

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — September 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 Ninth Month: Meeting House and Lands

SEPTEMBER 4: 9 a.m. Meeting for worship with attention to business; 11 a.m. Meeting for worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

SEPTEMBER 11: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship and FIRST DAY SCHOOL RESUMES!

SEPTEMBER 18: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship and AFSC "Windows and Mirrors" exhibit until September 21!

SEPTEMBER 21: 7 to 9 p.m. [International Day of Peace](#)

SEPTEMBER 25: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

QUERIES FOR NINTH MONTH: The Social Order

Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing? Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values? Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences? Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged? Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service? Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things? (Faith & Practice, p. 40)

QUAKER QUOTES

Love was the first motion, and then a concern arose to spend some time with the Indians, that I might feel and understand their life, and the Spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of Truth amongst them. And as it pleased the Lord to make way for my going at a time when the troubles of war were increasing and when by reason of much wet weather traveling was more difficult than usual at that season, I looked upon it as a more favorable opportunity to season my mind, and bring me into a nearer sympathy with them. And as mine eye was to the great Father of Mercies, humbly desiring to learn what his will was concerning me, I was made quiet and content. (John Woolman, 1763)

For God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1: 7)

We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone and as we let our own light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear our presence automatically liberates others. (Nelson Mandela)

And all friends everywhere this I charge you...live in peace...and therein seek the peace of all men and no man's hurt....And so...it is love that overcomes and not hatred with hatred, nor strife with strife. Therefore live in the peaceable life, doing good to all men, and seeking the good and welfare of men. (George Fox, 1659)

In describing the concern that led him to visit the Indians, John Woolman wrote, "Love was the first motion." Love of our fellow man is more fundamental than international influence or economics or

even the preservation of our nation. For 300 years Quakers sensitive to the spirit have endeavored to express a love that knows no limits of race or creed or nation. When motivated by this power, they have testified by word and deed to the dignity of all men everywhere. (Frank S. Loescher, The First Motion)

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

We did not hold Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in August. The next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on September 4.

A note from our clerk Elise: We had hoped to be able to discuss details of the Lawrence Street property purchase but, as you probably all know, environmental questions have arisen and we don't yet have all the information needed for further discussion. The ad hoc property committee, Stewardship and Finance, and other Friends are working hard to clarify these issues and we will move forward as soon as possible.

THINKING ABOUT RACE AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND AT AFM

RACE: Are We So Different? is on view at the National Museum of Natural History through January 2, 2012. In conjunction with this exhibition, the Smithsonian offers programs to support public conversations about this important topic.

Developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, RACE: Are We So Different? is the first national exhibition to tell the stories of race from the biological, cultural, and historical points of view. Together, these perspectives offer an unprecedented look at race and racism in the United States.

More information is available at www.understandingrace.org and <http://www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits/race/>.

Brought to you by the BYM Working Group on Racism. The AFM Deconstructing Racism Group will meet on October 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the AFM library under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee. All are invited.

Our group of Friends gets together every few months to talk about our recent experiences related to race and diversity. We open in silent worship, update each other on events in our lives, examine our own unaware racism, discern our individual and collective leadings for furthering equality and justice, and close in silent worship. Hope you can share in this discussion. Newcomers, oldies, and all in between are welcome!

Peace, Jean

WE CAN USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM!

Do you live alone? Would you like to have someone to check on you regularly? Would you like to be a buddy to a person who lives alone?

Pastoral Care Committee would be happy to match people who would like a buddy with those who would like to be a buddy. Typically, the person who lives alone emails or calls the buddy each morning. If the buddy does not hear from the person by a time agreed on by the pair, then the buddy calls to be sure that the person is O.K. The pair also works out a "what then" scenario if the buddy cannot reach the person. For example, one may have a neighbor or family member as a back up to go knock on the person's door, or another may give the buddy a house key so the buddy can investigate. This may be ideal for folks who live alone and do not have close neighbors or family members.

Please reply to me alone (not "Reply All") or let a member of Pastoral Care know if you would like to participate in this buddy system.

On behalf of Pastoral Care Committee,
Mary B. (afmeeting@yahoo.com)

9/11 DIALOG WITH FUTURE LEADERS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED IN 10 YEARS?
PLANS IN PROGRESS ORGANIZED BY AFM PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER

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.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, contact pfavero@gmail.com for more information.

AFSC "WINDOWS AND MIRRORS" ART EXHIBIT WITH PEACE ACTIVIST FAHIMA VORGETTS
FEATURED AT AFM'S U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE VIGIL

Peace and Social Concerns Committee and all of Annapolis Friends Meeting will again observe the United Nations International Day of Peace Vigil on Wednesday evening, September 21, at the Meeting House.

We are especially honored to have our friend Fahima Vorgetts returning to AFM to share her insights on peace in Afghanistan, having just completed another trip there this summer.

We are also fortunate to have the "Windows and Mirrors" exhibit of personal depictions of the war from Afghan citizens of all ages. Those in attendance, as well as our guest speaker, Ms. Vorgetts, will have an opportunity to share thoughts or feelings evoked by the art, in a worship sharing format. Following this time, there will be further reflection on peace concerns, in silent worship.

This is the ninth year of the IDP Vigil (www.idpvigil.org), both internationally and at AFM, to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Peace. Peace and Social Concerns and AFM, one of the Vigil's original sponsoring organizations, invite you to come at 7 p.m. for light refreshments and to review the American Friends Service Committee's exhibit prior to our program and silent vigil. Join the millions around the country and around the world who pray or meditate or reflect, on September 21, on peace; peace in your heart, in your community, and in our world.

DAYSRING SILENT RETREAT FOR BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS

Dear Friends:

The beautiful autumn retreat at Dayspring is approaching. I hope you can take advantage of this precious opportunity to enjoy God's creation, worship in community, and refresh your spirit in solitude.

Yours in the LIGHT,
Jean

PS: If finances are an obstacle, please consider scholarship help through AFM's Stewardship and Finance Committee.

True silence ... is to the spirit what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment. (William Penn, 1699)

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Silent Retreat at Dayspring for Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends. We will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in meadows and woods, reading, walking, resting, praying, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

WHERE: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 (301-428-9348).

FACILITATOR: Jean Christianson, Member of Annapolis Friends Meeting

ARRIVAL: 4 to 7 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.) DEPARTURE: 2 p.m. Monday.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Individual room in the Inn with Bible, bed, desk, sink, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth. Nine vegetarian meals in the Lodge dining room. Gatherings in the Yoke Room for community worship and shared solitude by the fireplace. Two hundred acres for roaming.

COST: \$280

REGISTRATION: Deadline October 1 (if not filled earlier). Minimum number is nine participants. Maximum is 18. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

BRING: Toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight. Long socks and hats are recommended to deter ticks.

QUESTIONS? Call Jean Christianson at 410-544-1912 or e-mail jschristianson@gmail.com.

DIRECTIONS: From I-270 take the Damascus exit (#15-A), Route 118 to the north. Go 8/10 of a mile on Route 118 to MD Route 355. Turn left on MD Route 355 and go a VERY SHORT block. Turn right on Neelsville Church Rd. Continue 6/10 of a mile on Neelsville Church Rd. to Dayspring Retreat Center. OR From I-70 take Route 27 south at Mount Airy. It will merge into 355 (Frederick Rd.) continuing south. Turn left onto Neelsville Church Rd. (just before reaching Route 118) and follow directions above. The emergency telephone number for Dayspring is 301-428-9348.

Make check for \$280 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and send with registration form to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122 (410-544-1912).

Name(s) _____ Meeting _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

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

"When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times" by Pema Chodron

Haven't we all felt that way at some time in life, and (like me) maybe more than once? I chose this book from the meeting house library because of the title. Sometimes life just seems to be fall apart from what we planned or hoped. My motivation was to see how to get through those times in a different way, if possible. The title reminded me that I am not alone in these times of life that, at the time, seem "unfixable."

Knowing I was reading this to write a review I started putting sticky tabs where I thought would be great phrases or advice to include in this article. Well, the book is now tagged with fuchsia, yellow, and teal stickies! This is a small book, packed with useable, memorable concepts.

This is a book I will buy to keep and use. It is a simply written, clear reminder that I can choose to experience life traumas and challenges as valuable steps of my life path. While that seems a lot of Pollyanna to swallow, the way it is presented in the book makes perfect, wonderful, and reassuring sense! The author maps possibilities of how to proceed when faced with difficult circumstances. Below are a few of the concepts:

- No more struggle
- Use poison as medicine
- See whatever arises as enlightened wisdom

Author Pema Chodron gives simple steps to do in daily life to accomplish each. She states, "The key is changing our habits and, in particular, the habits of our mind. Every act counts. Every thought and emotion counts too. This is all the path we have. The path is uncharted. It comes into existence moment by moment and at the same time drops away behind us. We can make ourselves miserable, or we can make ourselves strong. The amount of effort is the same."

For me, at this time in my life, this book is a welcome fit. It has enough simplicity to be useable and is of practical support immediately. It has the depth to be a resource to me for the rest of my life.

I will take the stickies off the pages of this terrific book and return it to the library so it is available for you to appreciate.

Review by Colette McKie

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on September 25.
- 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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