

# The Traveling Friend

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## 108 Dolls and one small cross

.... from Judy Leasure

As Quakers, symbols and rituals are not part of our usual faith and practice. Many have been the times, however, when I have found a symbol, an artifact, to be central to my continuing faith journey. Somewhere in me resides this window, or perhaps it is a door, with the smallest of cracks, and it is through that crack that what I know as 'continuing affirmations' come to me. I do not necessarily need these affirmations to walk in faith, as I know we are often led to thoughts and actions that will not wait upon us to lay out a strategic plan, to have all the questions answered - no, there are times when it is incumbent upon us as people of faith to act in that faith.

It is comforting nonetheless when moments of affirmation come, as they come so often, when least expected. We must only have open and trusting hearts to accept them for the gifts they are to us. So many of these affirmations have blessed my life, from tiny moments with a grandchild, to coming together as a gathered meeting in worship, to being touched by an ad on television, or devastated by a photo of a child drowning in a river, one tiny not-yet-two-year-old, drowned, with her arm cradled in death around her young father's neck .... he ... this *other* as some would call him .... doing what so many of us wonder if we would do if called upon .... giving his own life to try to save his child.

In this time of deepening darkness I have been wondering if and when one of those 'continuing affirmations' I might be open enough to seeing would appear. And there it was, laid out simply in the Quaker way, on a table in a room at Wilmington College as we came together to do the business of Yearly Meeting. It was a cross - not an ornate, bejeweled, large, covered in gold kind



of cross - just this oh so sweet small wooden cross, looking as if it might have come from the hands of a craftsman, so warm and strong were the carved marks in its simple design.

On August 9, 1945, at 11:02 a.m., the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb above the city of Nagasaki, Japan. That bomb destroyed everything within an area of five square miles. At the center of the explosion was St. Mary's Cathedral, also known as the Urikami Cathedral, where mass was being held on that morning. The collapse of the cathedral destroyed everything, burying all those in worship. One item .... one item .... one artifact .... survived. It was that simple wooden cross that rested on that table at Wilmington College as we gathered in a prayer circle, with Japanese film documentary makers alongside us, filming us in prayer in our Quaker circle.

Who knows with certainty why and how (*one of those continuing affirmations that we are called to accept in faith perhaps*), but that cross had survived the years. In 1984 it was donated to the Peace Resource Center by Walter Hooke, a World War II veteran. With the support of Wilmington College, this one surviving artifact of that atomic bomb went back home to Japan in August, taken on its journey after 74 years by Campus Minister Nancy McCormick and Tanya Maus, Director of the Peace Resource Center. (*continued on page 7*)

**Pastor's Corner**

..... by Jim Newby

**A plague among us**

In his book *The Plague*, Albert Camus writes about a town that was engulfed by the plague, killing scores of people. On the last page of the book, the main character,



Dr. Rieux, is listening to the surviving inhabitants of the town celebrate the end of the plague: "As he listened to the cries of joy rising from the town, Rieux remembered that such joy is always imperiled. He knew that those jubilant crowds did not know but could have learned from books: that the plague bacillus never dies or disappears for good; that it can lie dormant for years and years in furniture and linen chests; that it bides its time in bedrooms, cellars, trunks and bookshelves; and that perhaps the day would come when, for the bane and enlightening of men, it would rouse up its rats again and send them forth to die in a happy city."

America has a race problem, and it has always had a race problem. Like Dr. Rieux, we know that prejudice and discrimination, in the same way as the plague bacillus, never really die. The discrimination bacillus can lie dormant for years, but it will eventually rouse up its rats again. At this time in history, the rhetoric of the president, the proliferation of guns, and the outrageous hate manifestos of the white supremacist movement are giving fuel to those who would perpetrate mass shootings in synagogues, churches, mosques, even in a Walmart in El Paso.

What does one do with a plague like racism that never goes away? How should we, as Quakers, respond to this plague of discrimination?

First, it is important to note that Quakers have been ahead of most when it comes to recognizing the evil of prejudice and discrimination. We have a testimony on equality and we have a testimony on peace, both of which are greatly needed today. Our history tells the

story of working as abolitionists against slavery and for the civil rights of all persons. The Quaker Bayard Rustin organized the 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous 'I have a dream' speech. The American Friends Service Committee has worked tirelessly to shut down the immigration detention center in Florida, a center that housed young Hispanic immigrants. They have succeeded. As I write, there are Quakers on our southern border working to help immigrants who are being held in cages and to reunite families who have been so cruelly separated. We can all work for justice. When we see an act of hate, we can take a stand and act against it.

Secondly, we can hold all victims as well as perpetrators of violence and discrimination in the Light. We can pray for persons to make the right choices for love and compassion as opposed to hate and violence. Non-violent resistance to the powerful forces of hate, along with prayer, are ways that we can keep the prejudice and discrimination bacillus in check.

Finally, we can no longer be passive about the gun culture. Our elected representatives need to hear from us about how we can curb the epidemic of gun violence. There is no justification for anyone to own a rapid-fire assault weapon, built to kill human beings as fast as a shooter can pull the trigger. The man in Dayton and the man in El Paso both used this type of weapon. Now is the time to work for a ban on these morally reprehensible weapons of war.

It is good to be reminded of the words of the Quaker John Woolman, a man whose tender heart and sensitive spirit have never been more needed than today. He wrote, "*Our gracious creator cares and provides for all His creatures. His tender mercies are over all his works; and so far as his love influences our minds, so far we become interested in his workmanship, and feel a desire to take hold of every opportunity to lessen the distresses of the afflicted and increase the happiness of the creation. Here we have a prospect of one common interest, from which our own is inseparable, that to turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives.*"



## *Remembering Allen and Darlene*



**Allen Riley** was born July 18, 1942 in Akron, Ohio. He completed his earthly journey on May 18, 2019 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

At the age of six, Allen moved with his family from Akron to Phoenix, where he excelled in both basketball and football while in high school. He attended Arizona State University until 1965 when he

joined the U.S. Navy. He served a two-year term in the Vietnam War.

Allen married Sharon Howard in Phoenix in November, 1964. They became the parents of three children, Shannon, Devin and Ryan. He enjoyed coaching Little League and always supported his children with their projects and activities. Allen loved deeply his ten grandchildren.

His career was in sales, with most of that time spent working for Kelly Springfield and Goodyear Tire Company. Because he was often transferred, the family lived in Colorado, California, Missouri, West Virginia, Delaware and then in Ohio. Allen and Sharon worked together on a large vegetable garden every year and maintained a beautifully landscaped yard with flower beds, native plants and a stream. Other hobbies he enjoyed were wood carving and fishing.

Allen and Sharon attended Cincinnati Friends faithfully. He was a valued member of the Board of Trustees for many years. While serving as Clerk of Trustees, he was a conscientious caretaker of the building and grounds. Allen and Sharon faithfully delivered our Meeting's donations of items to the Free Store each month. All at CFM appreciated his caring nature, his sense of humor and his commitment to our Meeting.

He was a good-hearted person who could perceive the needs of others and was always ready to step up. Each one of us who knew Allen for so many years, and all of us enriched by his presence and active faith as part of our CFM family, will miss him forever; none more so than Sharon, their children and grandchildren.

**Darlene Ann Newby** was born July 25, 1946, in Washington County, Iowa, the first of three children and the only daughter of Richard and Doris Newby.



She is survived by her two brothers, Jim Newby and his wife Elizabeth and John Newby and his wife Shelley and by several

loving nieces and nephews who will remember her as the generous aunt who always knew just what gifts to give.

Her growing years were spent in Minneapolis and in Muncie, Indiana, where her father was a Quaker minister. She graduated from Burriss High School in Muncie and Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. She went on to do graduate work at Wright State University and the Earlham School of Religion.

She taught elementary school, concentrating on children with special needs. She moved to the Wilmington area in 1974 and taught in the Sabina, Ohio school system.

Feeling called to the Quaker ministry, she became the assistant minister at Wilmington Friends Meeting and the minister at Dover Friends Meeting. She went on to serve Second Friends Meeting in Indianapolis, Bloomingdale Friends Meeting in Indiana, and Buffalo Friends in Iowa.

She moved back to Wilmington in 2016, residing at the Quaker apartments, where she passed away quietly on June 14, 2019, shortly after speaking with her brother Jim on the phone.

While growing up she assumed the 'second mother' role for Jim and John. Since she did not have children of her own, she loved being another mother to Lisa Marie, Jim and Elizabeth's daughter. She would take Lisa to Kings Island, the Kentucky blue grass country and numerous other places of fun and interest.

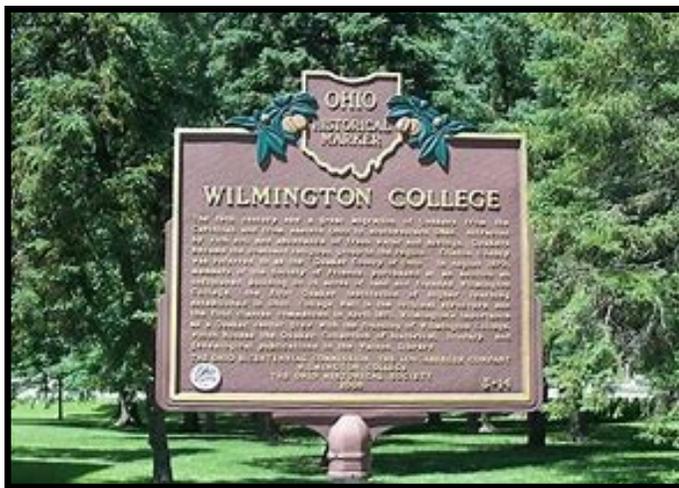
*(continued on page 4)*

**Darlene Ann Newby** (continued from page 3)

When Darlene was scheduled to meet Lisa and take her for a fun outing, Lisa would sit by the window in great anticipation, waiting and watching for her to come up the driveway. They were kindred spirits.

Jim's newly released book, *Reflections from the Inner Light*, is dedicated to Darlene and John. The dedication reads 'To Darlene and John, without whom I would not have been the infamous middle child.' Although she knew Jim was dedicating the book to her, she passed before seeing the completed work.

Her wise counsel and loving spirit are dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.



Wilmington College will celebrate its 150th anniversary during the 2020-2021 academic year. Plans are underway for a variety of celebrations. Wilmington Yearly Meeting will be partnering with the College in an effort to increase knowledge of noted Quakers from throughout our region by helping with name plates for buildings and other ways to increase awareness of our Quaker heritage for students, faculty, families and visitors on a lasting basis.

**Building community through communication**

.... from Sabrina Darnowsky

Back in 1968, our then minister Dick Faux began producing a one page typewritten monthly newsletter that contained a message from him and tidbits about Meeting activities. By 1984, the responsibility for assembling this publication was extended to a wider team, and the content of the newsletter expanded to include such things as interviews with members and attenders, personal news notes and art work. Today, *The Traveling Friend* is an 8-10 page full color quarterly periodical that is provided not only to members, attenders and visitors, but occasionally to other Quaker organizations, as well as Ohio's congressional representatives.

Clearly we have modified the newsletter's format, frequency and scope over the years as we adapt to an ever-changing world. The question arises - what is the best way to facilitate communication within our Meeting and between our Meeting and the community?

One option might be to convert our current publication into an online blog. This could present several opportunities and advantages, including more timely information. Are you interested in hearing the latest news about Yearly Meeting? You wouldn't have to wait until the next quarterly issue of *The Traveling Friend*. An article could be posted as soon as it was written. Another advantage is freedom from layout considerations. With a blog, any given piece could be as short or as long as necessary and could include other media, such as videos.

An online format could also encourage greater interactivity and community-building, since readers could provide immediate feedback in the form of comments. Sharing our news and thoughts via the Internet could potentially reach a much larger audience, allowing seekers to learn more about us, our faith community and Quakerism. And we could do so without printing and mailing costs!

In the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for discussion as we discern the best way to communicate. If you have feedback, please contact Cathy Barney, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, or Jim Newby.

## Don't miss these times of Quaker unity

### ✓ World Quaker Day - October 6, 2019

Friends World Committee for Consultation (*FWCC*) is encouraging Friends Meetings from across the world to come together in celebration for the 6th annual World Quaker Day. The 2019 theme is **Sustainability**: planting seeds of renewal for the world we love.

FWCC celebrates all expressions of Quaker worship and through this effort is encouraging churches, meetings, countries and sections to feel the power of God connecting us as a faithful family.

### ✓ Voices for Valeria and Care-A-Van

See page 8 for more information about this community-wide outreach to honor our commitment to social justice and to our responsibilities as a Solidarity congregation. Attend with your family and friends, share information on your Facebook and other social media outreach, join our planning committee. Contact Peace and Social Concerns Committee for more information.

### ✓ Thomas Hamm speaks at CFM

Thomas Hamm, Quaker historian from Earlham College, will join us at CFM on Saturday, October 26. His focus will be "Quakers in America."

His presentation is open to the community. We will begin our time together at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts. Tom will share with us from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### ✓ 2020 Mini Yearly Meeting

Plan a visit to see some of the beauty of Tennessee and take part in Mini Yearly Meeting on March 27-29, hosted by Maryville Friends.

### ✓ 2020 Wilmington Yearly Meeting

If you have never participated in Wilmington Yearly Meeting sessions, our 2020 sessions will give you the chance to see our Quaker business processes in action as you meet Quakers from throughout our region and from Tennessee.

**Cincinnati Friends Meeting will host the 2020 Wilmington Yearly Meeting sessions at our Meeting House on July 23-26.**

## More than \$30,000

.... and there is an expectation that that number will increase a little more once all the Mason jars are in from Meetings throughout Wilmington Yearly Meeting and all the proceeds are counted from all the yard sales and other activities that helped almost triple the original goal of \$12,000 to assist Friends in Puerto Padre, Cuba renovate and rebuild the old Wilmington School, which was built in 1909.

The project was guided and coordinated throughout WYM by Libbie Curry of Chester Friends Meeting. She has made visits to Puerto Padre Friends and plans to join them again this Fall to see first-hand the construction that is underway, which includes completing the new roof. There is hope that there will be a new doorway between the Friends Meeting House and the reconstructed area of the old school. When construction is completed the building will be a gathering place for everyone in Puerto Padre as it takes on new life as a community center.

Libbie announced the total during Wilmington Yearly Meeting at Wilmington College in July. CFM member Ruby Porter signed the check that will go to Puerto Padre Friends in her capacity as Treasurer of USFW.

## More than \$1,100

.... and we shall be lifted up as we lift up those in need around us. With generous spirits, we at CFM have provided more than \$1,100 in gift cards to Cincinnati Immigrant Transit Assistance (*CITA*) that have been used to help meet basic needs of immigrants as they are passing through our area. CITA volunteers greet immigrants several times a day at the Greyhound bus station in Cincinnati as they continue their journeys to various locations throughout the United States.

Our gift cards, as well as cards from other groups, have helped CITA provide food, personal care items, diapers and more to meet immediate needs.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee honors each of you who made the decision to give meaning to our commitment as a Solidarity congregation through your caring support of this effort. Thank you for responding immediately and generously to the need when the call came to us for support.



*Tony is supercharged about becoming an Artsy Fartsy mentor this year as enters the 7th grade.*

## News from Artsy Fartsy

CFM member Cathy Barney is now into her 7th year of ministry through *Artsy Fartsy*, which provides safe, creative community activities for 4th-6th graders in Milford's only subsidized housing for families. The group meets the second Saturday of each month to explore arts activities that elicit voice and self expression in the context of a life lesson.

For example, 12 young participants and nine adult chaperones traveled to the Cincinnati Public Library this summer via the city bus for a tour and visit to the "MakerCenter." Cathy's neighborhood book club provided bus fare in her mother's memory. The local coffee shop provided hearty bag lunches. "Most of these children have not visited the main library nor have they ridden the city bus," says Cathy. "My goal was to instill confidence and independence in the midst of a new adventure."

During that trip, Tony (*pictured above*) asked Cathy if she would help him increase his vocabulary because he wanted to write a proposal for a service project. They set a date for a study room at the Miami Township Library, another new experience for Tony.

"I want to change people's behavior with a better environment," Tony shared about his proposal. New owners of the apartment complex have left it in decline. Kids find needles in the playground. Drug use and deaths have increased. Families have been rocked by the sudden death of one long-time participant's brother at another location. He had been a mentor to Tony.

"These kids are fully aware of the changes in their neighborhood," Cathy shares. "We talk about it and they cope the best they know how. Dynamics are different as parents become less accessible and hurtful behavior among participants edges up."

Tony's idea is a counter to the negative influences. He wants improvements, like restoring the baseball field, checking the playground for safety, expanding the play set, trimming the bushes and flowers. At the Library, Tony poured over the large Thesaurus, another new experience, looking for the right word before settling on restore. "Yeah, that's what I want to say!" While researching facts for his proposal, he found a study of cities that suggested what residents desire most to feel happy is beauty, even above relationships, safety and health. His intuition has been telling him that long before his research confirmed it.

He also googled videos on what it takes to reclaim a field, learning it involves heavy equipment. They solicited a city council member, who met with them and invited them to a community development meeting, where Tony spoke and presented his request for help for the field. He is circulating a petition among residents who agree and who will help before he approaches the new owner.

"It is gratifying to watch a black teen learn to navigate the system," Cathy said, sharing her pride in Tony, both as his mentor and as a former reporter who covered local government.

Cathy asks this of us as her empowering ministry continues:

- \*consider volunteering any 2nd Saturday and for Art Affaire in Milford on December 14
- \*make a donation in any amount - her ministry is funded solely by donations (*including from CFM*) and grants
- \*pray for these children and their families, for those touched by rampant drug addiction in the area, and for *Artsy Fartsy* to continue to make a difference in the lives of young people like Tony.**

Contact Cathy at [cathybarney@hotmail.com](mailto:cathybarney@hotmail.com).





Young Friends enjoyed time getting to know more about each other during our summer Game Night. We welcome one of our newest Young Friends, Sara Ann Myers. Sara is now in the 4th grade in Milford. She enjoys reading, riding her bike, music, including a love for classical music she shares with her grandpa (Paul Leasure), her tumbling class and really loves cats. Her family considers her the ‘cat whisperer.’ When asked what she has learned from attending CFM, she shares, “What I have learned is that God is the path and ultimate leader and that God is our helper.”



**Cross** (continued from page 1)

Tanya and Nancy took the cross back to Nagasaki, where they presented it to the people attending the Urikami Cathedral, which was re-built in 1959. Members of the Nagasaki Peace Association had been looking for the cross since the bombing and now are grateful to Tanya, Nancy, Wilmington College and Quakers for their care of the cross and for their act of reconciliation and love in making sure it was returned to its rightful place.

As part of that trip, Nancy also took 108 handmade rag dolls that represent hope and peace. The dolls were made over a one year period by Quakers and other volunteers. They were presented to children in Japan in much the same way as Friendship Dolls were presented in 1927. “These symbols,” shares Nancy, “represent peace, hope, new life and power over evil. There’s something much bigger here than simply a cross and the dolls.” Something much bigger, no doubt! And there it is, a gift to us all, a continuing affirmation, given to us in the form of one small cross and 108 rag dolls.

**Inclusion isn’t optional**

.... from Ray Geers

With openness, honesty and a sense of peace, Sue Lucas met with us following meeting for worship on June 5 to share her deeply moving and inspirational story, a story that is still unfolding. From her time of sharing with her family that she could and would no longer keep who she was closeted away, to her journey in becoming a mother, a wife and now a member of the Wilmington College faculty, where she teaches marketing, she spoke with us about her experience with Friends, being gay and teaching at a Quaker College. She considers herself a multicultural marketer, with a focus on social justice and human rights that are so deeply akin to our Quaker faith.



She continues to watch the faith of her childhood, The United Methodist Church, as it continues to struggle with acceptance of LGBTQ+ members, to the point of disaffiliation in ways that are similar to what has been and continues to unfold within our own Quaker communities. Listening to her speak was to really hear about love, pain and growth, of how much change has occurred but how that change needs to continue. Hers is a story of intolerance slowly giving way to a level of tolerance, to the point of ‘progressive welcoming’ as demonstrated by our values and actions at CFM. It is the story of prejudice, hate and exclusion giving way in places like CFM and Wilmington College. There is still hate and fear, that terrible divisive prejudice, from institutions like churches, to those individuals who would do harm, to those who choose not to accept.

How do we continue to progress, to put into action what it means to accept and affirm members of the LGBTQ+ community in our families, churches, work places and communities? Sue did not give us the answer to that question.

She empowered us instead to stay true to our faith and to continue to follow the Light that leads us from intolerance to tolerance, from hate to love, from injustice to justice, to speak truth to power, to continue as progressive Quakers.



**Cincinnati Friends Meeting**  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Voices for Valeria Candlelight Vigil Cincinnati Friends Meeting**

**Saturday, October 19 6:00-8:00 PM**

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee invites you to join in a community remembrance of Valeria and the children who have died and who continue to be victimized in the escalating humanitarian crisis on our southern border.

Join us as we come together as one to affirm *Mi nombre es Valeria (my name is Valeria.)* Stand in community in keeping with our commitment as a Solidarity congregation as we come together to light our candles for Valeria so that her life will guide our paths to social justice.

*Valeria was not yet two years old when she drowned in the Rio Grande River, her arm cradled around the neck of her father Oscar, who died attempting to save her. He did that for her.*

***How can we do anything less than stand in our faith circle and light candles for them?***



***Seeking God daily through simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality.***



## Along the El Camino ... from Jeff Arnold

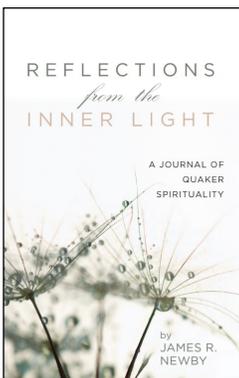
*Note: Jeff Arnold and Joan Effertz have been spending time the last few years on a spiritual journey walking different sections of the famed El Camino. They have returned home from their 2019 experience, renewed once again by their pilgrimage. In keeping with the ways of so many Quakers and so many pilgrims before them, Jeff and Joan have written about their journey in journals. Following is a page from Jeff's journal from this year, with thoughts about the interior life and about the place he is moving through.*

### Day 2 — Povia de Varzim

Another day of walking along the seaside on the boardwalk. Strong wind blowing ... blew my hat off ... a broad-brimmed Tilley ... secured with a neck cord so it didn't get away, but it did act like a spinnaker, pulling me leeward. Still, it was pleasant, watching the waves crash against the rocks as they have been doing forever, reducing the rocks to sand. But the rocks are still there somehow.

As I walked I meditated on the theme of wanting things to be different from the way they are and how that is such a central defining characteristic of me and the whole human race. So much so that most people don't even see a problem with it. It drives the engine of progress! It's so integrated in my own character that if I were to truly accept myself as I am - not wanting myself to be any different than the way I am - I would be accepting myself as a person who wants things, including myself and other people, to be different from the way they are! The fact is that, deep down, I don't accept myself the way I am. I'm holding out for a 'new and improved' version of myself. Trungpa says that the desire to achieve a particular state of consciousness - a new, improved state - is a dualistic notion that automatically separates us from the reality of what we are. I actually chewed on this for a couple of kilometers, with my hat pulling me leeward!

We walked through a nice city, Vila do Conde, on our way to Povia de Varzim, also a nice place with a beautiful old town. Our guide book says that there has been a settlement here for 100,000 years. More recently (!), King Manuel I passed through in 1502 on his own Camino to Santiago. Subsequently a cathedral, Igreja Matriz, was built, which we saw. Really beautiful, but then ALL these ancient cathedrals are beautiful. A lot of resources were poured into cathedrals. You couldn't swing a cat in Porto without hitting a beautiful cathedral. On at least two occasions that I know of the Portuguese government has liquidated the assets of the holy Roman church, and I can see why. In Porto, they turned the monks out of the monasteries and made the cathedrals government buildings. They let the nuns stay in the convents until they died out. One of them outlived the rest by 17 years, in a building that was to become a train station. The citizens were praying for her to die!



### Jim's new book ... *Reflections from the Inner Light: A Journal of Quaker Spirituality*

is the newest book from our pastor Jim Newby, who is also author of *Sacred Chaos* and other important books on Quaker spirituality. In his new book, Jim writes about his spiritual journey and the ways he has sought to navigate an increasingly complex world and understand his purpose in it. It is divided into parts, including turning inward; community and relationship; pain and growth; path of a seeker; and affirmations. Each chapter concludes with queries to encourage readers to reflect on their own spiritual journeys.

We have copies of Jim's latest book available at \$12.00. Please contact the office at [office@cincinnati.friends.org](mailto:office@cincinnati.friends.org).

**Hold On Beautiful Dreamer** .... from Ray Geers

*Hold On Beautiful Dreamer* is a complete re-working of the words from the old African-American spiritual *Hold On (Keep Your Eyes On The Prize)* or *Keep Your Hands On The Plow*. I was first introduced to this song through the music of Pete Seeger, the folk singer and civil rights/anti war activist who was blacklisted by the U.S. government during the 1950s McCarthy era known as the 'Red Scare.' Another musical influence is the American classic *Beautiful Dreamer* by Stephen Foster. Both of these older compositions touch upon the idea of trying to live according to a dream despite distressful and disappointing circumstances.

The immigrant story in America is one associated with crisis. It is in many ways a story about oppression, far away in countries with dysfunctional governments, at home at our U.S. borders, and in the interior of our sensitive human consciences. One of the best expressions of humanity's dream of freedom from oppression was evoked by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his 1963 March on Washington speech (*a march coordinated by Quaker Bayard Rustin.*) We have to be careful, however, not to leave visions like this solely in the past where they can be safely set on a pedestal only to be dusted off now and then. The spiritual challenge, as I see it, is to acknowledge a personal connection, here and now, to concerns bigger than ourselves and to strive to make them more real and relevant to our day to day living. The cultivation of such connectivity, between conscience and actions, is what John Woolman, that quietly revolutionary 17th century Quaker, called the 'business of our lives.'

The other notion I had while writing my little version of these songs was about equality. I am beginning to see how all our dreams about human freedom live or die according to whether we acknowledge the essential equality of ourselves with other people, with those from distant lands, as well as with those with far different life experiences. Keeping such notions as these in mind allows me to find myself in relationship with all those who are now struggling at our border and at borders beyond us. Writing and singing about it helps me to get past abstractions in order to feel the human need with a more alive and challenging 'felt-sense.' My prayer is that this little song will resonate with friends and sympathizers and that it might encourage some to join the effort to cultivate more humane and creative intervention in the face of such terrible human suffering. And so here are my words, my version for such troubled times, my words for *Hold On Beautiful Dreamer*.

***Hold On Beautiful Dreamer***

No, not criminals when there's nowhere safe to go  
Beautiful babies came here just to grow  
Planting tender shoots in the only land they know  
Until there came that callous call to go...go... go!

Go... go ... go!  
Damn dangerous journey!  
Go ... go... go... go... go... go ... go!  
Keep your lovely eyes  
Upon the lovely prize  
Hold on! Hold on!

The base is fired up, Lord, and still kinda swells  
Hate's been running loose while love sits chained  
to hell  
Our broken congress - seems every vote's for sale  
O God! Here's ICE to hound and put 'em all in  
jail!

In jail!  
Round up the kiddies!  
Immigration camps are jail!  
But keep your lovely eyes  
Upon the lovely prize  
Hold on! Hold on!

Some brave folks stood up and started to jump  
"The land of the free or the home of the chump?  
Why treat these children as if they're only junk  
Their dreams destroyed and tossed on the dump?"

A dump!  
Hate and greed-made!  
A du-u-u-u-ump!  
Please keep your lovely eyes  
Upon the lovely prize  
Hold on! Hold on!

Hold on to justice!  
Beautiful dreamer ...  
To freedom!  
Aware unto me ...  
Hold on!  
And keep your lovely eyes  
Upon the lovely prize  
Hold on! Hold on!