

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Meeting Telephone: 410-573-0364

Clerk: Barbara Thomas

Building Use Coordinator(BUC):Sky Elsbree - 410-647-3591

Annapolis Friends Meeting Website:

<http://www.quaker.org/annapolis>

Newsletter ed.: Phil Caroom – contact at
[e-mail removed from website]

Meetings for Worship:

Annapolis Friends Meeting House
351 DuBois Road, Annapolis, Md. 21401
First Days, 11:00 A.M.

First Day School for children
Nursery care for our youngest

11:15 A.M. (join meeting for worship from 11:00-11:15)
11:00 A.M.

Meetings for Worship with a

Concern for Business:

1st First Day of month at 9:00 A.M.

Adult religious education:

As noted in calendar below

MAY 2010 CALENDAR

01	9 A.M.- noon	-	Spring Quaker Market! Come on down!
02	(1)	9:00 A.M.	- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business & <i>Worship-sharing on possible Meeting House expansion- See article on p. 7.</i>
09	(2)	11:00 A.M. 8:00 A.M. 9:00 A.M.	- Meeting for Worship followed by potluck - Early Meeting for Worship - Meeting for Learning on Friends Religious and Social Testimonies (continuing on June 13)
10		11:00 A.M.	- Meeting for Worship Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (p. 3)
16	(3)	9:00 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	- Committee Meetings - Meeting for Worship
23	(4)	8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	- Early Meeting for Worship - <i>Worship-sharing w/special invitation for newcomers(p.6)</i> - Meeting for Worship
30	(5)	9:00 P.M. 11:00 A.M.	- Newsletter items due: please email! - Meeting for Worship

Care of the Meeting House for Fifth Month: Stewardship and Finance

QUERIES FOR FIFTH MONTH: PERSONAL WAY OF LIFE

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? So you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways? (*Faith and Practice*, p. 39)

For more Quaker quotes as to personal way of life, see page 8.

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES—Eleventh Day, Fourth Month, 2010

Barbara T. (Clerk), Marcia O. (Recording Clerk) and 28 other Friends and attenders were present. Our Meeting began with centering worship. Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were reviewed by our clerk. Our meeting was held in the light by Stuart and Leo.

Ministry and Worship Committee: Elise A. reporting: The 2009 Spiritual State of the Meeting Report was heard; we were given the individual committee reports to later review. Friends found unity with this report; it will be forwarded to BYM.

Meetinghouse and Lands Committee: Sky E. reporting: The new tankless water heater was installed this Third Month to replace the old 80 gallon standard water heater. The \$3,232 cost came from the capital replacement fund. At our Business Meeting, Third Month, we found unity with constructing the required 3 green areas or islands and a bio retention area, all located basically in the original parking lot. In Third Month, Anne Arundel County Inspection & Permits division approved our standard grading plan. The green areas, in the center of the original parking lot, were required by the county because we extended the parking lot, late last year. The bio retention area, essentially a rain garden, should improve our storm water management system. An original bid by KW Landscaping, who also did the playground project some time ago, was recently modified to widen the bio retention area and to provide labor to install the wheel stops. The cost would be \$11,562, exclusive of plantings. We recommend that the project be funded between the capital building fund (\$5,394) for the green areas since it is a requirement of our original county plans of 1992, and the capital improvement fund (\$6168) for the bio retention area. We found unity with this plan. The committee will review the adequacy of parking spaces and the ability to move cars within the lot. They will report back to us on this issue. Appreciation was extended to the committee for their work and especially to Sky for all his efforts.

Stewardship & Finance Committee: Mary K. reporting: The Committee has agreed with the Quaker Market sub-committee, which offered their proceeds to be distributed with 75% to the Lighthouse Shelter and 25% to the Building Fund. The accounting for 2009 has been closed and the tax letters sent. The accounting for 2010 has been opened. If there are discrepancies, please contact Mary Kniskern. The surplus has been determined to be just over \$10,500, rather than the previously reported \$3000. The allocation of this surplus has been worshipfully considered with attention to a careful balance between our Meeting's needs and the needs of the wider community. This surplus was generated from rental and interest income, as well as committee frugality. The recommendations for its allocation are first to fulfill the requests submitted by committees for the 2010 budget; included are those amounts which were excluded from the initial balanced budget and those amounts reallocated to cover the anticipated costs of the bookkeeper:

\$1000 to Peace & Social Concerns Committee- Activities: Peace, Race & Justice ;
\$2000 to Children's Religious Education- Activities: Camping Assistance or to the Young Friends' Opportunity Fund if CREC considers it appropriate and it is not possible to make arrangements for the Philadelphia students to attend camp this year;
\$2180 to Meetinghouse & Lands- as requested in their initial request;
\$920 to Meetinghouse & Lands- for Second Month 2010 snow removal;
\$3000 to Meetinghouse & Lands- Capital Replacement or Capital Improvement fund- to defray the costs of the new water heater or parking lot completion; and
\$500 to the Adult Scholarship Fund to support Meeting Members & Attenders in their spiritual development.

[MINUTES ARE CONTINUED AT BOTTOM OF PAGE 3.]

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HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – PLEASE NOTE NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR & EMAIL ADDRESS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the deadline listed above in the calendar. Phil Caroom is the new editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to him at [e-mail removed from website]
- Friends also are asked to watch your email for announcements of meetings and to listen for announcements at the rise of meeting.
- Event and activity organizers, please also post your announcements on the bulletin board for those who do not use electronic mail!

Announce List: [e-mail removed from website]

Discuss List: [e-mail removed from website]

LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER, ANCHOR HOUSE SHELTER, AND PANTRY

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday of each month (April 5th this month). Peter Meredith (410-647-2487) and Marcia Ormsby (410-280-5025) serve as our schedulers to identify Friends to coordinate monthly meals.

We also collect non-perishable food items to deliver to the pantry after each first First Day. These items may be placed in the container in the lobby of the Meeting House. Please contact Carol Brantley for an updated list of items especially needed

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR BUSINESS from 4/10 - (continued from page 2)

The ministry of Ann Riggs in Africa will probably be continued for another year, but this information was not available before these accounting proposals were considered. The committee will inform Ann of our need for a letter requesting funding for another year. She will be specifying the preferred vehicles and mechanisms to deliver that support. A remaining \$925 allocation will be discussed during the next Committee Meeting, next First Day at 9am in the Library. Interested people are invited to render their opinions, particularly in reference to this new information about Ann Riggs as well as the needs of AFSC for Humanitarian Relief Efforts. The treasurers' report and the 2010 budget will be forthcoming.

Ministry & Worship Committee: Marcia O. reporting: Deconstructing racism group has been meeting for a number of years; Ministry and Worship has agreed to oversee this group and its activities, as this mission is one of spiritual development. We would be receiving an annual report regarding their activities. A review of their format and activities was provided by a number of those involved. Questions are asked at their meetings, regarding racism and difficulties therein. Racism is a spiritual issue in seeing that of God in everyone. Any work that can be done as individuals, seeing that of God in others, furthers everyone's spiritual path. Part of their mission is to heal the broken parts within. Our testimony of equality addresses these deep-seated racial issues. Not seeing clearly and feelings of superiority contribute to the racist attitudes, diminishing our spirituality. The fair and equal distribution of power in our society and clear attention to truth certainly remain spiritual issues. The committee is pleased to be more closely associated with this struggle and is eager to inform and to include others from within and without the Meeting.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Barbara T. reporting for Phil F.: FCNL priorities were open to the whole meeting for over a month. Those priorities have been discerned and will be sent to FCNL from AFM, albeit we are behind the deadline. They are attached to these minutes. We have been encouraged to attend the FCNL meetings.

These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship. Respectfully Submitted, Barbara T., Clerk Marcia O., Recording Clerk (Minor editing is made to this AFM newsletter edition.)

LIBRARY CORNER:

:-) Spring House Cleaning :-)

PLEASE look through your book shelves for books that you borrowed from AFM while you are cleaning, or looking for items for Quaker market. There are some that have been checked out since last May. Other Friends would like to use them so please return them to the box under the counter so they may be recirculated. The library committee thanks you. For questions, please contact Nan Elsbree

TWO BOOK REVIEWS:

1) *"Soon Be Free"* by Lois Ruby is a book for young people which has placed me in a quandry. Is it a book that we should keep in our library or not? It would be great if someone else would read it and let me know their opinion (especially some teens and/or education committee members).

The premise is this: A young teen named Dana becomes invoved in a modern-day mystery that revolves around a Quaker family that lived in the 1850's. Not only was their son (James) Dana's age but the family lived in her house! The pace of this 300 page novel is quick. The historical references help the reader focus on the important and difficult decisions James must make when helping a group of runaway slaves and, also while possibly bringing justice to a complicated situation involving Native Americans.

All of the things I've said above make me want to recommend this book highly. What concerns me is the style of writing which resembles a cheap mystery novelette a la Guy Noir (enjoyable in the understandably popular *Prairie Home Companion*) but with a caustic, biased edge that surfaces mainly when any overweight woman appears (and these are usually the "bad " characters).

Is this the type of writing we want to display? Is the story line so good and potentially important that it outweighs the prejudiced slant? Or; am I being oversensitive? Please! Read the book and let me know.-
submitted by Susan D.

2) *"The Translator – A tribesman's memoir of Darfur"* by Daoud Hari – provides two different ways to learn about the genocide. The main body of the book offers a fast-moving, first-person adventure story. ("After two hours, the 'crazy commander' pulled up in his Landrover and yelled at the soldiers for untying us....")

The introduction and appendix together serve as a primer on African colonial history , one family's experience, and the narrator's straightforward view of recent years' war & political history. ("...In my own childhood, [Arab and indigenous African neighbors] feasted in one another's tents and huts. Any disputes that could not be settled through negotiations between the elders were settled in ritual battles held far from any village so that women and children and the elderly would not be harmed.")

The narrator, now a refugee living in Baltimore, thus offers both a gripping story and a much clearer account of the conflict than is available from most news accounts. Submitted by Phil C.

Nursery Caretakers Needed: Spending time with our youngest Annapolis Friends is a joy that we invite you to share. You get to play, read to the kids, play again, tell stories, play more and have a snack! If you forgot how to play, the kids will remind you. Please consider volunteering in our nursery and contact Sylvia O. at [e-mail removed from website]

SURVEY TO INCREASE ATTENDANCE AT MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

To be faithful to the common good is also to celebrate the diversity of human gifts that provide the building blocks for the common good. Diversity is central to being human.

Agnus Abuom (Kenya) from “Seeking Peace in Africa”

If this quote is to be believed, let it be known that we at Annapolis Friends Meeting need your input at Meeting for Business. The work of Quakerism in the world is largely accomplished through committee; Business Meeting receives the committee reports and directs their activities. No important decision is made without the blessings of Business Meeting, so your spiritual-led thinking and mindfulness are requested.

On a scale of 1-10 what is your level of interest in attending?

How can we help to increase your involvement in business meeting?

What can we change to enable your attendance?

What is your greatest obstacle to your attendance? Have you ever attended? If so when most recently and how many times have you ever attended?

On Business Meeting day, would you like to continue having potluck lunch? Would you like breakfast? Snacks?

Is there a better day or time for Business Meeting?

Are you willing to provide childcare during Business Meeting?

Is there a format that you would like to see instituted?

Do you have anything to add?

We, of your Ministry & Worship Committee are invested in our spiritual community; whether you attend Meeting infrequently or never miss worship, you have a contribution to make to the welfare of our Meeting. We would like to ensure that you are heard. Please complete this form and add to the back, providing your name and email so that we can contact you.

Thank you for helping us to help you.

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

Should we expand or improve the Meeting House?: Worship Sharing on whether/how to begin planning

On, May 3, after other brief business, we will hold a worship-sharing meeting to discuss three questions which may help us search for light and listen to one another:

*What creature comforts (e.g. expanded facilities for Meetinghouse) do we need to fulfill our leadings in our Meeting and community?

*Is it time to engage an architect to develop a building plan (with range from minimal to visionary) to inform our community discernment?

*Should we form an oversight committee to shape and recommend next steps?

It has been roughly 15 years since the original construction of the Meeting House was completed. Our attendance, activities and demand for space (including restrooms) has grown substantially. Please attend and share your light with us on this perennial subject.

Meetings for Learning on Quaker Testimonies: Religious and Social

On **May 9 and June 13, at 9 a.m.**, we will learn the acronym SPICE to help us remember our unifying testimonies: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community and Equality.

Did you know that those testimonies are reflected differently in various Friends Meetings and traditions? New Zealand Friends are discussing “religious” testimonies as the basis for our “social” testimonies. The religious testimonies they cite are (i) “That of God in everyone,” (ii) Direct communion with God, (iii) All of Life is Sacramental; and (iv) Continuing Revelation. Might these underlie our leadings to act in the world through our SPICE testimonies?

Come and explore with Friends.

Worship Sharing with special invitation for Newcomers

Join us, on May 23, at 9:30 a.m., for a conversation and worship sharing opportunity, especially for our newer attenders, to explore queries about –

- What has brought you to Annapolis Friends Meeting?
- How might Friends faith and practice fit with your spiritual path?
- How might we help make your experience at Annapolis Friends Meeting more fulfilling?

We will gather in the Meeting room for light refreshment at 9:30, have a brief explanation of worship sharing (see note below), begin silence at 9:45 followed by worship sharing on the queries, and open for discussion and questions at 10:30. We will break at 10:45 to join others for Meeting for Worship at 11. (We also invite you to complete our business meeting survey –p. 5)

THRESHING ON “TERM LIMITS,” COMMITTEES AND NOMINATING

A “threshing” meeting is one in which a controversial issue is considered and all viewpoints are heard. Although unity is sought, no decision is required.

At more than one Business Meeting, Annapolis Friends have differed as to the recommendation of Nominating Committee that AFM should extend to all committee members the guidelines which, years ago, were approved by Business Meeting as to committee clerks and officers: *Committee clerks and officers are encouraged to rotate to another position after no more than two two-year terms, subject to exceptions approved by Business Meeting.* (The guideline is paraphrased here by the newsletter editor.)

Leo P., clerking, provided handouts of previous minutes on committee rotation and queries, recognizing both the concerns of members who have not wanted to rotate (e.g., on CREC) and the increased activities of committees after rotations.

Elise suggested that we must be tender with each other and go forward harmoniously and as a community. ...Both rotation and longevity on a committee can be good for individuals and for our community. Strictly enforced rules are not appropriate. We need to nurture our gifts to grow into joyful committee service. Each fall, committees should offer 2-3 sentences about what is joyful in their work.

Esther: Rotation can help break the pressure to continue on the same committee if a Friend is ready to move on. But members whose heart and devotion is in a committee should not be asked to move.

Sara: She did not have a positive emotional response to being asked to leave CREC. She felt unnurtured, unsupported, and that the Nominating committee was just following guidelines as opposed to helping her find a right path. We need to experience our own paths without rules and regulations. Later Sara spoke of a recent leading for CASA—difficult but rewarding.

Cairn: Clerking rotation is good as it is exclusionary as there can only be one or two clerks, but membership is not exclusionary. We need a policy that honors both leadings and rotations,. Nominating needs to do a better job at recruiting instead of forcing people out.

Phil C.: Committees are central to our membership in a Quaker meeting. Joining a committee converted me from a visitor to member/participant. The things we are happy that AFM has done are usually through community (i.e., committees), not individuals. Nominating should become the JOKING (JOCEAN) committee: “Joy of Committee Education and Nominating...?” Term limits is an excellent idea, especially for clerks. It is hard for an individual to know when enough is enough. Rotation opens opportunities; breaks the routine, ruts, clicks; gives new life and vitality. People too long on a committee speak in code and new members are sidelined. Strongly led and enthusiastic committee members, who are not in a rut, should stay.

Careen: She has served on every committee except Outreach. Some were a struggle for her to find her gifts; an uphill battle to offer seasoned oversight. ...It is a gift to serve on new committees to get to know more people more intimately. Rotation allows us to see how the whole magical thing of AFM comes together.

Peter.: Rotation brings positive insights, e.g., S&F and new treasurer enabling us to simplify finances. Would be benefit to seeing how we could streamline committees and assignments.

Pat: New energy, synergy, creativity comes from new people on committees and from Friends changing committees. Do we know the difference between a leading and our comfort zone? Don't need to be on a committee to help with that committee's work.

Matha O: In most churches, the authority lies in the clergy; committees are support. With Friends, God incarnate is in the body and committee service is the mechanism for finding where Spirit meets humankind. Here, committee work is being part of God's hands, feet, eyes.

Barb: Thrilled on committee Sunday watching the symphony of committees doing the work of the Meeting. Committee work is turning our Faith into Practice. The two must go together. Rotation is part of keeping our work and community healthy.

Ruth was unhappy when first asked to serve on a committee other than CREC, but on Nominating wshe got to know others better and now on MH&L, the different work is mind-boggling. Without being on different

committees, it is not possible to understand the work they do;. Too often, we focus on just our committee's needs and think others aren't helping. We must protect against burnout. Her rotation to a new committee has been a positive eye opener.

Minette: Humor is essential; we should take our work seriously but not ourselves. Also, flexibility is important- we need to try new things and realize we don't own any one; we are on loan.

Melba: Workshop available called Joy of Committee Work by Art Larrabee. At her NJ Meeting, six members are on each committee with two rotating off every year—i.e., three year terms. Youth have a MfB and committees as well. Committee focus changes with new members—with pleasant results. Rotation is in keeping with Quaker process. Each of us is a minister on our committee.

Stuart: Leadings need much discernment. Spoke of his own learning re travel minute for healing ministry. He needed to learn to wait, test, and trust—then the leading comes.

Will: 2004 minute approved 13 exceptions to the 4-year guideline. Having the guideline then allows conscious decisions to make exceptions. How can Nominating and present committee clerks help members to develop to become clerks? A Friend can serve on a committee without being officially nominated. He is skeptical of "leadings" to clerk. Rotation guideline doesn't help with disruptive member.

Mardy: Would like to have a second circle dialogue to address question: "How can we make it better?" In closing, Leo said that the notes for the discussion would guide Nominating Committee this fall as advices.

MORE QUAKER QUOTES FOR FIFTH MONTH

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple lifestyle is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace. From BYM Faith and Practice, p. 32.

All the faithful are not called to the public ministry; but whoever are, are called to minister of that which they have tasted and handled spiritually. The outward modes of worship are various; but whenever any are true ministers of Jesus Christ, it is from the operation of his Spirit upon their hearts, first purifying them and thus giving them a just sense of the conditions of others. This truth was early fixed in my mind and I was taught to watch the pure opening, and to take heed lest, while I was standing to speak, my own will should get uppermost, and cause me to utter words from worldly wisdom, and depart from the channel of the true gospel ministry. John Woolman's Journal

The individual Friend should lead a life rooted in an awareness of God's presence in all times and places. Although special times and locations may provide helpful reminders of the need for spiritual communion, they cannot take the place of turning daily to God for guidance. The foundation for all our personal life and social relations should be the consciousness of the Holy Spirit. BYM Faith and Practice, p. 19.

Dwell in the life, and love, and power and wisdom of God, in unity one with another and with God; and the peace and wisdom of God fill all your hearts, that nothing may rule in you but the life, which stands in the Lord God. George Fox

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