

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — JULY 2011

CALENDAR

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m.
- First Day School for children: 11 a.m. (Joining meeting for worship from 11:45 a.m. to noon)
- Nursery care for our youngest: 11 a.m.
- Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business: 1st First Day of month at 9 a.m.
- Adult religious education: As noted in calendar below
- Care of the Meeting House for Seventh Month: Ministry & Worship

JULY 3: 9 a.m. Meeting for worship with attention to business; 11 a.m. Meeting for worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

JULY 10: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

JULY 17: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

JULY 24: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

JULY 31: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

QUERIES FOR SEVENTH MONTH: CARING FOR OTHERS

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for, and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic condition?

In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy? (Faith & Practice, p. 40)

QUAKER QUOTES

The gift of love is the gift of the power and the capacity to love, and, therefore, to give love with full effect is also to receive it. So, love can only be kept by being given away, and it can only be given perfectly when it is also received. (Thomas Merton)

Divine love imposeth no rigorous or unreasonable commands, but graciously points out the spirit of brotherhood and way to happiness. (John Woolman)

What does love look like? It has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. (St. Augustine)

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
This is the great and first commandment.
And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
(Matthew 22:37-40, KJV)

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

Fifth Day of the Sixth Month, 2011

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk) and Marcia O. (Acting Recording Clerk) with 33 other Friends and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

BYM Interim Meeting (Pat S. reporting): 26th of Third Month, 2011 Interim Meeting was held at Langley Hill. After several years of running a deficit, the treasurer reported a \$3,000 surplus for 2010. The Women's Retreat, which has had no formal relationship to BYM, requested to become a program of the Yearly Meeting and to be included in the budget as a self-sustaining entity.

Ann Riggs reported on her work at Friends Theological College in Kenya. She mentioned that the college is now accredited. At the coming Interim Meeting in York, PA, in two weeks, an announcement of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting embracing of Ann Riggs will be presented.

John Smallwood reported on the Visioning Process, which has included visiting monthly meetings. (Meg Meyer visited AFM.) The purpose is to discern and produce a Yearly Meeting mission statement. Reports are on the BYM web page.

Almost every major Quaker group that is American or headquartered in North America (including FUM; FGC; AFSC; FCNL; and FWCC, Section of the Americas) has had a new general secretary in recent months and their names were announced. Unfortunately, at the last meeting of FWCC, Section of the Americas, no one was able to come from south of the US/Mexico border due to lack of funds to help pay their way. The FGC program Quaker Quest is much in demand among both FGC and FUM meetings. It was announced that AFSC has a number of videos on YouTube.

Ministry and Worship Committee (Tricia R. reporting): For the next several weeks, we will hold in the Light those requested by people in attendance, during meeting for worship, rather than at the close of worship. If summer meetings for learning are available for presentation, please make these requests known to the Committee.

Steward and Finance Committee (Elise A. reporting for Mary K.): Threshing session on concerns relating to Meeting finances will be held on the 12th day of Sixth Month, at 12:30 p.m. We will be reminded by an email announcement that we will consider our spiritual giving.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee (Phil F. reporting): The committee requested the formation of an ad hoc committee to update and revise AFM's Minute on the Peace Testimony as it relates to current issues. Our last minute, from the Twelfth Month 2002, was read and is available for reference in the Minute binder. Unity was found with the request to form this ad hoc committee.

Meetinghouse and Lands Committee (Bill K. reporting): The option of buying the 2.2 acres of land adjacent to our rear boundary is being explored by an ad hoc committee. For a discussion of the property for sale: A "property info" summary was distributed, which includes a map, and also the attached minutes of the ad hoc committee. This unique opportunity represents concerns about the development of our community and the preservation of the environment. Proposal: hold over until next month with ongoing meetings, which will be announced over the Internet. Unity was found with this proposal.

Closing: 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 Marcia O., Acting Recording Clerk

FIRST DAY SCHOOL TAKES A BREAK DURING THE SUMMER

We will not have structured First Day School classes during Meeting for Worship for the duration of the summer! But we will re-convene on Sunday, September 11.

As always, parents are welcome to spend time with their children in the First Day School classroom during Meeting for Worship, reading books, and using the various arts and crafts supplies, or to use our play area outside.

We only ask that anything you do use be put away neatly. As always, nursery care for our youngest members will be available on all First Days during Meeting for Worship.

Wishing everyone a joyous summer,
Joanna T. and Kimberly B., Co-Clerks, Children's Religious Education Committee

9/11 DIALOG WITH FUTURE LEADERS: THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE NEXT 10 YEARS

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

Our Saturday, September 10 panels will be offered to a primary audience of motivated college and high school students. Seating for the program at St. John's Great Hall will be limited to approximately 150 attenders, most of whom we will sign up in advance to attend. The program will offer an interactive, town-hall style discussion 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.

Our next meeting dates for planning the program tentatively are set for:

- July 11—focused on school and attender arrangements
- July 25—focused on panelists, website, and publicity
- August 8—focused on final details, including final participants packets and onsite plans

Please join us and help with the plans by contacting pfavero@gmail.com if you are interested in receiving more information and meeting updates.

THINKING ABOUT RACE

Summer 2011: Fears

"[W]hat are the fears of liberals? White liberals might reject the very idea that they are afraid, citing their support for diversity and multiculturalism. But my experience suggests that while white liberals reject assertions of white supremacy, many fear the loss of white centrality. They are willing to renounce the idea that white people are superior, as long as they are allowed to live comfortably in a world where white is the norm.

"I observe all this not from some arrogant high ground, but as someone stuck in the same dynamic, struggling to get out. I know that for all my writing and political work on racial justice, I still feel most comfortable in settings where my understanding of the world defines the interaction, no matter the racial composition of the group. Rather than pretend otherwise, I start with that reality and search for ways to move forward."

These passages are from an article by Robert Jensen (Yes! Magazine, Spring 2010). Jensen is the author of "The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism and White Privilege" (2005), and, in 2010, of "All My Bones Shake: Seeking a Progressive Path to the Prophetic Voice." He concludes: "I can rest comfortably in the privileges that come with being white, or I can struggle to be fully human. But I can't do both. Though the work is difficult, the choice for those of us who are white should be easy."

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or 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.

LIGHT HOUSE "RUN FOR SHELTER" HALF-MARATHON

The Light House is holding a Run for Shelter this October, and because one of the events is a half-marathon—not something to venture on without training—I am sending this along as an early notice (luckily, there's also a 4.2-mile fun race). The neighborhood is Quiet Waters/Hillsmere.

Click here for details: <http://www.active.com/cycling/annapolis-md/annapolis-run-for-shelter-at-quiet-waters-park-2011>. (Don't be misled by the URL—this event replaces the very successful Ride for Shelter that was held for several years.)

Neither event is inexpensive, but the cause is very worthy. If 4.2 miles seems like a long way, please consider volunteering—we need help, and there is a contact listed on the web page. (Anyone who runs shorter distances but might like support to increase your mileage may contact Phil at pccaroom@gmail.com.)

Peace and happy running,
Peter

LIBRARY CORNER

July's Query concerns Caring For Others: We have books on the counter and the pamphlets on the rack on the table about this topic! More such books are available under our Peace and Social Concerns section.

This month, we also want to call attention to the magazines and journals the library offers. The articles are current and usually short. Plus they give a view of individuals about Quakerism. The following four are found on our main countertop:

- "Friends Journal" comes out 11 times a year. It embraces the Friends General Conference (FGC) view of Quakerism. It offers articles on Quakerism, book reviews, poetry, letters to the editor (which are very interesting) and information on the happenings in FGC Quakerism.
- "Quaker Life" is "a ministry of Friends United Meeting. Friends United Meeting commits itself to energizing and equipping Friends through the power of the Holy Spirit to gather people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord." It contains a variety of articles and information about pastoral meetings (meetings with pastors) and Friends United Meeting's activities here and throughout the world.
- "Quaker Religious Thought" is published twice a year. Its purpose is to explore the meaning and implications of our Quaker Faith and religious experience through discussion and publication. A recent publication celebrated 50 year of publishing and gave a good overview of the type of articles it publishes.
- "Universalist Friends" is published twice a year. It promotes "the spirit of universality that has always been intrinsic to the Quaker Faith." It usually has two to three articles of interest and book reviews.

The following two are found on the bottom shelf in our Quakerism section:

- "Friends Historical Society" presents details of Quaker history.
- "Quaker Theology" is edited by Chuck Fager and Ann Riggs (of our meeting) and pursues topics in more detail.

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on July 24.
- Phil Caroom is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. 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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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