

THE IOWA FRIEND

November/December 2023

The Traditions that Make Us

By: Manny Garcia, General Superintendent

Traditions can be funny, can't they? There's the customary Mexican birthday celebration of shoving a person's face in the cake as they blow out the candles. Or Denmark's interesting habit of soaking down every 25-year-old single person with water before covering them in cinnamon from head to toe. And those are two of the milder traditions I found!

More than being weird practices however, traditions tend to serve as markers of who we are, what we value, and the things that bring us joy. They can be as simple as eating certain foods during holidays (we like to have pizza while we watch Home Alone at Christmastime), or as involved as visiting the same location for family vacation year after year. Traditions are one of those things that help us feel that we are part of something, they help us feel at home. I can't tell you how often a particular smell can transport me right back to my grandmother's kitchen on Thanksgiving day.

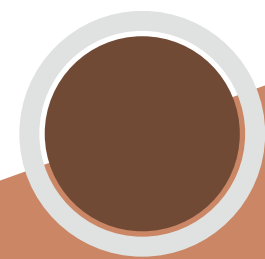
Traditions transcend the people who experience them because they are often timeless. I have a friend who every year on Christmas Eve eats burritos with green chili while watching It's a Wonderful Life with his family. He has done this every year, nearly without fail, since he was a baby. He doesn't really know why it has to be a burrito or green chili or why the movie matters, but he recognizes the significance of being able to participate in and pass on this long-held practice to the next generation.

Traditions can be as much a part of our faith families as they are our families of origin. Each branch of Christianity comes with a trove of practices and customs older than any of the people experiencing them today. Not unlike our own familial traditions, these practices and experiences create a deeper sense of belonging, and they remind us that we are part of something larger and more enduring than we often realize. As a pastor, leader, and church member there have been times where I have bemoaned the practices and traditions of our stream because they can feel cumbersome and antiquated. I will consistently battle against the often-cited church trope "we've never done it that way," but even still, there are certain elements of our faith tradition that make us who we are. We are part of a historical movement of Jesus loving Quaker people. Like any other faith stream, we have our quirks and our warts. However, we are who we are because so many people before us loved Jesus in a way that was not altogether different than what others were doing, but it was unique enough that people made note.

Tradition for tradition's sake can be trying and frustrating at times, especially for people who are newer to our stream. When I married my wife, I discovered a completely new set of traditions and practices. What I didn't do was work against them, trying to change them and make them do things the way I was used to or thought they should. Instead, out of the love I have for my wife and her family, and out of the gratitude I had for them accepting me as one of their

own, I adapted and accepted many of their family's practices. I learned their stories and history and was invited to take part. Of course, now we have our own home and family and together we have created some new traditions, but we have also held onto some from her family and some from mine.

Friends, the reason this topic has been on my heart is that it is far too easy for our churches to lose the historical memory and sense of identity that comes with our tradition. At one time it meant something significant to be a Christian Friend, but more recently it seems less so. Don't misunderstand my point, we are Christians first and foremost, but we are also Quaker. We shouldn't be ashamed of that or try to bury it. This is part of our identity and as such there are core values, principles, positions, traditions, and beliefs that are part of our ethos. We have chosen to be part of this stream and as such we have a responsibility to understand the traditions that undergird our community of faith. Though they can seem cumbersome at times, these things also make Christian Quakerism a spiritual home for many. I pray that as we endeavor toward the One Church vision of Iowa Yearly Meeting, that we will also appreciate that being part of a faith family that transcends us, our local churches, and even our Yearly Meeting intreats us to discover the histories and stories behind our movement. And that out of gratitude for being welcomed into this faith family, we take the time to learn, to adapt, and to pass on something of value to the next generation. New ideas, innovation, and adaptation are always welcome, but in doing so we cannot forsake what makes us who we are.



*How good and pleasant
it is when God's people
live together in unity!*

Psalm 133:1



The Obituary of Beth Macy Fuhs

Beth Ann (Macy) Fuhs 57, of Union, Iowa passed away at Unity Point Health Marshalltown on Saturday September 23, 2023 surrounded by her loving family.

Beth was born in Marshalltown, Iowa to parents Don and Joyce (Hoing) Macy. She graduated from Union Whitten High School then continued her education at Marshalltown Community College finishing at William Penn University in 1989. Beth met Stuart Fuhs and they married June 20, 2020 at Sundown Lake in Moravia, Iowa. She held a variety of jobs which were all centered around helping others. Most recently she worked for REM in Marshalltown. Beth attended Bangor Liberty Friends Church in Union Iowa and was a proud member of the Pi Gamma Xi Sorority at William Penn University. Among her many hobbies, she enjoyed

gardening, fishing, camping, quilting, puzzles, games, and spending time with family and friends. Many of her family members were blessed to be given a handmade quilt from Beth.

Beth is survived by her husband Stuart Fuhs, stepchildren: Lynn Ann (Nate) Kapustka of Lincoln, NE, Elizabeth (Brent) Drabek of Benton, LA, and Lincoln Fuhs of Lincoln, NE, Grandchildren: Charlie Kapustka and Hailey Kapustka, Siblings: Robin (Keith) Wendt of Ankeny, IA. and Will (Jo) Macy of Conrad, IA., Many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Beth is preceded in death by her parents: Don and Joyce Macy, her grandparents, and her nephew: Jonathan Macy.

SPRING *Connection*

**Missions Trip to Mexico
Spring Break 2024**

Virtual Information Meeting January 7th at 6:00pm

Contact the sarah@iaym.org if you are interested



Happy Thanksgiving
and
Merry Christmas
from
Iowa Yearly Meeting

May God bless you and yours
abundantly this season!

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Office will be closed December 22- January 3

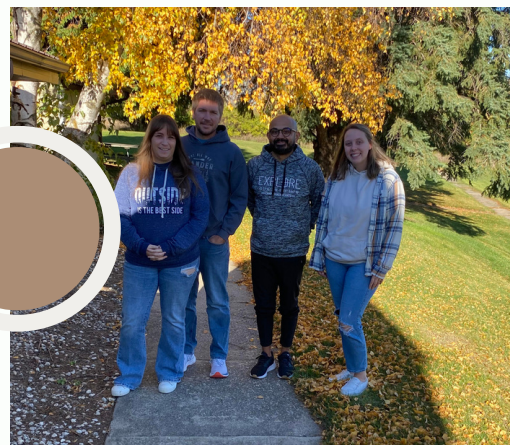
YEAR END GIFTS FOR IAYM STAFF

The IAYM Pastor's Association would like to continue their tradition of blessing the Yearly Meeting staff during the holidays. If you would like to contribute, please send your gift to:

Wes Blanchard (Pastor's Assoc. Treasurer)
12172 150th Ave. Indianola, IA 50125
or via Paypal at wesblanch@msn.com
or via Venmo to @WesBlanch

Gifts are requested to be sent by December 16th

Checks can be made out to IYM Pastor's Association



Giving Tuesday and Year-End Giving

If you are looking for a Gospel-centered organization to bless with your year end giving, we humbly ask that you consider Iowa Yearly Meeting. As a community, we seek to partner with our churches, support our pastors, train leaders, organize opportunities for discipleship and service, and to do more together than we can alone, all for the sake of the Gospel.

We invite you on this Giving Tuesday to join us on that mission!

Thank you for being part of IAYM - One Church!



SCHOLARSHIPS

KENNETH AND BETTY PALMER SCHOLARSHIP

Kenneth and Betty Palmer Scholarship The purpose of the Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship Endowment is to assist students who are members of the Friends Church and who are involved in graduate studies (Masters or Doctoral program) in preparation for or furthering their ministry. This includes, but is not necessary limited to, pastoral ministry, missionary service, Christian Education and youth ministry. A maximum assistance of \$500 per semester shall be granted to an applicant but final determination will be based on funds available and the number of eligible applicants. Recipients of scholarship assistance shall apply **by May 1, 2024** for the next school year or four months before courses begin. Continuation of scholarship shall be determined by need and by funds available. The maximum anyone can receive under this scholarship program is \$4,000 or eight semesters, whichever first occurs. Applications available through the Yearly Meeting Office.

IOWA USFW WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Following are guidelines for the selection of candidates for Iowa United Society of Friends Women William Penn University Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee shall consider applications for scholarships and make decisions as to recipients.

1. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by need of the applicant and by funds available.
2. The candidate shall be a participating member of Iowa Yearly Meeting.
3. A candidate from Iowa Yearly Meeting shall have successfully completed secondary education requirements and shall have been accepted by William Penn University.
4. Applications must be received **by March 31st**.
5. To be considered for a scholarship for the succeeding academic year, recipients must submit a request to the committee each year.
6. Scholarships shall only be awarded for a maximum of four (4) academic years.

For questions, please contact Jacque Wilbur at 515-205-0692 or jacwilbur@gmail.com

IAYM TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2023-2024 academic school year (January of 2024). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office. **Deadline for this scholarship is January 31st, 2024, and a recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2024.**

MISSIONS BOARD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2023-2024 academic school year. People within Iowa Yearly Meeting who want to pursue an education at a Christian college or an accredited college or seminary to prepare for full time mission's work with a Friend's organization may contact the Mission's Board's clerk, Nancy Stevens (nansteve@gmail.com) to receive an application. **The deadline is March 1, 2024.**

WILLIAM PENN CAMPUS MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP

The Campus Ministry scholarship is available to students attending WPU full-time. The scholarship is \$15,000 on average a year. A Campus Ministry Scholarship recipient's responsibilities include:

1. Commit to an average of 10 hours per week to campus ministry activities
2. Attend a church of their choice on a consistent weekly basis
3. Maintain a personal devotional life
4. Strive for a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Contact Daniel Thatcher at 641-202-4660 or danielthatcher@wmpenn.edu for more information.