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March Vital Friends: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Staff Retreat Report, Announcing QuakerGifts, Reading List, Couple Enrichment.



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Dear Friend,

As you prepare for spring, putting away winter layers and basking in slightly longer days, we invite you to take some time to nurture your spirit and discover new growth germinating among Friends.

In the Spirit,
FGC Staff

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FGC Friends is a feature of our monthly Vital Friends eNewsletter that highlights a Quaker meeting, organization, or individual Friends who work with FGC to nurture faith and Quaker practice. We're pleased to feature FGC-affiliated Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for the month of March.

Photo by Leslie Walden

[Read more about LEYM](#)

Spotlight: Friends Couple Enrichment



Since 1968 Couple Enrichment had been a program of Friends General Conference. We are excited to announce that in January of 2016 a new independent organization was born, Friends Couple Enrichment.

Friends Couple Enrichment workshops provide an opportunity for committed couples to deepen their understanding and appreciation for each other in a safe, supportive setting. Participants learn and practice skills for careful listening and respectful communication.

Here is what recent participants have said about their Couple Enrichment experience:

"[This workshop] helps establish a foundation of love in the home so that the spirit of God can flourish."

We invite you to [read more about Friends Couple Enrichment](#) and to consider taking one of these life-changing workshops!

Photo by Colby Abaz

Announcing QuakerGifts!



Proudly supporting communities worldwide through fair trade

[QuakerGifts](#) is the Fair Trade online store of QuakerBooks of FGC, a store serving Quakers, Quaker meetings, and interested individuals. We carry beautiful fair trade gifts that help Friends and others

support communities around the world while simultaneously generating income to support FGC's mission. Through our fair trade partner Global Crafts (a long standing member of the Fair Trade Federation) who works with the

artisans, we are committed to meeting all the principles of fair trade. The core of fair trade is that the artisan is primary, decisions are always driven by the best interests of the artisans. Through Global Crafts, we work with artisans as partners trying to involve the artists in decisions that effect them. FGC's partner works cooperatively to set prices and ensure that the price the artisans set is enough to enable them to develop a sustainable future that improves their lives. Disputes regarding quality of production issues are resolved cooperatively and our partners buying power is never used in a way that disadvantages producers.

[Find out more.](#)



[Expanded Perspectives](#)

QuakerBooks' latest reading list to enhance your understanding of the breath of our shared human experience.

[Read the Book List here.](#)

Photo by Marta Rusek

[FGC Staff Retreat](#)

February 11th, Friends Day, was an auspicious day for the FGC Staff Retreat and we made the most of it. It was wonderful to gather in fellowship with our coworkers, particularly Friends who typically work remotely rather than in the FGC offices in Philadelphia.

[Read more about the Staff Retreat...](#)



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