



Miami Friends Meeting House
Waynesville, Ohio
1811

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



Fall Creek Meeting House
Pendleton, Indiana
1857

2022 Epistle from the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Youth Program

To Friends Everywhere,

On the eighth day of the sixth month of the year 2022, OVYM Youth gathered at Mt. St. Joseph University. Cecilia Branson, Elana Branson, Max Dean, Toby Dean, and Bryan Rivera were all in attendance. Our first activity was a group walk to get to know the campus since it was our first time gathering in that space. Meeting for Worship with the entire Yearly Meeting centered us for the week ahead. We stayed up for a good part of the night playing UNO where Max reigned victorious.

On the ninth day of the month, we started our day with silent worship and business meeting. Our main activity for the day was visiting the Holocaust and Humanity Center at the Cincinnati Museum Center. We were joined by Peter, Lupe, Paz, Maria, David, Hannah, Adam, and Alondra, and were led through the exhibits by Martha. The museum's more local survivor stories gave a more vivid and tangible connection to what would otherwise remain an abstract tragedy of the past. We then attended Gloria's thought provoking musical plenary. That night, we settled down for another round of UNO, where Max and Cecilia proved their mighty UNO abilities.

On the tenth day of the month, we continued the tradition and went rafting on the Whitewater River in Brookville, Indiana. We were joined by Yoshiya, Hannah, David, Paz, Lupe, Adam, and Alondra. We took three rafts down the quickest 7 miles in youth history, finishing moments before rain came down. This trip proved eventful, as Max was bonked in the head and Yoshiya left his license in the raft. Afterwards, we took a quick trip to the convenience store where David very kindly treated us to some snacks. Cecilia and Elana left for the airport to visit with family. That evening, Max and Bryan, along with Adam and Alondra took a very ominous and educational ghost tour of the historic Over the Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati. Post-tour, Bryan enjoyed his first Skyline Chili experience.

On the eleventh day of the month, we volunteered at Bahr Farm. Lupe joined us for this trip, and Dylan Cahalan gave us a tour of the farm. We weeded some beet rows, and enjoyed some delicious mulberries and farm-fresh cucumbers. Max saw some bunnies. Overall, we learned about sustainable agriculture along with the importance of the hard work put in for the food we eat. After supper, we attended and performed at the variety show. Our ensemble was called "Circus Boyz" (with a z) led by Adam Funck, we performed various circus acts to the motion-picture soundtrack of FunkyTown from Dreamworks' hit masterpiece, Shrek 2, followed by a profound and emotional solo performance of the song Francis Forever by Mitski, by Maximum Dean.

On the twelfth day of the month, we prepared the epistle while Max drew. After the close of Annual Sessions, the youth will be taking an educational and highly-beneficial trip to Jungle Jim's International Market. We enjoyed our time together, and enjoyed reconnecting after a 3-year hiatus. We plan to see each other again throughout the coming year and once again gather for OVYM in 2023.