A SEASON OF GIVING

Each budget season, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee works diligently to review the organizations that have received donations from Community Friends Meeting in the past year, and consider the level at which the Meeting may want to continue its support with a financial contribution next year. Three organizations were dropped as they are no longer in operation—Quaker Bolivia Link, Friends Music Camp and Gabriel’s Place. Listed below are the groups approved at December Monthly Meeting and the dollar amounts that will be part of our 2021 budget. Please consider these commitments as you make your own financial contributions to CFM:

**Quaker Organizations**

1. AFSC ($100)
2. Earlham College ($100)
3. FCNL ($200)
4. FGC ($3,000)
5. Friends Journal ($300)
6. FWCC ($100)
7. OVYM ($7,380)
8. Olney Friends School ($150)
9. Pendle Hill ($100)
10. Quaker Earthcare Witness ($150)
11. Quaker House Ft. Bragg ($100)
12. RSWR ($150)
13. Wilmington College ($100)

**Local Organizations**

1. Drop Inn Shelterhouse ($100)
2. Freestore ($300)
3. Intercomm. Justice and Peace Ctr ($100)
4. MARCC ($650)

**Other**

1. Ctr for Dev in Central America ($75)

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

On Dec 20, the Religious Development Committee will host a variety show for our Meeting’s Christmas festivities. Children AND adults are encouraged to participate by sharing their “talent” with the Meeting. Suggestions include poetry, holiday songs or stories, instrumental music, animations, face painting, magic tricks, dress ups and maybe a bit of the old soft shoe dancing. The kids may even enjoy sharing their favorite toys. The important consideration is that your sharing translates well in our Zoom format, and is less than 5 minutes long.

If you or a loved one would like to be on the program, contact Jim Rhein at: rheinj@gmail.com

**QUERIES FOR FIRST MONTH:**

*What is Quakerism or the Quaker way? What does that mean to me? What marks our meeting as Quaker?*

-OVYM Faith and Practice
**FRIENDS ARE READING**

*Soul Full of Coal Dust* - *A Fight for Breath and Justice in Appalachia* by Chris Hamby. It is a story of environmental injustice, Black Lung Disease, the efforts to eliminate it and the resistance by the coal industry.

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*Across That Bridge* by John Lewis. He writes of growing up in the cotton fields of Alabama never imagining he would one day be a Congressman. He stresses the importance of patience and perseverance in our struggle for justice and peace for everyone.

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*Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and WWII* by Robert Matzen. An eye-opening look into her life as a teenager in the Netherlands during WW2. She worked in the resistance and helped save the lives of Jews who were in hiding, at great risk of her own life.

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*Healing Breath: Zen for Christians and Buddhists in a Wounded World* by Ruben Habito. A wonderful introduction to the transformative potential -- personal, social, ecological -- of silence and meditative practice.

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**HOUSE AND GROUNDS**

The meetinghouse has been used much less this year, yet our caretakers, House and Grounds Committee, and Unity With Nature have been working to keep everything in shape. Built in 1910 and settled on a 4.94 acre wooded property, there is always basic maintenance and repair needed. Examples include: a leak in the caretaker’s apartment was fixed, pest abatement was implemented, and a few trees that threatened neighboring properties were managed by a professional arborist. The lawns have been regularly mowed, fruit trees and shrubs were mulched and pruned, and invasive porcelain berry vines in the woods pulled.

Due to Covid restrictions, group work days for the Meeting have stalled. But individuals who might like to do some work outside the meetinghouse during the pandemic can contact the caretakers or Eric Wolf to learn what you might do to help.

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**DATES AND TIMES**

Second hours and other meeting events to note:

**Dec 20** Christmas variety show for children and adults—11:45 via Zoom, Religious Development

**Dec 27** No 2nd hour

**Dec 31** New Year’s Eve Candlelight Meeting for Worship—11pm to midnight via Zoom, Paul Buckley

**Dec 31**—OVYM survey on radical love is due: https://bit.ly/OVYM2021_RadicalLoveStories

**Jan 3** Meeting potluck and small group chats—11:30 via Zoom, Community Committee

**Jan 10** Business Meeting 11:45 on Zoom, All invited

**Jan 17** Quakers: the Quiet Revolutionaries Part 1 (we’ll view together then discuss) - 11:45 via Zoom, John Sneigocki

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

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

On **Saturday, March 27, 2021**, the OVYM Religious Nurture and Education Committee will sponsor a retreat for all in the YM who are interested. In years past, these retreats have been well-attended and held at Quaker Hill in Richmond, IN. This year it will be a virtual offering. Our own **Rachel Ernst Stalhut** will lead the program that day, and she offers the following glimpse into the topic:

**Weaving a Wider Welcome**

Do our meetings truly reflect all the faces of God among our members and attenders? FGC has heard from many Quakers that the answer to that question is often no. We have heard that many meetings wonder why their newcomers stop coming after a few visits--especially LGBTQ folks, families with young children and People of Color. In this workshop, we will explore how newcomers experience welcome, mistakes meetings make with newcomers, and what approaches to welcoming have worked in meetings.

Stay tuned for registration information, and mark your calendars for this important opportunity to be with YM Friends.

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**MUSIC FOR THE SOUL**

Member **Paulette Meier** has created a new recording as part of her music ministry supported by the Meeting. These chants were primarily composed in conjunction with two "Quaker Wisdom Schools" held in 2017 and 2019 at Pendle Hill, a Quaker retreat center near Philadelphia. Marcelle Martin, a Quaker educator, joined Paulette and contemplative Christian author and leader Cynthia Bourgeault in co-leading the sessions. Paulette created new chants based in large part on the inspiring texts that Marcelle selected for her teachings on Quaker spirituality.

Please visit Paulette’s website for information on how to obtain a copy of the CD, and for more information on her work with music.

Her latest **Pendle Hill workshop** is:

**Chanting as a Communal Spiritual Practice for Friends**

Jan 8-10, 2021

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

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**WINTER SOLSTICE**

The winter solstice occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 12 noon, marking the sun’s southernmost point. This year it will occur at 10:02 am on **Dec 21** at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England where the prime meridian (longitude=zero degrees) is located [5:02 am Ohio].

In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night occur on the winter solstice. The reason for this is due to the tilt of the Earth’s axis (23.5 degrees from vertical) and the elliptical motion of the Earth’s orbit. Due to this, the angle of the sun above the horizon is smallest, resulting in daylight hours being shortest (about 9h 16m). In New York City sunrise occurs at 7:16 am and sets at 4:32 pm, so it will occur in Cincinnati slightly later [up at 7:54 am and set at 5:19 pm].

-Frank Huss
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](http://www.communityfriendsmeeting.org)

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“This is our call and our challenge, individually and together: to listen to that Inner Light, to keep close to what it shows us, and to come into obedience to its guidance—as a gathered body.”

-Marty Grundy, *A Call to Friends, Faithful Living in Desperate Times*, 2020

"Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything, and sink down to the seed, which God sows in thy heart, and let that be in thee and grow in thee and breathe in thee and act in thee, and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and own that, and will lead it to the inheritance of life, which is God's portion."

-Isaac Penington, 1681

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