

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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Meetings for Worship:

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

First Day School for children

11:00 A.M. (join meeting for worship from 11:45 -noon)

Nursery care for our youngest

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

JUNE 2011

05	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for worship with attention to business
	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for worship
	1:00 P.M.	-	Potluck lunch
12	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting forWorship
	12:15 P.M.	-	– (see p.)
19	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for worship
26	9:30 A.M.	-	New attenders Q&A – see pg. 5 article
	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
	9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter items deadline: please email !

Care of the Meeting House for Sixth Month: Outreach

QUERIES FOR SIXTH MONTH: HOME AND FAMILY

Do you make your home a place of affection where God’s presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults? Are you as children learning to be accountable for your own actions? Do you as parents help your children to grow in independence and responsibility? Do you consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle? Faith & Practice, p.39.

If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world. Chinese Proverb

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS-THIRD DAY OF FOURTH MONTH, 2011

Phil C. (Acting clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 20 F/friends present. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Ministry and Worship - Tricia R.: M&W joyfully recommends Membership for Wes. There will be a welcoming for Wes at the June potluck. AFM joyfully approves Wes' membership. (As our new assistant clerk of meeting, Wes then stepped in as acting clerk.)

M&W also announced a **new approach for sharing “joys and concerns” at the close of Meeting for Worship**. As a continuing experiment, the person closing meeting will invite F(f)riends to put forth the names of people they would hope to hold in the light from the silence prior to the close of meeting. During circle time, F(f)riends will be invited to announce joys as they give their names.

Updated wording for Fourth Month minute recommending that BYM embrace **Ann Riggs' ministry**: In the minute that was approved last month, our statement that Ann is remaining as principle of Friends Theological College “for a third year” is misleading since she has signed a contract for three more years. In addition to this correction, we can also include the fact that FTC has completed a years-long accreditation process under Ann's leadership. Please see the attached proposed revision. Friends are in agreement to send the corrected minute to BYM.

Continuing presentation - S&F - Mary K.: There will a few hundred dollars change in the 2010 surplus amount, leaving about a \$5,000 surplus remaining to be allocated. Decisions about allocation will be made after the June 12th Threshing Session. Stewardship and Finance will be sponsoring a Meeting for Learning about Friends and Giving (how we as Friends can reflect our Testimonies in the financial aspects of our lives) on May 22nd at 9:15 AM. S&F encourages F(f)riends to join us for both of these events so that we can hear everyone's voice as we consider the financial vision for our Meeting. Friends unable to attend the Threshing Session or the Meeting for Learning are encouraged to send a written statement to a member of S&F to be read aloud. If parents need childcare for either the Meeting for Learning or the Threshing Session, please contact Mary K. or another member of the S&F Committee.

9/11 Anniversary Program - Phil C.: **AFM's Peace & Justice Center**, as a counterpoint to anticipated 9/11 tenth anniversary celebrations of military, plans an alternative presentation to the public (on September 10, 2011), called “9/11 Lessons Learned for Future Leaders”. P&J will reach out to Naval midshipmen, students at St. John's College, students at the AACC, high school students, and Annapolis-area residents. The next meeting of the P&J Center will be Tuesday, May 3. F(f)riends are encouraged to become involved in the organizational phase. The budget could reach \$5,000. The P&J Center will ask for assistance from F(f)riends, and possibly other churches.

FTC solar panels- Tricia R.: S&F needs an endorsement from MfB for allocating part of the surplus to FUM for the solar panel project. Friends are in agreement.

Pastoral Care - Mary B. reporting: Proposed minute: “The Annapolis Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirms marriage for two loving, committed individuals regardless of gender.” (Please see our three previous minutes for 1994, 1995, and 2009, attached.) Friends approve this Minute. Pastoral Care and P&SC are working with our clerk on how to circulate this minute externally.

Possible purchase of land behind Meetinghouse - Schuyler E.: The vacant lot behind the Meetinghouse (adjacent to our property across the shallow part of the ravine and to the Unitarians on the east) is being offered

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MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING FOR BUSINESS – continued from p. 2:

for sale with an asking price of \$140,000. A Google view is attached. Friends are invited to join a small research group, organized by Careen Mayer, to enlist the help of a real estate agent to find details of zoning, taxes, how much of the land is buildable, environmental concerns, etc. If the idea seems possible, we could proceed with threshing sessions to discuss our vision for the future and if this property could be part of it. Friends are in agreement that the Growing and Greening subcommittee of the MH&L do further investigation of this possible property purchase.

These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship. Respectfully submitted, Elise A., Clerk, and Phyllis S., Recording Clerk

MORE QUAKER QUOTES FOR JUNE:

Endeavor to make your home a place of peace and happiness where the presence of God is known. Try to live simply. Remember to value beauty in all its forms. Encourage the appreciation of music, literature and the other arts and the development of taste that will reject the worthless and the base. God's good gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely. From Advices, London, 1964.

Watch with Christian tenderness over the opening minds of your children. Seek to awaken in them the love of Jesus Christ and an understanding of his teaching. Uphold in your own conduct, and thus encourage in theirs, truthfulness and sincerity. Through example and training help them to recognize and obey the voice of God in their hearts that they may be joyful and willing in his service. Remember, at the same time, that there is a unique potentiality in each human being as a child of God, and that the Holy Spirit may lead your children along paths which you have not foreseen. From Advices, London, 1964, in Daily Readings from Quaker Writings Ancient and Modern, p.292, Linda Renfer, Ed.

PLANS IN PROGRESS:

AFM Peace & Justice Center organizes

“9/11 LESSONS FOR FUTURE LEADERS: THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE NEXT 10 YEARS”

During May, Friends of AFM's Peace and Justice Center conferred with faculty from St. John's College, the U.S. Naval Academy, Anne Arundel Community College and other community leaders to discuss our plans for 9/11's tenth anniversary.

We now have decided to focus our Sat., 9/10/11 panel discussions on a primary audience of college and high school students, who display particular interest in these topics, as well as motivated members of the general public. Seating for the program at St. John's Great Hall will be limited to approximately 120 attenders, most of whom we will sign up in advance to attend.

The program will offer attenders an interactive, town-hall style discussion with professionals and educators as to studies of terrorism, U.S. policies and alternatives in fields including prevention, public fears, cyber terrorism, and privacy. A related “market place for ideas” contest also will reward the best proposals of young attenders. Please join us and help with the plans if you are interested via contact with pfavero@gmail.com for more info.

LIGHT HOUSE LUNCHES – THANKS!

Thank you all for staying to assemble and for bringing supplies for the shelter lunches again on May 22. We are well-organized and up to 100! Quite a task for our little meeting! --Blessings to all, Marcia

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LIBRARY CORNER – BOOK REVIEW FOR JUNE:

DEALING CREATIVELY WITH DEATH (14TH EDITION) BY ERNEST MORGAN

The topic of a loved one's—or one's own--s dying and death is a difficult one to face. This author gently leads readers through the process, using his and others' personal stories to lead into psychological, medical and financial matters.

A wealth of topics is covered: hospice, talking with children about death, planning for memorial services, and simple burial practices (including instructions for making a plywood casket.) This latest edition is from 2001 so it is outdated on some issues such as funeral-home prices, AIDS and probably some legal matters. Still, it is clearly explained and in an appealing writing style. Appendices provide sample forms, addresses and other information to provide a starting point (but again, remember the information is likely to be outdated).

This is one of the recommended titles from the "Turning From Time to Eternity" workshop held at the Meetinghouse last fall. We have a copy in the "Family Life" section of our library, and it can be ordered from the FGC Bookstore. -review by Beth Chandler

New Attender Q&A, Sunday, June 26 at 9:30

What have you always wondered about Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) but never got to ask? How are decisions made? What's the difference between consensus and a "sense of the Meeting"? What do the various committees do? How does membership work? What is a clearness committee? What is vocal ministry? How do new attenders become involved? What are people really doing in the silence? What do Quakers really believe?

What would you like to know? Come to this session with your questions or thoughts. We want to learn more about what you need to feel at home with Friends. Barbara Thomas, facilitating: 410-867-2473.

ANOTHER FUNDERFUL SPRING MARKET

Thanks once again to all who participated to make our spring market on Saturday May 7th a success. In addition to the great time we had with each other and friends in the Annapolis community, we had great food, compliments of the Karl Richmond and the Quaker Dudes (and dudettes) and beautiful weather **AND** we were able to raise a net total of **\$1669.88**. This money will be distributed as follows:

- \$100 to **CREC** in honor and appreciation of the participation and enthusiasm of our young friends and to encourage their practice of thoughtful giving.
- 50% of the remaining funds to the **Friends Theological College** in Kenya for their solar panel project.
- 25% of the remaining funds to the **Chrysalis House** located in Crownsville for their work with women with substance abuse treatment needs.
- 25% of the remaining funds to the **Peace and Justice Center** to be used for the events planned for the 10 year anniversary of 9/11.

It is through the support of all who brought items to be sold, shared the news with others, planted seeds or dug up mature plants, came to shop and chat, baked goodies, and helped sort, put up, take down, and clean up that we are able to pull this event off twice a year. Our market committee sends out appreciation to each of you and we look forward to our next market **December 3, 2011**. Mark your calendars!

DARFUR / SUDAN UPDATE

by Sylvia Oliva

SOUTH SUDAN will be an independent nation as of July 9, 2011. It will be born into deep poverty, insecurity, and instability. Its struggle to survive will be very challenging and complicated.

One complication is that President Omar al-Bashir of the Government of Sudan (GOS) is manipulating and stirring up divisions in South Sudan. Another is the North/South border—a highly contested area. Fraudulent voting there seated Ahmed Haroun—a chief perpetrator of the Darfur genocide, and wanted by the International Criminal Court—in the office of Governor of South Kordofan State. Also on the border and rich in oil, Abyei is claimed by both South Sudan and the GOS. These border areas are poised to explode into an all-out war.

DARFUR has become a “black box.” Journalists and reporters are denied access there. Not much improvement has occurred in Darfur during the last few years. The GOS continues its air strikes, raids, and burning of villages. So far this year, over 80 air strikes have destroyed the little villages of Darfur. Not only are the civilians killed and wounded, but they are denied access to humanitarian aid, and even UNAMID (United Nations—African Union Mission in Darfur) cannot come in to provide security or investigate the attacks. Humanitarian aid has also been cut off in the two largest IDP (internally displaced persons) camps of South Darfur, which are among the largest in the world. The people there have been depending on this aid since the genocide began eight years ago. In the camps throughout Darfur, rape and severe deprivations are prevalent.

The peace talks will not meet their May 23, 2011 deadline because negotiations have not been completed. Princeton Lyman was appointed the new U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan, replacing Scott Gration.

This will be my last “Update.” Please check in with the Genocide Intervention Network—Save Darfur Coalition at www.SaveDarfur.org. for information and actions to help. For a deep analysis read Eric Reeves at www.Sudanreeves.org. I leave you with two quotes:

“Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it.” (Gandhi)

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love.” (Reinhold Niebuhr)

THINKING ABOUT RACE (June 2011) - Building an anti-racist identity

Many religious organizations have begun building “an anti-racist identity.” Are Friends ready to take this on in earnest?

Here is one story – it is from Pax Christi USA (PCUSA). In 1992 PCUSA surveyed its membership and found that it was 97% white. This did not reflect the membership of the Catholic Church in the U.S., and certainly not U.S. demographics. Around the same time, one of PCUSA’s leaders had a conversation with a person of color that had a profound effect on him. This person asked, “How come you white peace people will go all the way to South America to work on peace, ignoring violent neighborhoods in your own communities?”

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AGAINST RACISM – cont. fm. P. 5

The survey and this comment moved the PCUSA leader to question why anti-racism was not a part of the peace and justice agenda. By 1998, Pax Christi USA had created *Brothers and Sisters All*, a 20-year initiative “to transform itself into an anti-racist, multicultural peace and justice movement.” Their vision statement concludes: “We have chosen this identity in order to confront the persistent, destructive personal and systemic racism that perpetuate violence in our communities and result in deep spiritual and social brokenness. We are confident that a spirituality of nonviolent anti-racism makes our transformative vision a reality.”

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk Elizabeth DuVerlie at eduverlie@jhu.edu.

NOTE: Friends who wish to comment on this or any other “Thinking About Race” items, may do so at <http://racism.bym-rsf.net>. To leave comments, register first by emailing webmanager@bym-rsf.net.

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. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to him at annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com
- 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: announce@annapolis.quaker.org

Discuss List: discuss@annapolis.quaker.org

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