



Community Companion
Monthly Newsletter of
Community Friends Meeting

September 2018 Volume 24, Issue 9
 Quaker Meeting House
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<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>

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Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.

It is the very purpose of life, not something you do in your spare time.

~ Shirley Chisholm

As the mind was moved by an inward principle to love God as an invisible, incomprehensible Being, by the same principle it was moved to love him in all his manifestations in the visible world. That as by his breath the flame of life was kindled in all animal and sensible creatures, to say we love God as unseen and at the same time to exercise cruelty toward the least creature moving by his life or by life derived from him was a contradiction in itself.

~ John Woolman

Queries for September 2018:

How do I live in harmony with all creation?

How does our meeting community exercise responsible stewardship?

All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**First Days: Singing 9:45 am, Meeting for Worship 10 am,
Second Hour at 11:40 am**

First Sunday of Month: Carry-in Potluck

Community Committee asks that if you bring something that needs to be heated before eating, please attach brief instructions to your container. Also, it's helpful to mention the name & ingredients of the dish - thanks!

We appreciate and encourage locally grown food when possible.

Sep 2- Sun	Carry-in Potluck
Sep 4 - Tues	Bayard Rustin "Brother Outsider" Documentary & Panel Discussion with Shannon Isaacs, James Newby and Martha Viehmann - 6:30pm-9:00pm Harriet Beecher Stowe House https://stowehousecincy.org/visit-the-house.html
Sep 6, 7, 8 & 9	Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream , a choral work written by Steve Milloy, artistic director of the Cincinnati Men's Chorus, will be performed in Dayton, Yellow Springs and Cincinnati. For more information see https://bayardthemanthedream.org/
Sep 9 - Sun	Second Hour: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Sep 11 - Tues	Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) - 6:30 pm
Sep 13 - Thu	Tender Mercies - 2nd Thursday Dinner Contact David or Lynn Funck for more information about contributing food or serving. Holistic Mental Health Network meeting - 7:00 pm
Sep 16 - Sun	Second Hour: TBD
Sep 20 - Thurs	Submissions for the October newsletter due to Elyce - elycefeliz@gmail.com
Sep 23 - Sun	Second Hour: TBD
Sep 29 - Sat	Annual Community Friends Fall Renewal on Saturday, September 29: See page 3
Sep 30 - Sun	Celebration of Community Friends Meetings 50th Anniversary: See page 3

September Birthdays

7 -Sean Ganance, 8-Mary Anne Curtiss, 11-Sam Buffam, 14-Susan Gerke, 14-Alan Wight,
15-Alvin Jose, 18-Richard House, 21-Nevin Cayard-Roberts, 26-Chuck Moore,
30-Sunny Rhein

Fall Renewal and 50th Anniversary Celebration

**REGISTRATION FOR 2018 FALL RENEWAL: Saturday, September 29
Celebrating and Strengthening Spiritual Connections**

Facilitated by Kate Anthony & Jamie Fota

Your name(s): _____

Will you be eating lunch with us? _____

Please return registration to Lisa Cayard or email to lisacayard@embarqmail.com

Tentative Schedule:

- 9:00 -- 9:30 Morning refreshments and welcome
- 9:30 – 12:00 Program facilitated by Kate Anthony & Jamie Fota
- 12:00 - 1:00 Catered lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 Open for conversation, relaxation, reading, walks
- 2:00 – 4:30 Program
- 4:30 – 5:30 Open for conversation, relaxation, reading, walks
- 5:30 -- 6:30 Dinner (leftovers from lunch and potluck)
- 6:30 -- 7:00 Clean up and set up for Coffeehouse
- 7:00 – 9:00 Coffeehouse, Emceed by Jamie Fota

Suggested donation to cover the cost of the catered lunch is \$15 per person. You may bring payment on the day of the renewal. All are welcome, with or without a donation. If you plan to stay for dinner, please bring a light dish or beverage to supplement leftovers.

There will be a sign-up for the Coffeehouse. You are invited to bring musical instruments, poetry, skits, jokes, etc. to share. Cookies or other snacks for the Coffeehouse are also welcome!



Our 50th Anniversary Celebration

RSVP by Sept. 15th to: Deborah Jordan

djordan@fuse.net

(with Anniversary as Subject)

or call 513 251-2558

Please let us know if hospitality is requested for out of town guests.

- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Festivities including some remarks, remembrances, and well wishes
- 12:15 pm Catered Meal (Donations towards meal are appreciated)Á



Stewardship of Our Water

by Eira Tansey, shown being interviewed by Channel 12 (WCPO) at the ORSANCO hearing on July 26, 2018

The Ohio River, from which we draw our drinking water, has long been one of the most polluted rivers in the country. The health of the river is the responsibility of many different state and federal agencies and organizations. One of the most important you may not have heard of is ORSANCO. ORSANCO stands for the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission. ORSANCO is an interstate compact of 8 member states (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia). Each state has 3 commissioners appointed by the governor, plus there are additional federal commissioners. The compact was formed in 1948 to develop pollution control standards for the Ohio River. Pollution had been an issue for communities along the Ohio River since the early 1900s, as communities both drew from the River for municipal water supplies, and also discharged their own sewage into the River.

The federal Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 under the jurisdiction of the newly-established federal EPA. The Clean Water Act authorized the EPA to establish “pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry” and “national water quality criteria recommendations for pollutants in surface waters.” Enforcement of the Clean Water Act is carried out under a system known as “cooperative federalism,” where the federal EPA authorizes state environmental agencies to issue permits for a certain amount of allowable pollution which theoretically keeps pollution thresholds of water bodies within safe levels. Federal EPA and state environmental protection agencies set baseline pollutant levels for many chemicals and heavy metals. In the absence of any guidance on a particular chemical/heavy metal, ORSANCO can and does issue its own pollution guidelines, and it can also issue stricter standards than what the federal EPA and state agencies have set. The last pollution standards were issued in 2015, and ORSANCO is currently working through its 2018 proposals. ORSANCO is considering 5 “alternative options” to its current approach to Pollution Control Standards. The five options range from completely eliminating its Pollution Control Standards to preserving its existing work.

A majority of ORSANCO decision-makers favor “alternative 2,” which would eliminate the Pollution Control Standards. A minority of the commission favors retaining the Pollution Control Standards, and recommends alternatives 3 & 4. Alternative 3 calls for ORSANCO to establish cost-effective and numerical water quality standards that would be effective across every compact state. Alternative 4 calls for ORSANCO to better coordinate each state’s water quality standards. Industry largely favors alternative 2, environmental advocacy groups and water utilities generally favor 3 & 4.

Ohio Environmental Council has made the following conclusions about Alternatives 3 and 4: “Through Alternative 3, ORSANCO would work diligently to eliminate instances where States have rules that do not satisfy ORSANCO’s standards. While Alternative 4 would not create complete unity or equity, it would still keep the Pollution Control Standards intact and chart a pathway toward consistency.”

ORSANCO’s argument for abandoning its pollution control standards under Alternative #2 is that it is largely duplicative of and redundant to existing federal Clean Water Act standards, and its time would be better spent monitoring river conditions.

However, the argument that the federal Clean Water Act is sufficient to protect the Ohio River is simply false. According to *Inside Climate News*, “There were, as of 2015, 188 instances in which ORSANCO had set a standard for a pollutant that neither a member state nor EPA had set a standard for. And there were 252 instances in which ORSANCO standards were at least 10 percent more stringent than those of the member states or the EPA, including for arsenic, which can be found in waste from the burning of coal and is known to cause cancer.”

ORSANCO has held two public comment periods on this matter, and the most recent one wrapped up on August 20. They have also only held one public hearing recently - across the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky on July 26. More than 75 people turned out for this hearing, including several members of Community Friends. Over 40 individuals spoke out unanimously against the proposed deregulation, which would gut regional pollution standards. Many commenters came from several hours away to share testimony, highlighting the fact that one public comment meeting for a multistate region of 5 million people is not enough. Many political, environmental, and religious groups were represented in the room.

ORSANCO may make a final decision as early as October 4 when the commissioners meet in Lansing, West Virginia.

While the formal public comment period has closed, I urge Friends to learn more about this issue, and consider writing to the governor’s office, as well as letters to the editor to increase media scrutiny of this issue. As ORSANCO is headquartered in Cincinnati, local media outlets are a great place to voice your concern for the health of our river.

You can learn more about this issue from the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (<https://ohvec.org/contact-gov-re-orsanco-pcs/>) and the Sierra Club (<https://www.sierraclub.org/ohio/blog/2018/08/orsanco>).



Friendly Faces at Community Friends: Wilhelmina Branson

*This is a feature to celebrate the friendly faces in
Community Friends Meeting.*

***“She is open-minded, genuinely
interested in others, and a good listener
for any troubles or joys.”***

~Deborah Jordan

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Meeting House on Winding Way, we can also celebrate the continuous presence of someone who has been here for all of those 50 years: Wilhelmina Branson. Wilhelmina began attending the East Cincinnati Meeting in the 1950s, which merged with Seven Hills Friends in 1968.

Wilhelmina grew up in Waynesville, Ohio, living on the family farm during the Depression of the 1930s. She is a birthright Quaker, as both her parents were Quakers from families who had been Quakers for generations. They attended the Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville, established in 1803 when Friends living in North and South Carolina decided to leave the slave-holding states for a state in which all people would be free. (For more of the Miami Monthly Meeting history, see http://quaker.org/legacy/miami/index_files/history.html).

In the 1950s, Wilhelmina attended Miami University, and then the nursing school at Christ Hospital. As a registered nurse, she first worked at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati. She married Byron Branson in 1957, and when they had children, Wilhelmina took time off from her career to raise them: Sara (now living in St. Paul, Minnesota), Hannah (living in Cincinnati), and Chris (now living in Portland, Maine).

When the children were older, Wilhelmina began working part-time at the Cincinnati Health Department, where she did school and home visits. In the early 1980s she began working full time for the Central Community Health Board as a psychiatric nurse. She has seen a great deal, and many changes, in her 35 years of working with the mentally ill, which she continues in the present.

Wilhelmina is such a wealth of wisdom, information and FUN that we’re hoping to organize a trip to Waynesville, Ohio in the near future so we can all spend more time with her. In addition to the Miami Meeting House, there is a Museum at the Friends Home (<https://www.friendshomemuseum.org/>) as well as many other sights to see and memories to share! We will announce the details when we’ve determined availability.



Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Eighth Month, August 12, 2018

Opening worship: The presiding clerk shared the following reading during opening worship: *"Why, the millennium is here; the kingdom of God has come. This is what we should preach. Oh, that the fruits of this divine spirit should appear, which are love, peace, joy, goodness, truth! the spirit that is first gentle, pure, full of mercy, full of good fruits. There is no disparagement of good works."* ~ Lucretia Mott

FÈ Treasurer's Report: L.F., treasurer, reported that expenses in July exceeded income, but the percent of expenses on hand is still at 9%, exceeding the 6% goal. House and Grounds had \$1,239.93 in expenses for plumbing repairs in the caretakers' apartment, among other expenses. Parent bodies and contributions are paid up to date. It was noted with appreciation that the caretakers contribute ongoing in-kind donations of supplies. The treasurer noted that the Parnassus fund is not doing as well as last year. The report was accepted.

GÈ Statistician's Report: P.B. reported that he has finished going through the meeting membership records. They are stored in a locked file box in color-coded files, which will be stored in the library. Archived records will be taken to the Quaker archives at Wilmington College. Appreciation was expressed for the diligent work of the statistician.

HÈ From the Clerk's table: M.A.C. read the endorsements of the traveling minute that P.M. carried to Britain Yearly Meeting this summer, where she was invited to share her ministry of singing the words of early Friends, at Woodbrooke, Swarthmore Hall, and local Friends Meetings. P's ministry was well received and clearly inspirational to the Friends in England. The report was accepted.

I È Newsletter Committee: No report

Í È Unity with Nature Committee: The committee met in August. Help would be appreciated with weeding around the blackberry bushes and fruit trees.

Î È Peace & Social Concerns: Did not meet in August.

Ï È Religious Development: The committee did not meet, but they have checked references and are in the process of hiring a new child care provider. She will start on August 26. The report was accepted.

Ì È Outreach Committee: The committee arranged for the three Cincinnati meetings to host the showing of the Bayard Rustin film, which is part of a week-long celebration of the life of Bayard Rustin that also includes four concerts to be held in surrounding communities. An ad in the program guide for the concerts was paid for by the three Cincinnati Quaker meetings. The report was accepted.

JÈ Stewardship Committee: No report.

FÈ Library Committee: No report.

FFÈ Community Committee: L.F. and D.J. reported that the committee met in August to discuss and make plans for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration on September 30. They talked about how to make it a Celebration and decided to have a timeline and have someone who was there to tell an interesting story from

that time. The committee is looking into the budget, which may be as high as \$2,200 to pay for the rental a tent on the lawn and a catered meal. Stewardship Committee and the Cannon Fund trustees will meet together to consider funding this request. All from the yearly meeting will be invited. It will be directly following meeting for worship, which could possibly be held under the tent. The committee is also are planning to continue the Friendly Sixes and will be sending out a survey for days and times of availability to meet. The report was accepted.

FGÈHouse and Grounds: E.W. reported that a leak was found in the caretakers' apartment bathroom, and repairs were made to the plumbing and the sink was replaced. Two new keys were made for the elevator. The awning work is still in progress. A new weed trimmer will be purchased. The report was accepted.

FIÈAdult Religious Education: P.B. reported that the committee met in August. Possible Second Hours were discussed, and in-reach groups that would start in early October. An interest survey will be sent out in August by email. They are exploring the possibility of hosting an event to have David Fankhauser share his experience as a Freedom Rider with the other Friends meetings in Cincinnati. The report was accepted.

Presiding Clerk:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Assistant Presiding Clerk:

Doug Burks

Recording Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Lisa Cayard

Sarah Hoffmann

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

John Sniegocki

Mary Anne Curtiss (ex officio)

Sunny Rhein (SA)

SA= special assignment

Caretakers: John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe

Directory Editor: Frank Huss

Newsletter: Elyce Benke elycefeliz@gmail.com

WebClerk/Community Emails:

Chuck Moore charlierambles@gmail.com

Quaker Quill: Deborah Jordan djordan@fuse.net

FI ÈMinistry and Counsel: L.C. reported that the committee met on July 29 with four members present. After clerk support and check-in, committee responsibilities for the upcoming year were reviewed. L.C. and S.H. will serve as co-clerks, and D.J. will record minutes for the committee. S.R. will take leadership for pastoral care, with M.A.C. as back-up. F.H. and D.J. will continue on the caretakers Liaison Committee, and J.S. will continue as the liaison with Outreach Committee.

Ministry and Counsel received a request for a clearness committee, and the committee was arranged. A report was shared from P.M.'s Ministry Support and Oversight Committee, which met with other OVYM Friends and P. to hear her report about her trip to England. P. shared about her ministry and the workshops she presented among British Friends. Her traveling minute from OVYM was shared, along with a sonnet written about her music ministry.

The committee followed up on discussion of a Sexual Harassment policy, and resources on FGC's policy and an agency policy were shared. Planning is underway for a threshing session with the understanding that there

are deeply held thoughts and feelings about this topic which relates not only to sex, but gender, power, age, and privilege. A threshing session will be an invitation to share lived experience relating to sexual harassment and to learn from each other. There will be encouragement to listen deeply with empathy to the experience of others. After the threshing session, it will be recommended that the meeting form an ad hoc committee to address policy issues.

Plans for the Fall Meeting Renewal on September 29 were discussed, pastoral care needs were considered, and volunteers for being available on the landing after meeting were arranged. There was follow-up discussion of possibly changing the meeting's policy for removing names from business meeting minutes in the newsletter. The current recording clerk did not find this task burdensome.

Action Item: Ministry and Counsel recommended that only first names be included in the newsletter version of the minutes, so they will be more meaningful to meeting Friends, but still maintain privacy. After considerable discussion, it was suggested that the newsletter version of minutes would use initials instead of full names. This alternate proposal was approved.

Action item: Request for approval of a Memorial Minute for M. S., which was written by M.A.C. with assistance from M's family. The Memorial Minute was approved. It will be sent to OVYM.

15. Other Committees or working groups:

Tender Mercies: D.B. reported that a nice cookout dinner was served last week for two houses, to over 30 people. Report was accepted.

FCNL Lobbying Group: D.B. reported that that the group will meet personally with Steve Chabot and Brad Wenstrup. They have been lobbying on peace issues and a proposal to limit the power of the President to declare war or military action without approval from Congress. Report was accepted.

MARCC Delegates Council: F.H. reported that a meeting is planned October 3 at the Cintas Center to celebrate MARCC's 50th anniversary.

16. Wider Quaker Bodies:

OVYM: The Planning Committee met at our meeting house yesterday.

17. Announcements:

Friends are invited to worship with Yellow Springs meeting August 26 at 11:15 at the old Green Plains meetinghouse.

Fì ÈApproval of minutes: The minutes were approved.

FJÈClosing worship

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