QUAKER WOMEN: A SERIES  BY EIRA TANSEY

Ursula Franklin is best known as a scientist, and her selection as the 1989 Massey Lectures speaker brought her work to a large audience. The Massey Lectures is an annual Canadian event in which one person gives a five-part lecture series and has included speakers such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Doris Lessing. Franklin’s 1989 series, “The Real World of Technology”, explored the often-hidden consequences of technology on human rights, the environment, and labor.

Franklin’s fascinating take on technology was shaped by an equally fascinating life story. Born in 1921 in Germany to a Jewish mother and Protestant father, she was expelled from her university education by the Nazis. After the Holocaust she returned to Berlin to continue her education, then moved to Toronto and married her husband (Fred Franklin). In 1952 they joined the Religious Society of Friends. Ursula Franklin had a long career at the University of Toronto and became the first female professor to receive the University’s highest rank. She contributed to the study of technology’s impact, including participation in the “Baby Tooth Survey” which established the role of nuclear testing fallout accumulation in the human body.

Like many Quakers, Franklin maintained a commitment to social justice. She was an active member of Voice of Women (a Canadian women’s anti-nuclear peace group) and was part of a lawsuit seeking equal pay for female faculty members at the University of Toronto.


WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT

In 1981, I was crossing a footbridge on the University of Michigan campus where I was a graduate student, and heard a local professor say to a visitor from Egypt, “Sir, we have a new president.” It was the morning after the inauguration of Ronald Reagan, and it was spoken with great joy and pride. Hearing him was an awakening for me, as I had not given politics much thought to that point. It was indeed a remarkable thing, the peaceful transfer of power. And though I would soon be joining Quakers to protest the nuclear policies of the new administration, I did so on the foundation of the freedoms of democracy.

-Peggy

COMMUNITY COMPANION

MARCH 2021

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
CINCINNATI, OHIO
MEMBER OF OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

QUERIES FOR THIRD MONTH:

What helps me seek Divine guidance in business meeting?

How does our meeting seek and follow the group’s spiritual discernment in our meetings for business?

-OVYM Faith and Practice
WHAT IS AN ELDER?

According to OVYM’s new Faith & Practice, an elder is “an individual who fosters ministry in meeting for worship, the spiritual life of the meeting, and of the individuals in it”. It is an older term among Friends, from a time when ministers and elders were named in a monthly meeting. Marjorie Larrabee wrote in her 2007 pamphlet on spirit-led eldering, “It is offering spiritual leadership, which is to support and encourage the life of the Spirit in an individual or group, or to raise questions and explore, with another person or group, ways in which they may be more faithful to the Spirit, or it is simply being prayerfully present.”

Another take on the word “elder” is in reference to the aged in our meetings. Community Friends Meeting is fortunate to have as active members, two who are this year 90 years old or more: Evie Hoffman and Don Rucknagel. And we have three active members who are in their 80’s; Wilhelmina Branson, Frank Huss, and Tim Leonard. Consider the depth of their life experiences and the value that brings to our worship and to the life of our community. Thank you, dear Friends.

AGING WITH PEACE

In 2013, Eugenia Mills and Jean Crocker-Lakness offered a series of workshops on aging for Community Friends. This motivated many of us to get busy and draw up end-of-life documents and consider the meaning of our elder years. Another resource providing a wealth of clear information, advice, and queries on aging for Friends is the website Quakeragingresources.org. Below is the introduction to a section called Aging with Peace. “Growing old, even when that means facing physical or other changes, can help us focus on what is essential. As we age, our perspective on what has meaning is refined. When we slow down, whether because of physical changes or by choice, we often become more contemplative. We may want to share memories and stories, to forgive or be forgiven, to express gratitude, to focus on our most essential values. Older adulthood offers the opportunity to model peace.”

DATES AND TIMES

Feb 17 Monthly worship sharing—10:30 am via Zoom, email Paul at bucklpa@earlham.edu
Feb 21 Miami Qrtly Mtg, worship at 10:00, then prog/business, via Zoom, CFM hosting
Feb 28 Faithful Living in Desperate Times—11:45 via Zoom, Paul Buckley
Mar 7 Meeting potluck and small group chats—11:30 via Zoom, Community Committee
Mar 8 Quaker Book Group, 10:30 am via Zoom, email Paul to join bucklpa@earlham.edu
Mar 11 Tender Mercies, text David (513) 317-8201
Mar 14 Business Meeting 11:45 on Zoom, All invited
Mar 21 “Remembering Old Friends (past members of CFM), 11:45 via Zoom, Sunny and Jim Rhein
Mar 26 & 27 “Weaving a Wider Welcome”, OVYM Retreat, registr. info soon
Mar 28 Spiritual Journey, 11:45 via Zoom, Paulette Meier
On Nov 9, 2020, Eira Tansey was interviewed on the podcast of the Council on Library and Information Resources called “Material Memory.” She, along with a colleague, Ben Goldman, shared from their research that 98.8% of American archives are likely to encounter at least one climate risk factor by the year 2100. These include risks to archives such as sea level rise, temperature changes, and increased rain. Friends are encouraged to listen to the 23 minute recording at https://material-memory.clir.org/2020/11/09/archivists-against-the-climate-crisis/. The impact of climate change on archives is one of Eira’s main research areas as a faculty librarian at the University of Cincinnati. Community Friends Meeting records are maintained at the meetinghouse for current use, and then at the Wilmington College Watson Library Quaker Collection for permanent safekeeping along with records from all OVYM meetings. Swarthmore College near Philadelphia is where many famous American Quaker source documents are housed. Are Quaker archives at risk? Laura and Larry Buffam recently celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary. We congratulate them and look forward to their return when circumstances permit. John David has made additions to our library online catalog. Check it out! https://cfmlibrary.us.to/

My love for trees started when I was very young. An old apple tree in our back yard had a swing that could take you all the way to fairy land. It had fruit that was tart if you were impatient or sweet if you gave it time. It had branches to climb, birds to watch and bees to make honey.

Now that I’m not so young I know there are many more reasons to love trees. Trees provide us with oxygen, they sequester carbon, they cool us, they feed us, and provide homes to thousands of birds, insects and mammals. Trees hold moisture helping to stabilize the weather, and of course they provide wood. CFM’s Unity with Nature Committee added fruit trees to the front lawn 2 years ago, and the Something Green in-reach group collected funds to plant a sassafras tree at the Walnut Hills reforestation project near the meetinghouse.

I’m forever grateful to the person who planted the Apple tree I loved as a child. Spring is nearly here, the perfect time to Think Green - Plant a Tree! One day someone may be thankful that your tree was there for them to enjoy.

-Sue Brungs

David has a new email: dfunck1@gmail.com
Evie Hoffman turns 90 this month! We celebrate her with joy and gratitude.

Friends Music Camp does still exist, but is on hold while Earlham College is not hosting groups due to the pandemic, per OVYM FMC committee.

Deborah Jordan shared this from the recent “Front Porch” OVYM event on Loneliness: “A quote from Douglas Steere reminded us that listening is one of the most important gifts we can give each other”. Please reach out to others who might feel isolated and lonely; and reach out if you need to talk to someone.
"I have lived most of my life near a large body of water and early thought of God as being like an ocean—vast, constantly in motion, at times calm and supportive, at times wild and destructive. When I read George Fox’s passage about the two oceans, it accorded with my own experience: "I saw, also, that there was an ocean of darkness and death; but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. In that also I saw the infinite love of God…" -Elizabeth Watson, 1977

“Moving between us and through us, we sense a calling from which we can’t turn away, one that seeks the transformation and restoration of this world. In listening, we sense that this path of personal and collective transformation is not only our solemn obedience and duty, but also, our highest aspiration.”

-Keith Runyan, 2020
Befriending Creation, Winter

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.sohr@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
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