

Michigan Friends Center

A Quaker-Oriented Facility for Retreat, Reflection, and Celebration

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November 23, 2018

Dear Friends of the Michigan Friends Center,

It's been another busy year at Michigan Friends Center. We've hosted a range of public programs that express our core values of peace, justice, environmental sustainability, and community. A highlight this season, thanks to Patrick Zieske, our program committee convener, is a six-part film series, "Web of Health: Connections with Environment and Well-Being" offered in collaboration with the Chelsea Transition Town organization. In October, Chelsea resident Lynn Fox gave a talk on the ominous decline in the honeybee population. Additional sustainability programs are in the works, including Michigan's clean water challenge, and strategies for reducing carbon consumption.

Carol Blotter continues to lead her generous quarterly day of meditation at the center, and Karen Chalmer hosts quarterly solstice and equinox celebrations. The silence of the Friends Lake woodlands enriches the participants' experience. In addition we continue our annual January evening discussion on Spirit and Nature literature. With six Quaker members on the board, we are planning new programs on Friends traditions for the year ahead. All of our programs are listed on the center's website mfccenter.org.

Next year is MFC's 25th year. We are planning a series of events to celebrate the founding vision and the quarter century of service to GPQM, the Friends Lake community, and the surrounding region. We will launch the series on February 23 with our annual Winterfest! with Gemini, at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting House.

The natural setting on the Friends Lake property is a defining feature of the Center. We will continue to collaborate closely with the Friends Lake community on programs and environmental management. We are planning to add new walking paths through the woods. We are reviewing the board's strengths, limitations and ambitions, and are looking to expand our outreach. We plan to reactivate the Friends of MFC, to broaden participation in our activities. We are exploring possibilities of expanding our social media presence.

Carolyn Holland runs our administration smoothly and we continue to be financially stable. Our small current deficit reflects the loss of two major rentals. We have reduced our expenditures for the year and are working to obtain new rentals. Please think of MFC for group meetings, weddings, holiday events and other occasions.

We need to receive \$4,000 from this annual mailing to meet our budgeted amount for donations. Your contribution towards our goal will help to keep Michigan Friends Center in a strong financial position.

The anchor of all our operations is the Friends network across southern Michigan and beyond. We will be hosting the spring meeting of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting next May, as usual. And we welcome all proposals for enriching the Quaker presence.

For all of the center's work as we look to the years ahead, we rely on financial support from a wide range of our friends. We are grateful for whatever you can afford to contribute.

Sincerely,

Richard Tucker,
Clerk of the Board of Directors

Board of Directors: Richard Tucker, Clerk | Marvin Barnes | Patricia Hopkinson |
Stasia Poncher | Philip Stoffregen | John Williams | Patrick Zieske

Staff: Carolyn Holland, Administration and Rentals