RADICAL LOVE

Radical love can take many forms, from advocacy to civil disobedience to outreach. I’ve long appreciated the courageous, faithful work of Greenpeace activists and was pleased to find a Quaker connection.

“...activists Jim and Marie Bohlen had met a Quaker couple, Irving and Dorothy Stowe, at an anti-war march in 1967. They found shared interests in the peace movement and... environmental battles. Irving introduced the Bohlen’s to the Quaker belief in ‘bearing witness’ as a form of peaceful protest and registering opposition with one’s presence.

“In 1970 together with a law student and expert sailor... Jim and Irving formed the Don’t Make a Wave Committee with the sole purpose of stopping the Amchitka (island off Alaska’s coast) nuclear blast. Inspired by Quakers who tried to sail a ship in the South Pacific to stop atmospheric testing of H-bombs in the late 1950’s, Marie suggested... [a similar action].

“Leaving one of those heady first meetings, Irving flashed the peace sign, as was his custom, and said ‘Peace’. [An ecologist added] ‘Make it a green peace’. And Greenpeace was born.” (excerpted from Compass, Winter 2021)

The trip itself was seemingly a failure as the boat was intercepted by the US Coast Guard before reaching its destination.

RADICAL LOVE

The nuclear test still occurred, but future tests were cancelled due to the resulting public interest with the island becoming a bird sanctuary.

Radical love is an act of faith; we may not see the fruits of our action. How are you or someone you know called to radical love?

-Deborah Jordan

ADVICE IN THIS TRYING TIME

“Friends are reminded that our Religious Society took form in times of disturbance, and that its continuing testimony has been the power of God to lead men and women out of the confusions of outward violence, inward sickness, and all other forms of self-will, however upheld by social convention. As death comes to our willfulness, a new life is formed in us, so that we are liberated from distractions and frustrations, from fears, angers, and guilts. Thus, we are enabled to sense the Inward Light and to follow its leadings. Friends are advised to place God, not themselves, in the center of the universe and, in all aspects of inward life and outward activity, to keep themselves open to the healing power of the Spirit of Christ”.

From the first Advice in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Faith & Practice, 2017

QUERIES FOR SECOND MONTH

What does worship mean to me, and how do I worship? How does our meeting worship as a community?

-OVYM Faith and Practice

What person or what group of people have I fostered a hateful or judgmental attitude toward? (Readings: Matthew 7:1-5,12, I John 2:9-10)

In what way are my attitudes and actions motivated by a lust for greed or personal power? (Readings: James 4:1-3, II Timothy 3:1-9)

Whose rights have I wantonly stolen or needs have I wantonly dismissed in favor of my own rights and needs? (Readings: Matthew 25:34-46, I John 3:17)

What unbridled, careless, and caustic words have I spoken that have hurt others and stirred up division? (Readings: Matthew 12:36, James 1:26-27, 3:3-12)

-FallCreekAbbey.org, Thursday, January 7, 2021
Do you know the long history of Friends education in this country? The April 2020 issue of *Friends Journal* has a nice article on the 76 Friends schools in the US. In addition to monthly and yearly meeting support of schools, two organizations help in sustaining Friendly principles at these institutions. **Friends Council on Education (FCE)** assists Friends schools, pre-K thru 12, and **Friends Association of Higher Education (FAHE)** works to strengthen the Quaker mission in higher education. By lending support to the Quaker ideal of integrating spiritual commitment, academic excellence, and social responsibility, they promote Friends’ values in the schools and beyond.

Community Friends Meeting has many members who are graduates of a Quaker school. A few of them are:

- **Wilhelmina Branson**—George School
- **Paul Buckley**—Earlham School of Religion
- **Eric Wolff**—Earlham College
- **Erin Bagus Phillips**—Haverford College
- **Lisa Cayard**—Olney Friends School
- **David Funck**—Guilford College

**Contemplative Retreat**

Another Quaker school of a unique type is The School of the Spirit. Begun in 1991 under the care of Philadelphia YM, it provides Friends an opportunity for study, prayer, and transformation. A two-year program called *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* was the first major program it offered, and the School now also offers contemplative retreats and occasional one-year programs.

Coming up in the spring of 2021 and led by former Community Friends Meeting member, Roger Hansen, along with April Allison, is their next contemplative retreat. This retreat is open to all.

**Wisconsin Retreat, April 8-11, 2021**

*All Shall Be Well: Contemplation in an Age of Crisis.*

A Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends at the Siena Retreat Center, Racine, Wisconsin

[Schoolofthespirit.org](http://Schoolofthespirit.org)

**Dates and Times**

**Jan 21** “How the Spirit is moving” worship sharing—10:30 am via Zoom, email bucklpa@earlham.edu

**Jan 24** Quakers: the Quiet Revolutionaries Part 2—11:45 via Zoom, John S.

**Jan 28** FCNL mtg. with Rep. Chabot, 2:00 pm, via Zoom, contact Mary Anne

**Jan 28** How to Be An Anti-racist Book group—7:30 via Zoom, Pam and Tim leading

**Jan 30** Intro to Quakerism”—8:30 am via Zoom, bucklpa@earlham.edu

**Jan 31** Reflections from newer attenders—11:45 via Zoom, Adult Rel Ed

**Feb 7** Potluck and small group chats, 11:30 via Zoom, Community Comm

**Feb 14** Meeting for Business, 11:45 via Zoom, All are invited

**Feb 21** Miami Qrtly Mtg, worship at 10:00, then prog/business, via Zoom, CFM hosting

**Feb 28** Faithful Living in DesperateTimes—11:45 via Zoom, Paul Buckley
Eating as a Moral Act

In 2009 our Meeting adopted the minute “Seeking Right Relationship with Food and Land”. We affirmed that since the world-wide industrial food system is a large part of the ecological crisis, we were morally motivated to move toward sustainably grown food. That includes learning where our food comes from and how it is grown. Perhaps the most important part of being sustainable is that food be locally grown, to avoid the transportation, refrigeration and other processes that burn fossil fuels.

Several local farmers markets remain open during the winter. Most of these sell from local growers, some of whom also grow organically (without chemical herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers, while also preserving and building topsoil). Markets closest to Meeting that are open all winter include: Northside, Madeira, Hyde Park Winter Market and Covington. Findlay Market also has locally grown food in their “farm shed”.

Visit the Central Ohio River Valley Food Guide (supported by our meeting) for websites of the farmers markets.

-Bill Cahalan for Unity with Nature

Tender Mercies

Would you like to help feed our neighbors at Tender Mercies? A group of 6-8 people from Community Friends have been maintaining a ministry since 2003, providing a once monthly dinner for 40 adults with mental illness who are homeless and utilize the services at the Tender Mercies location on 12th Street in Over the Rhine. David and Lynn Funck have been coordinating the effort since 2012, arranging an entrée, salad, drinks, bread and dessert for this needy population. Your help would be most welcome, either one time, or multiple times. Our designated day each month is the 3rd Thursday, from 6-7 pm. You would contact David 1-2 weeks ahead of the date to discuss what you will contribute to the meal. On the day, you bring your food to 29 W. 12th St. (has parking lot) and help serve or drop your items inside. Please contact David at (513) 317-8201 cell/text if you are ready to help.

Quakers in the Arts

The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (FQA) states its purpose is “to nurture and showcase the literary, visual, musical, and performing arts within the Religious Society of Friends, for purposes of Quaker expression, ministry, witness, and outreach. To these ends, we will offer spiritual, practical, and financial support as way opens.” Begun in 1993, FQA also publishes a quarterly journal, Types and Shadows, which showcases member’s art. Local chapters are encouraged.

FQAquaker.org

Community Friends Meeting has one such talented Quaker visual artist in our midst—Jennifer Snow.

Wolff—who produced the beautiful wedding certificate highlighted here (with permissions).

Also see local art promoting peace and justice: SOS Art Retrospective Jan 9-Feb 27 at Kennedy Hts Art Center sosartcincinnati.com/
“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently meeting remotely on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for unprogrammed worship, lasting about an hour, followed by announcements and conversation. A second hour program may follow. Please see contact info below on how to join us.

As weather permits, outdoor meeting for worship is held at 4pm Sundays on the meetinghouse lawn, 3960 Winding Way, 45229. We follow safe distancing practices, and wear masks. Join us if you are able to comply with this guidance, and please bring a chair.

Donations to the Meeting may be mailed to the meetinghouse, or:
Community Friends Treasurer, 4 Rowley Court, Cincinnati, OH 45246

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month. Send to: peggy.spohr@sbcglobal.net

For further information about Community Friends Meeting, please leave a message at (513) 861-4353 or visit our website at www.communityfriendsmeeting.org

Community Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
3960 Winding Way
Cincinnati, OH 45229

“One of the crucial aspects of the mystical experience is the recognition of the eternal in the present moment.”

- John R. Yungblut, Discovering God Within 1979

“Intentionally making space to pay attention to the needs of the soul; learning the taste and feel of love in our own lives; and being willing to open the doors of the heart to the reality of compassion for oneself and for others, be they friends or strangers—such inward actions are among the disciplines that prepare the way for prophetic ministry.

-Margery Post Abbott, Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly: Modern Quakers as Everyday Prophets, 2018