Many Quakers know that the American Friends Service Committee won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947. But did you know a Quaker sociologist named Emily Greene Balch won it the previous year (1946)?

Balch’s early career involved settlement houses and labor activism supporting female workers. She later took a job teaching economics and political science at Wellesley, while continuing her advocacy for things such as the country’s first minimum wage law. As the US became entangled in the first World War, Balch was outspoken in her pacifism and lost her job at Wellesley due to her stance. Throughout her career, Balch took an interest in immigrants and those living under occupation, writing sympathetically about immigrants and reporting on occupied Haiti. When the second World War arose, Balch struggled with pacifism but maintained her organizational involvement with peacemaking organizations and advocated for persecuted European Jews and interned Japanese Americans.

Balch’s papers are housed at the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1946/balch/facts/

Emily Greene Balch

A QUAKER WOMAN YOU SHOULD KNOW
SECOND IN A SERIES OF LESSER KNOWN QUAKER WOMEN BY EIRA TANSEY

ON HER WAY

Cecilia Branson is graduating from high school this year. She first attended Clark Montessori and then Virtual/Digital Academy where she completed high school courses and took college courses at Cincinnati State. She will attend Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing Michigan in the fall and major in criminal justice and/or International Studies. She will attend James Madison College which is a public affairs college within MSU.

We join the Branson family—mom Hannah, sister Elana, and grandma Wilhelmina—in congratulating Cecilia and embracing her with love as she takes this next step in her journey. Godspeed, Cecilia.

COMMUNITY COMPANION

JUNE 2021

QUERIES FOR SIXTH MONTH:

How do I seek to act with integrity? How do I follow the ever-opening pathway of Truth?

How does my meeting help me to be faithful?

-OVYM Faith and Practice

“How do I seek to act with integrity? How do I follow the ever-opening pathway of Truth?”

- H. Larry Ingle

Chattanooga Friends Meeting, 1982

“Do all aspects of your life bear the same witness?”

-OVYM Faith and Practice

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HAVE YOU READ THESE QUAKER CLASSICS?

1. Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition, Michael Birkel
2. Four Doors to Meeting for Worship, Bill Taber
3. Mothers of Feminism, Margaret Hope Bacon
4. A Testament of Devotion, Thomas Kelly
5. Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey, Marcelle Martin
6. Quaker Process, Mathilda Navias
8. The Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman, edited by Phillips P. Moulton
10. Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship, Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye
11. Quakers in Conflict: The Hicksite Reformation, H. Larry Ingle
12. Dimensions of Prayer: Cultivating a Relationship with God, Douglas V Steere
13. Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer

INDEPENDENT READING IS ESSENTIAL TO A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE QUAKER FAITH. ALL MEMBERS AND ATTENDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ QUAKER LITERATURE REGULARLY.

ITS ABOUT POWER AND POLICY

Since January, 2021, 9 people from Community Friends Meeting have been reading and discussing together the book How to Be an Anti-racist by Ibram X. Kendi. On May 23, they will host a second-hour reflection on their own insights, questions and struggles. Below is an excerpt from the book (pg. 9) which will help set the stage for those who have not yet read the book.

“What’s the problem with being ‘not racist’? It is a claim that signifies neutrality: ‘I am not a racist, but neither am I aggressively against racism.’ But there is no neutrality in the racism struggle. The opposite of ‘racist’ isn’t ‘not racist.’ It is ‘anti-racist.’ What’s the difference? One endorses the idea of a racial hierarchy as a racist, or racial equality as an anti-racist. One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of problems in power and policies as an anti-racist.”

DATES AND TIMES

May 23 Insights from “How to Be An Anti-racist” In-reach group, 11:45, via Zoom.

May 30 Reflections from attenders: panel, ARE, 11:45 via Zoom

June 6 Outdoor Meeting for Worship 10:00 at the meetinghouse. Please bring a chair and wear a mask. Light breakfast beforehand. Activities for children during worship are planned.

June 13 Business Meeting, 11:45, via Zoom

June 10 Tender Mercies, text David (513) 317-8201

June 14 Quaker Book Group, 10:30, email bucklpa@earlham.edu

June 16-20 OVYM Annual Sessions, www.ovym.org/events/2021-annual-sessions/ to register

June 20 Imagining the Range of Spiritualities, Tim Leonard, 11:45

June 27-July 3 FGC Gathering (no 2nd hour at Community Friends)
NEW LIFE

Christopher and Jazmin Morriss welcomed their child to the world on May 11. All are well, and we send our love and prayers and congratulations to them.

Liz and Brian Virgo’s new baby, Ezra, is pictured here with big sister Maya! Congratulations everyone!

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CONCERNS

As OVYM representative to FLGBTQC, I attended their Mid-winter Gathering in February 2021. By Zoom, there was socializing, interest groups (such as Transgender, gender non-conforming, geographic regions, even pets and crafts), a talent show, a musical performance by Diedre McCalla and of course, meetings for worship, worship sharing, bible study, and a business meeting.

One gathering was about the history of the group. I learned that it started around 1972, and it orchestrated the first gay/straight dialogue at Friends General Conference (FGC) in 1975. They were the first religious group to show the AIDS quilt. This group has worked for decades toward the goal of LGBTQ acceptance, including acceptance within the Quaker community.

In addition to their Midwinter Gathering, FLGBTQC offers a website, listserv, an online meeting for worship the first Saturday of each month and a presence at the annual FGC Gathering in the summer. These gatherings are open to LGBTQ Friends and their allies.

https://flgbtqc.herokuapp.com/

-Beth Rosen

SIGNING OFF

Serving as editor of the Community Companion these seven months has been a delight for me. You have all been gracious and generous when I came knocking to ask for your contributions on a particular topic, or to help me edit into the template your very thoughtful sharing. I thank you.

Having completed my interim term, it is time for another to take the reins. For those of you who have writing skills (many!) and can stay well-organized (fewer :), I encourage you to consider this enriching position and help the Meeting stay in touch—with one another, and with others who might see your work and find that the Quaker way speaks to their condition. Contact Sue Brungs of Nominating Committee if you feel so led.

God willing, Paul and I will move to a Friends community in the months ahead, so I am signing off with this issue. Be well, dear Friends. -Peggy

Matthew 5:16
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our Sunday morning worship is in transition. We have been meeting via Zoom at 10:00 for unprogrammed worship, lasting about an hour, followed by announcements and conversation. A second hour program may follow.

On June 6, 2021, we are having outdoor worship at 10:00 at the meetinghouse, 3960 Winding Way, 45229. We will follow safe distancing practices, and wear masks. Join us if you are able to comply with this guidance, and please bring a chair.

Subsequent Sundays are under consideration by an appointed committee, and plans will be announced by email to those on our mailing list. If you are not on the email list and would like to be added, please visit our website.

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

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