

✠ *The Quakeress* ✠

Summer 2013

**2012-2013 USFW
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(Positions run until July 2013)

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Take Courage

“Take Courage...” (I Cor 16:13-14) is the theme for this Triennial of USFW International. It strikes me as timely, as we in Indiana face a time of great change.

Indiana USFW seeks to continue to serve and connect with all Friends women in Indiana and contiguous areas: those in Indiana Yearly Meeting, the New Association of Friends, and those which are independent or of other affiliation. In line with this broader mission, we are reviewing our bylaws and expect to propose some minor changes in the coming year.

In 2012-13, we hosted four successful events.

Our yearly meeting luncheon featured Sam and Becky Barber. Their message reached many in the group and good connections were made as a result of this meeting. The Fall Retreat, held in cooperation with Western Yearly Meeting USFW, was also a success.

Our Fall Gathering was held at Spiceland and featured Mary Lord as our speaker. Mary's personal experiences on the ground in Kenya at the time of the 2007 elections helped us all to understand the critical importance of the peace curriculum and other peacemaking work being done in preparation for the 2013 elections. The challenge was issued: Indiana USFW and Indiana Yearly Meeting were invited to match USFWI's donation of \$5000 to the peace curriculum project. We came a long way to meeting that challenge on the spot, and by the time our annual giving was tabulated, we had exceeded our goal.

Muncie Memorial hosted our Spring Gathering, and Joyce Ajlouny was our featured presenter. We learned a great deal about the impact of the Ramallah Friends School on a community that has been affected by violence and repression. The Friends School has offered many youths the opportunity to receive not only a high school education but the scholarships required for access to university and graduate education in the US. Many of these young people return later to serve and help their community. Indiana USFW has chosen to sponsor a need-based scholarship to the Ramallah Friends School as our 2013 project.

We invite Friends to follow us on Facebook. Our page is “Indiana USFW.” We also have a page on the Indiana Yearly Meeting website, and our Quakeress newsletter is available by mail and email. If you would like to be added to the Quakeress list, please let me know.

Penny Sitler
Presiding Clerk, Indiana USFW

Indiana Yearly Meeting Sessions



The USFW/Quaker Men luncheon will be held on Saturday, July 27, at noon, in the Quaker

Haven Camp dining hall. We invite everyone to come and hear Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, share on the theme of the current FUM Triennial, “A Great People to Be Gathered.”

Please make your reservation through the IYM registration form.

Highlights of 2012 Fall Gathering



The 2012 USFW Women’s Retreat (Fall Gathering) for Western and Indiana Yearly Meetings was held September 10-11 at Quaker Haven Camp.

The Theme was “Take Courage.” On Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, Cathy Harris, Associate Pastor at Spiceland Friends, led us in a time of discussing our theme. Monday evening featured a talent show and we also enjoyed the movie, “Courageous.”

(The USFW’s of Indiana and Western Yearly Meetings are members of the US-FWI – United Society of Friends Women International.)

Reading Program

If you have readers to report from last year’s reading program, please send the information to Cathy Harris at Spiceland Friends, PO Box 27, Spiceland, IN 47385 or charris1459@yahoo.com.



If you are looking for books for the 2013-14 reading program, we have some! We have a limited supply (one copy each) of the books in the program, and we will sell them for the cover price. You can also see the full reading list on the USFW website at USFWI.org, and use it as a reference to order from www.quakerbooks.org, Amazon, or your local bookstore.

We also have some books remaining from the 2012-13 reading list. These are available at half price. We’ll bring the book table to the Indiana Yearly Meeting luncheon and to the Fall Retreat.

Contributions



We are grateful for your continued support! Our 2012 project was a great success, as we partnered with Indiana Yearly Meeting’s Peace & Social Concerns Committee and exceeded our goal in support of the Kenya Peace Curriculum project.

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Our project for 2013 is to support a need-based scholarship for the Ramallah Friends School. At

our Spring Gathering, Joyce Ajlouny shared with us in moving fashion how difficult it is to select the children to begin their kindergarten course, and many of the candidates come from families that cannot afford the cost of the school. The unique opportunities provided by the Ramallah Friends School include Bible education,

which starts in the first year and



is very rare in Palestine, and the prestigious International Baccalaureate diploma, which qualifies students for collegiate study abroad and the excellent scholarships they need in order to go. Many of these students have later returned to provide valuable support and skills in their home communities. One scholarship can thus affect many lives.

As often occurs, our contributions early in 2013 have been slow to come in. As your fundraisers happen, please direct your contributions to:

Letitia Dain
190 EMS D17
Syracuse, IN 46567

(cont.)

Let us know where your contributions should be directed. While this year's project is for Ramallah, we will gladly accept and pass on your gifts to any mission that you specify.

We have decided to discontinue mailing receipts automatically for each contribution, but we will always send receipts on request, either by mail or email.

2013 Fall Gathering

We do not have a location and date for our Fall Gathering yet. We need a meeting to volunteer to host our group! If you are interested in hosting this event, please contact Penny Sitler at penny.sitler@gmail.com, or at 765-345-5414. We're also ready to schedule our Spring Gathering, if that's a better time for you!

USFW/Quaker Men Triennial

Remember that the Triennial is coming up soon! It is in Indianapolis, so we all have an opportunity to attend with a much lower travel expense than in most years. You can register at USFWI.org, whether for the entire Triennial or just for a day or even a meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather and fellowship with Friends from around the world.

