](#) to see the trillium and other Spring wildflowers. This is a fairly level walk on wide paths. Meet us at the Platt Road parking lot.

On **May 13**, we will walk in [Hilltop Nature Preserve](#). This walk involves climbing on woodland trails. There is NO sign identifying this park, but park in the [first parking area](#) to the right, off Huron River Drive, after the bend, coming from North Main Street. You will see a pedestrian bridge across the river.

On **May 20** and **27**, we will walk in the Arb for a river walk and to see the tree peonies, rhododendrons, viburnum, weigelia and lilacs. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the [dead-end of Riverside Drive](#), off Geddes.

On one of these days (depending on when the tree peonies bloom) the walk will be a little longer than usual and involve climbing a hill from the Arb valley up to the peony garden. On that day an option for some may be to take a bus to the Medical Center, stepping off outside Mott children's hospital to enter the peony garden on that level. Call Naomi closer to the time if you have concerns about which date will involve climbing.

If you have questions, please contact Naomi Gilbert (734-476-4555) or Nancy and Thomas Taylor (734-368-6555)



Reading and Discussion

May 6, 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

We will be discussing the role of Spirit in real life actions, particularly protest behavior. The readings for the gathering can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mrnvpu88>. This meeting will be convened by Naomi Gilbert and will be accessible using the Worship Zoom [link](#). All Friends are welcome, even if you haven't had time to read the handout.

Memorial Meeting for Peg Powell

May 11, 2:00 | Meeting Room & Zoom

AAFAM will host a memorial meeting for Peg Powell in the Meeting Room and will be followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Room. This will be a hybrid meeting and can be accessed through the Worship [Zoom link](#).

Contributions of food needed for Peg Powell's Memorial Meeting — Can you bring cookies, a fruit plate, a veggie-and-dip plate, or snack food to the reception following the memorial gathering? Or perhaps you specialize in creating vegan sweet breads (labeled as Vegan). Please email or phone Nancy Taylor (netaylor@comcast.net, (734) 368-6555 [cell] or (734) 995-6803) if you're able to help provide something for the reception. Thanks!

M&C Forum: Our Faith and Practice on Community

May 12, 12:45 | Meeting Room & Zoom

Ministry and Counsel invites the Meeting for discernment on the Faith and Practice on Community. (printed on page 9; online version available here: <https://tinyurl.com/AAFAM-FPoC>.)
From the Committee on Ministry and Counsel:

It is M & C's expectation that the meeting will spend some time, perhaps months, seeking discernment around this document, which may lead to changes in the document as this process plays out. Our instruction for everyone is to read it carefully and spend some time considering the intention behind the words. We want to discuss the concepts and search for unity in shared understandings before we focus on editing changes.

Friends Committee on National Legislation's Washtenaw Advocacy Team

May 16, 10:00–12:00 | Chelsea Library

The FCNL meets every third Thursday from 10:00–12:00 (or so); the location rotates between the AAFM Corner Room and the [Chelsea Library](#). This month, we will meet at the Chelsea Library. We work with the FCNL Washington staff to contact our national senators and representative to advocate for legislation that furthers the causes of peace and justice. Please join if you would like to work with us. Questions? Call John Deikis at (734) 395-7414 or Nancy or Thomas Taylor at (734) 995-6803.

Property Work Party

May 25, 9:00–12:00 | Meeting House

All volunteers are welcome any time between 9:00 and noon for springtime tasks around the property. Bring your own hand clippers and gloves if you like.

P&SJ Speaker: Stacey Ettawageshik, Uniting Three Fires Against Violence

May 26, 12:45 | Meeting Room

Violence on tribal land, [particularly against women](#), is a vast, ongoing issue. 72% of Michigan's Indigenous women have faced sexual violence in their lifetime. The Peace & Social Justice Committee invites Stacey Ettawageshik, Vice President of [Uniting Three Fires Against Violence](#), to speak with AAFM about their work providing training, resources, and support to several of Michigan's tribal groups that aid local crime victims, and how we can support this cause.



YAF Dinner

May 26, 6:00

Monthly dinners hosted for Friends 18–35-ish. The meal will be provided, just bring yourself! To receive information on future YAF events, send an email to aafmyaf@gmail.com to be added to the email list. Details on May's dinner to follow in weekly handouts.

P&SJ Speaker: Bold Against Bail

June 2, 12:30 | Meeting Room

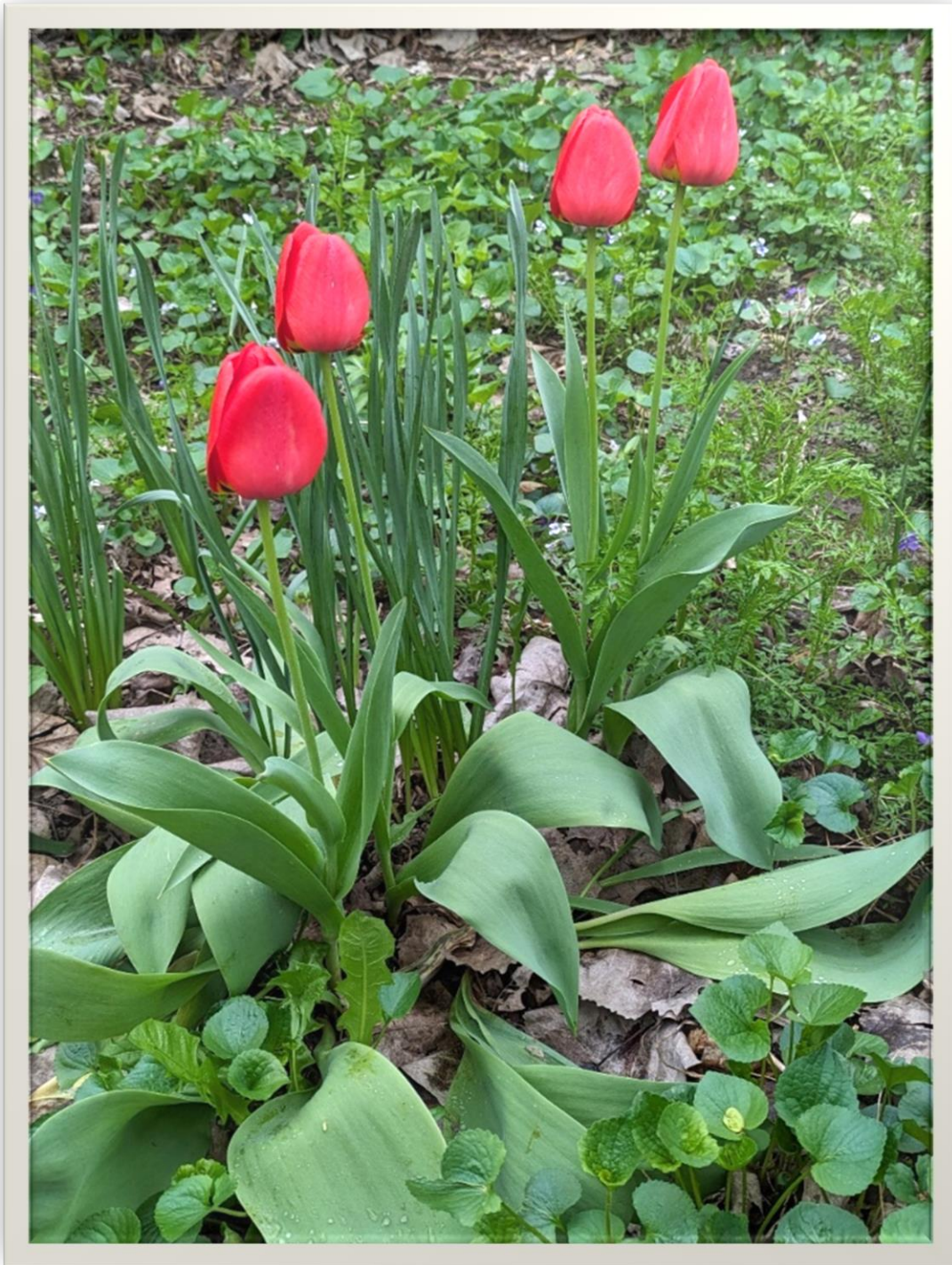
The Peace and Social Justice Committee has invited members of the action group Bold against Bail, an arm of [Michigan Liberation](#), to speak with the Meeting. They will share their efforts on prison reform, ending cash bail, and actions we can take on this issue both individually and as a meeting. Please join us.

Want to receive information on Earthcare news and activities?

The Meeting's Earthcare Committee keeps a mailing list of people who want to receive irregular mailings on news of interest and upcoming events. The updates are called **Earthcare InfoX**, and the most recent mailing (April 17) had links to two recent court cases involving Line 5 in Michigan and Wisconsin. We would love to have you join. Send your preferred email address to Peggy Daub (peggydaub@hotmail.com).

smallworld

Would you like the opportunity to get to know more people at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting? Consider signing up for "smallworld," a software program which randomly pairs participants for monthly opportunities to connect with someone in the AAFM community for an intentional one-on-one chat. Sign up here <http://www.tiny.cc/aafmsw>, or on the "smallworld" sign-up sheet on the lobby table.



Our Faith and Practice on Community — from Ministry and Counsel

A shareable, online version of this text is available: <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-FPoC>

Friends have a practice of periodically recording statements of faith and practice. The statements of faith are not a creed or doctrine but are ongoing revelation. They offer words for truth at a moment, by those engaged, in a place and set of circumstances. The statements of practice are likewise qualified. Practices can be big or small. Some are straightforward procedures. Some are nuanced ways of being and acting. For Friends, all are experiments in ongoing revelation.

Early Friends resisted the Church of England. They saw that institutions and the practices they establish were likely to become repressive over time and were often used to accumulate advantage and power. Friends have come to understand that practices involve interpretation, judgment, and discretion, most often in unconscious ways. It is here that bias and abuse creep in. As Friends, we hold practices lightly. Instead of viewing them as rules to follow, we see them as the wisdom of past experience. Friends share that wisdom, understanding that Spirit should always be the final arbitrator. We recognize that by changing practices we can disrupt patterns of oppression. To that end, we design new practices and test them in our lives.

Periodically, we review and revise our books of faith and practice. The community seeks integrity in a life of ongoing revelation. It regularly records anew its faith and its practice. We offer the statements here as a small, partial picture, addressing the topic of community. We offer them, as in the 1656 epistle from Quakers at Balby in northern England to their “brethren in the north.”

Dearly beloved, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light, walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

We offer the statements of faith and practice below as an invitation to newcomers as well as to longstanding attenders and members with the hope that they may deepen and sustain our individual and collective spiritual lives.

The Statements

Friends are bound in community by an experience of Spirit. Some refer to the still small voice within, where the heart stands in complete sincerity. Others express the movement of Spirit in other ways¹. However expressed, direct experience of the divine is foremost for Friends. In worship, we open ourselves to Spirit, share its promptings that others may receive them, and listen as Spirit speaks through others. A gathered experience of Spirit expands and deepens our discernment. We invite Spirit to infuse and guide our lives, and we welcome all who sense this movement of Spirit to join in fellowship.

In community, we come to realize how our ear for Spirit may be fallible. As we listen, we strive to distinguish Spirit from our egos and our wants and desires, from our worries about what others may think, and from the commotion of life. We settle into silence as we seek to hear and reconcile different messages. We experiment with insights in the world to see if by living them we find greater integrity. We also search, in community, for additional discernment to help us more fully understand our leadings.

¹ Many feel uneasy about specific terms for what is sometimes called Spirit. Some prefer God, the Divine, the Inner Christ, Allah, the great I-am, the Teacher, the Great Spirit, or other names. Some prefer secular language, apart from the history of religious institutions. As a faith community that seeks to be guided by transformative power, we cannot avoid using one or more of these. We recognize that none is adequate, yet without some word, we cannot share our experiences or insights. With these thoughts in mind, we use the word “Spirit”.

Community gives us more opportunity to test our leadings, both those from our inner lives and those from a shared leading of Spirit. We build and nurture our faith community as an essential resource for discerning Spirit.

The meeting community is a place where we can be accepted, nurtured, and challenged. We value diversity in our community as each person's unique spiritual insights contribute to our understanding of Truth. When difference presents as disagreement, we open ourselves to Spirit. The quality of our own healing and wellness and of our spiritual connection defines the sense of disagreement or conflict. Are we surprised and do we yearn to understand another Friend, or do we push back and feel judged and dismissed? This determines our delight or sadness in "being challenged." As we yield to the movement of Spirit, if there is sincerity in this mutual work, we find strength and purpose for working through our differences and uncovering new spiritual insights. If the interactions are abusive, exploitative, or oppressive, then Spirit may call us to separation or resistance.

To become such a community requires we consider why we are part of this community, how we can respond to that of God in each other, and how we carry this understanding into the world. We understand that we all come as we are, imperfect, each unique. As John Woolman, an 18th century American Quaker, wrote:

There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren in the best sense of the expression.

To walk the path of a Spirit-led life, Friends have found certain practices helpful. Healthy relationships require speaking one's best sense of what is true, aware our perspective is incomplete, and listening compassionately to others' best sense of what is true, expecting to be changed. Both are matters of Spirit. We speak our truth by listening to the light within and acting accordingly. We listen compassionately by attuning to that of God in others. Deciding when to do which and how to coordinate these requires skill, judgment, and practice. We draw on our diverse experiences and experiment with how to practice.

To help us see and consider these practices, we organize them into several categories.

- Personal and social skills
- Knowing and healing ourselves
- Building our spiritual practice
- Recording and testing spiritual insights
- Pastoral care, social relations, and organized work

Personal and social skills shape how we hear Spirit and navigate truth. They are essential to our development and our healing. Unprocessed emotions can block access to Spirit. They may need to be released, explored, and reprocessed. We pause, stop, breathe, and let go of tension. These pauses, where we make room for Spirit, help us deal with the bustle of life or the heat of the moment. We reconnect with Spirit and each other. We learn from our emotions: grieve losses, protect from danger, address hurts or injustices, and make connections. As we communicate empathy and witness others' emotions, we are more able to hear Spirit, include others, and work together. We recognize the importance of seeing, describing, and owning our actions, and hearing how others have experienced them, because this is an essential first step in addressing the harm we may cause others, regardless of intent. We find support in programs that teach us how to affirm, listen, communicate, and cooperate, including the Nonviolent Communication Training and the Alternatives to Violence Project.

We seek to know and heal ourselves. Awareness of who we are racially, economically, sexually, and in other important ways alerts us to how we may ignore and distort the messages of Spirit. Friends seek to know the

history of oppression and advantage in the world and how these have influenced us. Friends have owned slaves. They have unevenly advocated for women and children. They have led "reform" work in prisons, mental health institutions, and Native American boarding schools. We find that our growing understanding of these things creates new possibilities for living with integrity. More clearly seeing ourselves and the society in which we live helps us navigate our differences with compassion. Friends find that the cracks in our lives reveal a deeper connection to Spirit beyond our egos. When we open ourselves to Spirit, our mistakes become opportunities to learn. As we acknowledge our weaknesses, we are able to accept the support of others. As we recognize our failings, we find humility and compassion.

Spiritual practice is our bedrock as Friends. We still ourselves, open to Spirit, and test what we hear. We practice in meetings for worship, business meetings, committee meetings, and spiritual companion groups. We borrow practices from other traditions when they are useful. We exercise our spiritual muscles and challenge ourselves sometimes to move out of our comfort zones. Spirit may ask of us things we cannot do alone. At moments, we find the work profoundly moving, at other times mundane. We do spiritual work together because it provides us with deep connections and an abiding knowledge of each other. These aid us in more fully living a life of the Spirit. We find support in small worship groups, bible studies, meetings for healing, and other religious education activities. The meeting offers clearness committees to help discern Spirit's guidance on major life questions. As Friends, we are called on to perform the role of minister to each other — to assist in discernment, share joys and sorrows, or help with more common problems. As the need arises, we seek ministering from others.

We record the movement of Spirit as support for our collective discernment. Friends have several tools for testing leadings of Spirit. We ask whether we sense Spirit in insights or concerns, whether they persist when we are still, and whether they are simple and direct, sincerely of Spirit, not willful or desired. We experiment with messages, asking what it means to live by them and whether doing so leads to a greater sense of integrity. In this work, Friends seek words to express the movement of Spirit. We may sense the nudges of Spirit more than firmly grasp them. Finding the right words, simple words, helps us clarify insights. It allows us to share insights and discern together. We record spiritual insights, whether trivial or overwhelming, because it provides common ground for our work as a community. It lets us share our light in the wider community of Friends, discern with others, and witness in the world.

We invest in pastoral care, social relationships, and organized work. We all need food, shelter, sleep, safety, and health. We take care of ourselves and each other because it connects us and prepares us to bring our best selves to our spiritual work. Tender caring for each other echoes the love we find in Spirit and unites us as a body. We find that living and working in community is not always easy. Because we come with unique histories and often carry the pain of past relationships or trauma, building relationships with other Friends may require effort and courage. Our biases draw us to people we perceive as being like us. This can make it hard to be curious about how others experience life and Spirit, to truly see Spirit in each other, yet we understand that diversity of experience and spiritual practices is a strength, not a weakness for the community. We find trust essential. We find it grows when we work together, care for each other in difficult times, companion, address harm, learn from differences, and go deep in personal sharing, with mutual vulnerability. Many of us find strength when we get together to break bread, walk, canoe, sing, or celebrate significant life events. We regularly visit other Friends, in our Meeting and elsewhere. We organize the work of the Meeting so all can contribute. We understand that it is important that everyone feels as though they belong and make a difference. Friends find that roles, formal or informal, help us take part and that contributions come in many forms. Some Friends serve on committees; others encourage and celebrate; some wash dishes; others listen for and articulate accord. We seek to build everyone's capacity to contribute. And we hold ourselves accountable for the integrity of our work. Community can sometimes be uncomfortable, but the relationships we build sustain us in hard times and the fellowship it affords allows us to deepen our understanding of truth. As we care for each other and build relationships, we gain resources for our spiritual work.



Westin & Naomi in San Diego

New Library Books on Display!

Recent Library acquisitions are on display on the west wall of the Meeting Library. Have a look! Friends are asked *not* to borrow them until June 9, so that everyone has a chance to browse. You may sign the slips (in each book) to reserve books you want to borrow in June.

Jeff Cooper thanks those Friends who suggested new titles, and is always happy to answer questions about the Library. Books are listed below under broad subject categories, with brief descriptions.

Quakers and Quakerism

Patricia A. Williams. *Quakerism: A Theology for Our Time*. Divided into sections on The Light Within (worship, decisions, testimonies), the Bible and biblical criticism, and the effect of science.

Nadine Hoover. *Walking in the World as a Friend: Essential Quaker Practices*. This publication of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative provides experiential activities in sections on Quaker Roles, the Living Spirit, and Essential Quaker Structures.

Donn Weinholtz. *Friendly Leadership: Humanely Influencing Others*. Of potential use to clerks of Meetings and committees; defines Friendly leadership as “humanely influencing others to seek positive, mutually rewarding outcomes.”

Marianne O. Nielsen and Barbara M. Heather. *Finding Right Relations: Quakers, Native Americans, and Settler Colonialism*. Early Quakers arriving in Pennsylvania intended peaceful relationships with the Indigenous Lenape but, like other settler colonists, committed “structural and cultural violence.”

Norman E. Donoghue II. *Prisoners of Congress: Philadelphia Quakers in Exile, 1777–1778*. The true story of 17 prominent pacifist Quakers who were exiled to a Virginia frontier village because they refused to support the “War of Independence.”

Leslie Mulford Denis. *Susanna and Alice: Quaker Rebels: The Story of Susanna Parry and Her Cousin Alice Paul*. Two Quaker first cousins, both born in 1885 and students at Swarthmore – one becoming a leading activist for women’s rights and women’s suffrage, the other a reclusive philanthropist, whose letter collection provided the basis for this history.

Theo Mace. *Deborah Theado: A Life*. The story of an African-American scholar and activist who worked briefly on AFSC’s Peace Education Committee in Ann Arbor and was active in Red Cedar Meeting.

Spirituality

Kwang-Hee Park. *Stories of Spiritual Healing: Becoming Well*. 41 brief stories of persons praying and experiencing spiritual healing, some with a more convincing connection than others.

Peace, Nonviolence, Social Justice, and Politics (some biographical)

Daniel Akst. *War by Other Means: How the Pacifists of WWII Changed America for Good*. Describes how pacifists learned skills that they carried over to other social causes, focusing on Dwight Macdonald, Bayard Rustin, David Dellinger, and Dorothy Day.

Louise Dunlap. *Inherited Silence: Listening to the Land, Healing the Colonizer Mind*. A family history of settler colonialism, healing, and reconciliation with the Wappo and Patwin Peoples in the Napa Valley. Climate change is a major theme.

Nicole Eustace. *Covered with Night: A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America*. Pulitzer Prize history about Pennsylvania in 1722, in which two drunken fur traders (one a Quaker) murdered a Seneca man and found the Haudenosaunee Peoples to be more forgiving, “civilized,” and forward-thinking than the colonial politicians.

Nadine Hoover. *Creating Cultures of Peace: A Movement of Love and Conscience*. “A toolbox of ideas and practices for citizen leaders creating loving, conscientious, peaceful homes, communities, and societies” (copied from the back cover).

John Lewis. *Carry On: Reflections for a New Generation*. A collection of the late Congressman’s brief thoughts and reflections on nonviolence, Civil Rights, justice, love, and many other topics.

Earthcare and the Environment

Karen Armstrong. *Sacred Nature: Restoring our Ancient Bond with the Natural World*. With her usual blend of scholarly research and fine writing, Armstrong explores the spiritual aspects of nature. One theme is that the monotheistic belief in a “super-natural” controlling Being has distanced us from nature and thereby lessened both our awareness of it and our taking responsibility for climate change.

Curt Lindberg and Eric Hagen, eds. *Our Better Nature: Hopeful Excursions in Saving Biodiversity*. A collection of essays and stories on the loss of biodiversity and our ecosystems but also our means of preservation and protection, all focusing on Vermont.

Kathleen Dean Moore. *Earth’s Wild Music: Celebrating and Defending the Songs of the Natural World*. Essays by Moore addressing both extinction and climate change as well as listening to animal sounds and living in harmony with nature.

Human Relationships

Richard J. Foster. *Learning Humility: A Year of Searching for a Vanishing Virtue*. The fruits of a year spent studying humility through both traditional Christian sources and the 12 Lakota virtues.

Jacob L. Goodson, Brad Elliott Stone, and Philip Rudolph Kuehnert. *Building Beloved Community in a Wounded World*. Thoughts in dense prose from two philosophers and a retired Lutheran minister on topics in the title as well as racism.

Amanda Ripley. *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out*. Describes, through case studies,

* * *

How to Find Books in the Meeting Library:

To find older books, see the notebook on top of the cabinet, which contains an **Author Catalog** (on yellow paper) and a **Title Catalog** (on green paper). In both catalogs, most entries have subject descriptors in the bottom line.

Otherwise, **broad subject access** is provided by the organization of the Library in 15 sections indicated by one or more strips of colored tape on book spines (see next page). Within each section, most books are arranged alphabetically by author, though many sections begin with some authorless books arranged by title. Jeff Cooper (cooperdaub@hotmail.com) is working on a detailed subject catalog and may be able to provide assistance in finding books on specific topics.

To borrow books from the Library, sign them out in the notebook on top of the cabinet. Books should be returned within a month – to the large “Returns” box on the window ledge.

unintuitive paths to escaping “high conflict,” in which disagreement has become a feud.

Danya Ruttenberg. *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*. Covers repentance, forgiveness, and atonement relating to individuals and societies, victims and perpetrators – all based on traditional Jewish concepts.

Judy Patterson Wenzel. *Light from the Cage: 25 Years in a Prison Classroom*, 2nd ed. A moving memoir of a former AAFM attender and her years teaching high school completion classes at the nearby Milan Federal Correctional Institution.

Fiction and Poetry

J. Brent Bill. *Amity: Stories from the Heartland*. Short stories about Midwestern Quakers.

Alice Elliott Dark. *Fellowship Point*. Beautifully written novel centering around a wealthy, elderly, and complex Philadelphia Quaker author, who spends most of her life on the Maine coast. She wonders, “What if God had applauded [Eve’s] curiosity, and ordered the world accordingly?”

Edith Maxwell. *A Questionable Death and Other Historical Quaker Midwife Mysteries*. Short stories about the 19th-century midwife of Amesbury, MA.

Mosab Abu Toha. *Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear; Poems from Gaza*. Tragic poems about daily life in Gaza. Includes photos and an interview with the poet.

Dwight Wilson. *Modern Psalms of New Light*. Dwight’s third book of modern psalms addressed to the Holy One provides one for each day of the year.

Key to Colors and Sections (starting on east wall and proceeding clockwise and then into Living Room)

Yellow	Quaker Studies	Black	Philosophy, Psychology, Ethics, Human Relationships
Yellow & Blue	Quaker Biographies	2 Black	Earthcare
Blue	General Biographies	2 Blue	Social Concerns, Racism
2 Brown	Miscellaneous Topics	Gray	Politics
2 Red	Bibles, Concordances, and Commentaries	Brown	Peace, Nonviolence
Red	Christianity	Green	Comparative Religion (living room)
3 Red	Prayer, Meditation	2 Green	Arts, Poetry, Drama (living room)
		Green & Blue	Fiction (living room)

Oversize books are shelved together on the west wall, immediately below the books on Earthcare (double black tape) and social concerns (double blue). These books are indicated in the catalogs by an “OS” next to the subject color.



Bipolar Flames, 2019, courtesy of Hue Lieu Huynh

AMONG FRIENDS

The Readings Series of The Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle

All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom.
Email cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com for Zoom link.

May 22, 2024 Featured Readers:

Khaled Juma'a and Yousef el Qedra



Khaled Juma'a was born in Rafah and raised in a Palestinian refugee camp. His 29 publications cover the genres of poetry, prose poetry, short stories, children's stories, TV sketches, plays and over 100 songs. He has held several editorial positions including Head of the Cultural Department in Palestine News and Information Agency (WAFA). A bilingual reading.

Yousef el Qedra, a poet, novelist, and playwright living in Gaza, expresses the emotional effects of residing in the occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly during the aftermath of Operation Cast Lead (2009), which presaged the current war. He will read his poems in Arabic, matched by Edward Morin and Yasmin Snounu's co-translations in English.

7:00–8:45 P.M. • Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Featured readers are followed by Open Mic reading • FREE • All writers welcome • Read your own or other favorite poetry. • Sign up begins 6:45 p.m. • Poetry Series readings every fourth Wednesday hosted by David Jibson, Edward Morin & Lissa Perrin. See our blog at <https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>

For further information contact Edward Morin: (734) 668-7523

Phil Volk and Bill Riccobono facilitate an online **"Bible Hour"** on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., lasting 45–60 minutes. Discussion of short, selected verses is guided by sharing replies to five questions: "What is the author's main point? Do I find any new light within the verses?" Etc. Questions Ask [Phil](#) or [Bill](#), who are in the Meeting Directory. <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom>.

AAFM invests some of its reserves in the [Friends Fiduciary Corporation's](#) (FFC) investment funds. FFC is holding its **annual investors meeting** on **May 14**, from 12:00–2:00. The program will include an introduction to the new CEO, Ethan Birchard, key updates on FFC's work, and a panel discussion on **"Artificial Intelligence: Risks and Opportunities."** Register to attend by Zoom at [FFC Investors](#). For more information call FFC at (215) 241-7272; or email at info@friendsfiduciary.org.

The **"Final Friday lunches"** continue this month, hosted by Susan Hartman. All Friends are invited to stop by any time between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for a simple lunch and unprogrammed fellowship and conversation. This month's lunch is on Friday, **May 31**, at Susan's home at 840 Starwick. No need to RSVP, but you can direct questions to Susan at (734) 623-8255. We look forward to seeing you then.

The Community Farm of Ann Arbor is a cooperatively run organic farm in the Chelsea area. It is the oldest community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm in Michigan — they've been growing fresh, healthy organic vegetables and fruit for over thirty years! For those of you who know Isabelle Yingling, who was a member of our Meeting for many years, she used to own the farm. She generously put the land in the hands of Legacy Land Trust for perpetual use by the Community Farm.



The Community Farm of Ann Arbor has a new donation program to provide its fresh, organic produce to local low-income and unhoused people. They welcome donations in any amount. (The cost of an annual share is \$500-1,000 on a sliding scale, but even a small donation toward this cost would be helpful!) Friends can also [purchase a CSA share](#) for themselves if interested. For more information, there are flyers in the lobby or you can visit the Farm's website, <https://www.communityfarmofannarbor.com>, or contact Layla Ananda at layla.ananda@gmail.com or (734) 646-7405 or Jan Wright (see Meeting directory). Donations and share purchases can be made online at the above website or by check to The Community Farm of Ann Arbor, PO Box 8353, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8353

World Updates:

News from AFSC:

Provided by John Deikis, AFSC Liaison

After more than six months of bombardment and displacement in Gaza, the hardship faced by children and families is devastating. Most hospitals are closed. Most homes, buildings, and infrastructure have been destroyed. All of Gaza's 2.3 million people urgently need food, water, medical supplies, fuel, and other essentials.

The AFSC team has provided life-saving aid to more than 540,000 displaced people, in close partnership with other relief groups. They have also engaged nearly 18,000 children in fun activities – including a recent soccer tournament.

AFSC staffer Firas Ramlawi recently wrote “Every aid delivery, every medical intervention, and every act of compassion brings hope to individuals and families struggling to survive.” So does your advocacy.

With the U.S. supplying so many of the weapons being used in Gaza, it is especially important to keep speaking out.

PIAG Updates:

Bisan Owda, a young Gazan journalist posted a [message to Instagram](#) explaining just what the students' demonstrations across the U.S. mean to people in Gaza.

I've lived my whole life in Gaza Strip and I've never felt hope like now. For the first time in our lives as Palestinians, we hear a voice louder than their voices and the sound of their bombs... It's children and youth who are leading the movement now for a free Palestine, putting everything they have on the line to demand justice, an end to the genocide, and a new era of the world.

Missive from PIAG:

How can we honor the urgent need to stop the slaughter in Palestine while also honoring the generational fear that Jews have always known (not understood by many youth)? Protecting one does not mean killing or hating the other, only their behavior. End to arm sales, bilateral ceasefire, humanitarian aid (UNWRA), return of hostages and prisoners alike, negotiations for a final settlement — so critical, but how unless we are allowed to know 'the other'?

Current Events:

- The *New York Times* has collected [writings from several journalists](#) on the current situation in Gaza, reporting from several fronts, as Netanyahu pledges a ground invasion of Rafah regardless of ongoing ceasefire initiatives.
- Piers Morgan interviewed NHS surgeon Dr. Junaid Sultan on [his experiences while providing health care](#) at the “last remaining functional hospital in Gaza” (Gaza European Hospital). Dr. Sultan shares details on the state of the wounded, and the realities that the lack of proper medical goods and humanitarian aid forces upon the doctors and the afflicted.

- *The New Republic's* Alex Shephard shares a piece on the media's misleading reportage on campus demonstrations and encampments: [The Media's Shameful Coverage of the College Antiwar Protests](#).
- [CommonDreams.org](#) has released some noteworthy articles recently:
 - ['Damning' Independent Probe Finds Israel Has Yet to Provide Evidence Against UNRWA](#)
 - [People of Gaza Thank US Students Demanding End to Israeli Bombardment](#)
- [Mondoweiss](#) recently shared a report on [Israel's violations of international law](#).
- Rania Khalek from [BreakThrough News](#) speaks at the World Gathering for a Social Alternative in Venezuela on the situation in Israel-Palestine: "[What Happens in Palestine Won't Stay There](#)":



- Democracy Now! shared an interview focused on the recent [blocking of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla](#) that labored to bring humanitarian relief to the civilians of Gaza.



LARGER CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Non-theist Forum

May 2, 2:00 | Zoom

[Nontheist Friends' Network](#) will introduce a concern around “Doubt” introduced by Catherine Carr. May 2, at 2:00 via Zoom. Email clerk@nontheist-quakers.org.uk for Zoom link.

An Invitation to Quaker Eldering

Takes place over three consecutive Saturdays:

May 11, 18, & 25, 12:00–5:00 p.m. | [Online](#) from POWELL HOUSE, NYYM

The heart and soul of Quaker eldering is multi-faceted, including spiritual formation, nurture, accompaniment, accountability, and more. While the definition of Quaker eldering can be elusive, this ministry, discipline, and grace contributes greatly to vital faith communities. In this experiential workshop, we will explore the gifts of elders, playing with the many facets of eldering as a spiritual gift. This workshop will integrate material from the book, “Invitation to Quaker Eldering”, which Elaine and Mary Kay co-authored. We welcome to this workshop all who are curious about what it means to be a Quaker elder today, and those who would like to encourage this ministry in the meeting. [Registration](#) is for all three sessions as they are part of a series and guests should plan to attend each.

FGC: Meeting for Worship for Newcomers and Seekers

May 13, 6:30–7:30 p.m. | Zoom

Spiritual Deepening’s [Worship for Newcomers](#) aims to support Friends and seekers new to Quakerism. This program will introduce Newcomers to Quaker worship practices as well as allow them to ask questions and reflect on their experiences as they flow through their journey in worship spaces with Friends from the seasoned to the seeking. [Register here.](#)

Spirit Singing

May 13, 7:00–9:00 p.m. | [Michigan Friends Center](#)

Donations joyfully accepted.

Let that still small voice inside you rise up singing.

Weave your voice with others for the joy of it.

We will teach each other simple songs and chants that give voice to our spirits.

All are welcome.

There is no charge for the event, but whenever you can make a small contribution to the upkeep of MFC it will be appreciated.

Quakerism 101

May 16, 7:00–8:30 p.m. | Zoom

LEYM’s [Quakerism 101 Series](#) continues in May. Join Friends online as members of Red Cedar Meeting present a session on “**Quakers in Service to the Wider World.**” This session will be focused on how Quakers extend the practice of our testimonies — particularly those of peace, equality, community, and stewardship — to society at large, both within the US and internationally. Jamie Archer, Pat Grauer, and Susan Waltz will talk about their experiences working with three Quaker organizations carrying out such work: the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the

Quaker United Nations Office. Each Friend will speak briefly about the mission and past and current work done by the organization and how and why they personally got involved. Finally, they'll tell you how you too can get involved and answer any questions. Get the PDF [event flyer here](#).

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/quaker101>

Meeting ID: 876 3794 4768 Passcode: 84448

Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 Passcode: 84448

For details, visit <https://leym.org/quakerism-101>.

Botanical Treasures of Friends Lake with Amanda Klain

May 18, 2:00 | [Michigan Friends Center](#)

Join us for a slide presentation showcasing the diversity of plants and natural communities found at Friends Lake Cooperative Community followed by a plant walk where we can make our own discoveries. The focus will be on the native plant species found in the woodlands and wetlands of the property.

Amanda says: "What began in 1995 as a piqued interest in herbs, has developed into a passionate lifetime dedication to all plants, in a diversity of ways, with a particular focus on preserving native species. I have been working professionally with the Michigan flora since 2006, with extensive knowledge in plant identification, native plant propagation, seed collecting, botanical surveying, herbarium work and more."



Lake Erie Yearly Meeting: June 13–16

June 13–16 at Ashland University; Ashland, OH | <https://leym.org/annual/>

Quakers affiliated with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gather annually for fellowship, worship, business and to see how the spirit moves among us.

Reminder: The **registration deadline for the Annual Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting** is Friday, **May 10**; [registration is totally online](#). You can register to attend in-person, or [request Zoom access](#). The Meeting is on the theme "Friends Together: Outpourings of the Spirit." The plenary speaker is singer/songwriter Paulette Meier, who is known for her collections of Quaker chants and her children's peacemaking music. Details are available at <https://leym.org/annual/>, in the [Spring LEYM Bulletin](#).

LEYM Annual Meeting Events Schedule:

Annual Meeting Schedule of Activities

	Thursday, June 13	Friday, June 14	Saturday, June 15	Sunday, June 16	
7 AM	 <p>LEYM 2024</p>	Early Worship 6:45 - 7:30 am	Early Worship 6:45 - 7:30 am	Early Worship 6:45 - 7:30 am	
8 AM		BREAKFAST 7:30 - 8:30 am	BREAKFAST 7:30 - 8:30 am	BREAKFAST 7:30 - 8:30 am	
9 AM		Worship Sharing 8:30 - 9:15 am	Worship Sharing 8:30 - 9:15 am	MFW w Attention to Business 8:45 am - 10:30 am	
10 AM		Bible Study 9:30 - 10:15 am	Bible Study 9:30 - 10:15 am		
11 AM		MFW w Attention to Business 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Workshops (Session 2) 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Meeting for Worship 10:30 am - 11:30 am	
12 PM		LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 pm	
1 PM	<p>Registration and Check-in 12:30 - 6:30 pm</p> <p>CONVOCATION CENTER LOBBY</p>	MFW w Attention to Business 1:15 - 3:15 pm	MFW w Attention to Business 1:15 - 3:15 pm	Executive Committee 1:30 - 2:30 pm	
2 PM		Executive Committee 1:30 - 3:00 pm	Workshops (Session 1) 3:30 - 5:00 pm	Workshops (Session 3) 3:30 - 5:00 pm	
3 PM		Open Time for Committee Meetings 3:30 - 5:00 pm	DINNER 5:00 - 6:00 pm	DINNER 5:00 - 6:00 pm	 <p>Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (Quakers)</p> <p>Get additional information at https://leym.org/annual</p>
4 PM		DINNER 5:00 - 6:00 pm	Birds of a Feather Social Time 6:00 - 7:15 pm	Book Store Check-out Time 6:00 - 7:30 pm	
5 PM		Birds of a Feather Social Time 6:00 - 7:15 pm	Evening Plenary with Paulette Meier and Joann Neuroth 7:30 - 8:45 pm	George Fox 400 th Birthday Celebration 7:30 - 9:00 pm	
6 PM	Evening Plenary with Paulette Meier and Joann Neuroth 7:30 - 8:45 pm	Evening Collection 9:00 - 9:15 pm	Evening Collection 9:00 - 9:15 pm		
7 PM	Evening Collection 9:00 - 9:15 pm	Night Owl Movie - Quakers: The Quiet Revolutionaries 9:30 - 11:00 pm	Night Owl Movie - Festival of Friends 9:30 - 11:00 pm		
8 PM	Opening Welcome, Roll Call and Evening Collection 7:30 - 9:00 pm				
9 AM					
10 PM					

QUAKER GARDENS

by Hue Lieu Huynh

From: *The Poetic Londoner: Reflections on Global Citizenship (2017)*

<https://www.blurb.com/b/8136592-the-poetic-londoner>

*Serene comes to mind
Quaker Gardens find
West of Bunhill Fields
Silent worship yields*

*“Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,
And remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible, without surrender,
Be on good terms with all persons.*

*“Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
And listen to others,
Even to the dull and the ignorant;
They too have their story.” **

*George Fox’s headstone
Rests alone
Caretaker’s home
Survived bomb*

*Quakers carry no creed
Witness to living Truth, indeed
Peace, simplicity, integrity,
Equality, earthcare, community*

*I come from faraway
Seeking answers today
Traveled long way
Turmoil of yesterday*

** From "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann (1927)*

First Day School Tween Bio Poem:

*Alex, Ramona, Amera
Smart, Creative, Kind
Owner of Oscar, friend of Arra and Elena, friend of his fuzzy buddy
Who have felt hate, love of cats, and sadness
Who fear school, climate change, and her cat
Who 98 percented Kirby, got linked by her cat, and is a straight-A student
Who wants to teleport, go to Cedar Point, and be snuggled by her cat
Residents of the Milky Way
Bachelor, Kim, Merrick*

Book Recommendations & Message from Phil Volk:

An enjoyable historical read on the Great Lakes Native tribes before and after European colonization is [Masters of Empire](#) by Michael McConnell. It offers an understanding of the cultural richness of, and differences between the Great Lakes and other North American tribes.

Phil also recommends [Fire Keeper's Daughter](#) by Angeline Boulley to better grasp the Michigan Indigenous community's present-day life and struggles.

From a talk by Phil Volk, Member of Washtenaw Interface Roundtable:

...During this complicated time within our community, we must hold to our common values.

As in the Bible statement "the light of God is in everyone". With growing antisemitism within our community, we must make a personal commitment, to bring God's love to everyone. We must do this individually and as a community. We must start our work by showing love toward our Jewish brothers and sisters at a very local level...

I ask how to do this at our Meeting's level.