



BRIDGING THE GAP

A Quaker Intentional Community Newsletter



We are renting!

We have been moving around in various ways (see Transitions Galore!), and that means the Farmhouse has space available for medium- or long-term rentals and we also anticipate at least one house for sale in the coming year.

We ask inquirers to find ways to get to know us through online and in-person visits or events. We can also host planned tours of the land and friendly visits with residents.

Would you like to come explore and live in community with us? We welcome deepening relationships and discussion on these opportunities with individuals, partners, or families; please see our [steps in membership](#).

The Latest News from QIV—Canaan

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

Maple sugaring, gardening, and gifts of the land, apple pressing, new gravel on Bradley's Crossing

Road, summer camp by the creek, a basketball hoop and a skate ramp, fireworks and fires, storms and calm.

We are here on the Land. We are grateful for so many gifts. We are listening to our intentions as a community, and we are learning, growing, aging, renewing. What are you doing? Could you tell us via email? By visiting for a Friday evening fire? Which of our five community intentions are most present for you?

Transitions Galore!

- Dee and Paul moved into tiny houses in June, and Paul has since moved to his son's place in Vermont. A family of four – Dan, Liz and their children Tor (15) and Willow (10) – moved into the Sage House. Liz is an environmental educator at Five Rivers, Dan is a carpenter and outdoor nature educator, Tor has brought the new sounds of skating on his half pipe, and Willow catches rides up the road with community members.
- Anne Undeland is moving back to the Berkshires after eight years here at QIVC. We look forward to cheering on her continued success as a playwright.
- After several years residing in the Farmhouse, Robin and her children moved into full membership at QIVC and are moving into La Terrazza, the lower level of the blue home, #217.
- Emilie recently joined Dan in retirement. QIVCers joined family and work friends in celebrating the occasion at a fun party at a local park where all wished her well. Em and Dan bought a camper van and have begun planning road trips to visit dear ones and explore new destinations.
- Eric Bear moved back to his home state of Florida, where he is happily spending time in the surf and making plans to build some kind of hut. We appreciate his occasional stays at QIVC.
- We've watched as the QIVC kids keep growing – all thriving through the pandemic in part because they have had each other in their big pod. They have a variety of educational arrangements which include traditional schools, less formal small groups, and home schooling.
- Sandy spent a good bit of time down in Pennsylvania as first her mother died in March and then her father in October. Cousin Spee was a great supportive presence, including being present as her Uncle John died.
- Spee and Jens bought an all-electric car (EV) and more charging stations are being built, as the community fleet has grown to 3 EVs (1 Tesla, 1 Nissan Leaf, and 1 Kia Niro).
- Eric's partner Jean has been spending more and more time on the land and has now become an Associate Member. Jean brings organizational skills, and she, Spee, and Sam have been busy sifting through years of electronic documents, determining which are old or drafts that can be “archived” and creating an easier system to maintain and find community information.
- Hana completed her paramedic training and joined the Troy Fire Department. As the most junior member, it was her responsibility to organize the holiday party, so for the first time ever, at least in memory, it was a Hanukkah party!



Support our projects, be in touch!

Help us continue to live with the land, ensure sustainability,
and pursue projects that fulfill our intentions.

DONATE TO QIVC



SEND us an email



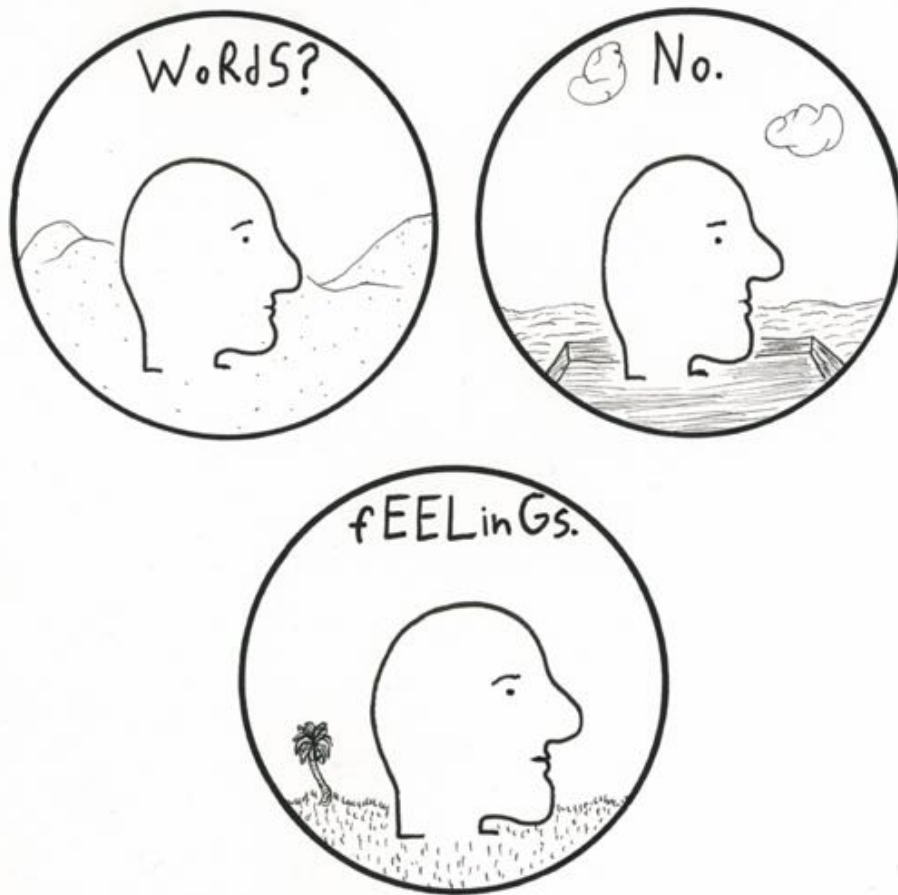
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Morvin

by Eric Bear Ludwig



Ask Em

A cheeky advice column by Emilie Michaud

Dear Em,

My friend Mariana is considering whether or not to begin engaging in our community with the idea of possibly becoming a member. She keeps asking me if life during a pandemic is better or worse in community. I guess she hasn't liked my answers, which is why she keeps asking and why I'm turning to you for help. What would you say?

I've already told her the following:

- *Compared to other people living in a bucolic rural area, you're not so isolated. If you're feeling lonely, you can head out of your house and check out who's out and about. You can always count on 91-year-old Helen to be home and to be delighted to greet you. She'll open her window enough to engage in conversation and she'll be sure to let you know that she's grateful you've come by. On the other hand if you're out and about checking out who else is out and about, watch out! If someone thinks you're headed for your car, they may ask you to do your best to score some at-home COVID rapid tests for them.*
- *Life in a time of pandemic means that we don't get to eat all that delicious food we used to have at Friday night potlucks in the Farmhouse. What we do have, though, is Friday Fires which are great fun for connecting, despite all the smoke that gets in your eyes, since you can't move out of the line of smoke while maintaining 6' between pods. And then there's that wonderful smoky smell on your clothes afterwards.*

- *When we're attending a meeting or semi-annual retreat outside, we may be happy we're not on zoom, but we're freezing our butts off even with many layers of clothes plus blankets. When we're on zoom, we're nice and warm, but then we're doing the mainstream thing of sitting at home looking at our screens for hours and hours, and who would ever know we live in intentional community?!*
- *Some QIVC activities are only mildly affected by the pandemic. On Christmas Eve, we had a lovely gathering of residents and nearby neighbors for caroling on the snow-covered frisbee field. Earlier, in October, when we gathered for our usual apple pressing festivities, it was just as easy as always to get the QIVC kids to labor away for a few hours – until they quit to play on the trampoline.*

What else could I say? Why isn't she satisfied with that?

Mariana is full of energy, she takes a lot of initiative, and she's very considerate of others, and I wonder if we're good enough for her and if she could handle our quirkiness – oh, sorry, I digress...

*Signed,
Cookie Communitarian*

Dear Cookie,

Your answers are wonderful, thorough, and in-depth. It's just that it wasn't in the right formats for Mariana to understand. I've resolved the issue by making a Google doc, a Google drive, an Excel spreadsheet, a QuickBooks account, and a WhatsApp group. If that's not enough for Mariana, then she's not the one for us, or we're not the one for her.

From Sunny and Socially Distant South Florida,
Em & a very confused Ericbear



Voice of the Land

QIVC is on [traditional territory](#) of the [Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohicans](#).

They walk on me. They travel from this part to the town part, or further, and they come back. Sometimes they notice, other times they do not, often they do not seem to understand. We all see the beauty of the pattern of life on the stripped trunk of a fallen tree.

My Favorite Place on the Land - today!

by Dee Duckworth, 2021-12-30





Walking carefully down the wet, leaf strewn hill towards the sinuous creek below.



From above, I hoped against hope this tangle of roots might be a beaver dam! I was mildly disappointed, but always love seeing tree roots exposed below ground - interesting visually and imaginatively.

I always find the bright velvetiness of the moss impossibly green within the dimmed colors of the winter forest.



Message to QIVC residents (via the Land WhatsApp group) about the amazing life we have here, full of wonder and awe.

by Dee Duckworth

🤔🤔 I'm watching two deer lying down under a pine tree out my bedroom window. It seems they're taking turns being on watch. One curls their head into their body, the other one keeps its up, looking around. Then they switch. I wonder how they communicate because they're on opposite sides of the tree in opposite directions.

Sermon of liberation

by Noah Palmer

What would it feel like
To truly be together
In this world
Of boots and tweezers

I choose the way of the goose
Flying high in a V
On the wind of another wing
Changing places always
Never sitting still

The boxes are opening
The tired knot is unwinding
Yet who will notice the
Garrulous honking

Take a moment to feel
What it feels like to be free

Our Five Intentions

We believe conscious culture creation in community can be a means to advance our intentions:

1. To live in worship, increasing our mindfulness, spiritual focus, and God-centeredness by intertwining our daily lives with others who share these intentions.
2. To create a village setting that values and engages participation by people of all ages, expands our experience of family, and supports our expression in the world.
3. To create wealth that embodies integrity and Truth by carefully examining our engagement in the current economic order and stepping away from its destructive elements.
4. To live in unity & harmony with the earth by considering the near and far environmental impact of our actions while striving for thriving.
5. To include a good measure of joy, fun, creativity, and service in our lives.

We believe that our community's success in achieving these five intentions will be aided by membership diverse in race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, and economic situations, and therefore it is our aim to gather a community whose members are diverse in these ways as well as others.

Photo credits: Sandra Beer, Spee Braun, Dee Duckworth

Quaker Intentional Village Project Newsletter

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