

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — NOVEMBER 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 Eleventh Month: Stewardship and Finance

NOVEMBER 6: 9 a.m. Meeting for worship with attention to business; 11 a.m. Meeting for worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

NOVEMBER 13: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

NOVEMBER 20: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

NOVEMBER 23: 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

NOVEMBER 27: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

QUERIES FOR ELEVENTH MONTH: EDUCATION

Do you provide religious education, including the study of the Bible and of Friends' history and practices, in your Meeting? Do you ensure that schools under the care of Friends exemplify Friends' principles? Do you support and strive to improve the public schools? (Faith & Practice, p. 41)

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

SECOND DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, 2011

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk), Phil C. (Assistant Recording Clerk), and 20 other Friends and attenders. Our meeting began with centering worship. Our clerk noted it is a time of transitions in the season and in the recent passing of two Friend; our Meeting this morning also considers transitions with our finances, gifts, and child welcoming.

Trustees: Sky announced that Trustees, conferring with Stewardship and Finance (S&F), agreed to use of interest from our Founders Fund certificates of deposit (CDs), which has not been used in many years. Approximately \$1,000 in interest was applied to partial payment of legal fees involved with our evaluation for possible purchase of the North Lawrence Avenue property. (The greatest part of our \$6,000 costs for evaluating this property was paid by individual donations.) The \$10K Founder's Fund principal was reinvested in new CDs for 24 months at the current .5% interest rate.

Meetinghouse and Lands (MHL) Committee: Sky reported MHL's proposed "Non-monetary Gift Policy" guidelines, which were adopted with refinements as follows:

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING
NON-MONETARY GIFT POLICY GUIDELINES
October 2, 2011

Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) appreciates your generosity in wishing to make a non-monetary donation. In order to best use your gift and to honor our concern for simplicity and stewardship, please keep the following considerations in mind when you give:

- Non-monetary gifts should be given without restrictions or stipulations. AFM cannot guarantee the necessary administrative oversight that might be required and may be unable to accept every donation. Please consult with the Clerk of Meeting House and Land prior to any nonmonetary donation.
- Loaned items, such as art and furnishings, need the prior approval of the Meeting House and Land Committee.

It also was noted that a "Monetary Gift Policy" guideline previously was adopted. Both policies will be kept in a reference notebook by the Meeting House office desk.

Peace and Social Concerns (PSC) Committee: Phil F. reported PSC's recommendation for allocation of next year's funds as to Quaker causes and reviewed our guidelines for these. Quaker causes traditionally comprise 10% of our total budget (lately about \$4K). PSC is responsible to recommend use of these funds, by current custom, starting with 20% reserved for Emergent Social Causes (ESC) newly recognized during the year.

This year, PSC recommends pretty much the same allocations as last year with the slight difference is in designation of "Afghan Women's Fund" rather than a more general designation. (See chart, attached and incorporated as part of these Minutes, showing the breakdown.) PSC decided not to include Friends Theological College in Kenya (FTC) in Quaker causes because of AFM's establishment of a new, separate FTC support committee. Friends approved this recommendation.

Phil also reported that, at this point, the full \$800 remain in the ESC from the 2011 FY; as this is a standing Contingency fund. As to any such balance that may be left in the ESC Contingency Fund at the end of a year, Friends will rely on PSC to make allocations or recommendations for use of these funds consistent with the purposes of the ESC fund. PSC would welcome Friends suggestions for use of this fund.

Stewardship and Finance (S&F) Committee: Mary K. reported on our progress in this year's budgeting for next year and presented S&F's first proposal for a budget based on committees' requests. As normal for the 10th month proposed budget for next year, this is not a balanced budget. In 11th month, S&F will bring a proposed balanced budget for comment; in 12th month, a final budget should be approved after revisions during that meeting for business.

This first proposal is just over \$3,000 out of balance and also will need adjustments for about \$1,000 more interest income and about \$1,800 greater apportionment for support of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), assessed due to AFM's financial strength and BYM's needs.

A Friend noted that BYM's needs are not fully covered by such apportionments so that individual contributions to BYM still are encouraged.

Another Friend commented, "We keep forgetting to plan for the future [and there is no allocation for the Building Fund in this proposed budget.] We've been 18 years in the building and have yet to complete the ultimate Worship Room. Year after year, we postpone this. We don't wait on saving for a child's college education because he or she has not reached college age or picked a college. It's not fair to Meeting's future members and attenders."

So far this year, Mary noted, S&F is concerned that we have unrestricted contributions for just over \$21,000; with a straight-line apportionment, we should have expected approximately \$30,000 for this

time of year, so we may be nearly 1/3 from such a perspective. S&F will review with Friends the manner in which, separate from Meeting for Worship, we invite financial support of Meeting.

Finally, S&F reported its plan, later this month, to send \$1,200 previously approved by AFM for the FTC solar project. Part of this will come from a Friend's restricted contribution and part will come from elsewhere in the budget, but S&F still would welcome Friends' additional designated contributions.

Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC): Kimberly B. requested and Meeting approved designating the second First Day of next month (November 13) for a child welcoming, for any families requesting this, at the close of Meeting for Worship.

Next month, CREC will offer a short report and update on our program supporting two homeschooling families.

Holiday Market (HM): Margaret H. announced that our next Holiday Market will be held on December 3 and, after considering Friends' suggestions, the proceeds will be used: 75% for We Care & Friends, a 501(C) (3) organization which operates from Stanton Center in Annapolis with a broad mission to assist various Annapolis area residents' arising from poverty, drug rehabilitation, prison parole, etc., and 25% remaining will be divided between CREC children (whose energy and creativity we greatly appreciate) and the Annapolis Peace and Justice Center.

She also noted that this market will be better than ever with world-renown soups, home-made bread and flavored butters. We will accept no clothes, large furniture, or TVs. Friends should be on the lookout for further announcements on how they can contribute to and support this Market.

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 Phil C., Assistant Recording Clerk

OPEN HOUSE IN AFSC'S NEW HOME

AFSC's got a new home! Come to the open house on Wednesday, November 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. at their new location:

3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 212
Baltimore MD 21211
410-323-4200

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DEAR FRIENDS JOANNA AND PAT

Please mark your calendars for these memorial services honoring two members of our community who have recently passed away. Receptions will follow each event. The hospitality committee (Bonnie Peregoy, Carol Kinzer, and Ruth Slavin) will need all of our support in helping with reception set up and clean up in the Meeting House, and with some purchase of light refreshments for the meeting on December 13. Please contact Bonnie at peregoyb@yahoo.com if you can help out.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 2 P.M.: Memorial Meeting for Joanna Mendelman (Pat Schenck, clerk)

Joanna Mendelman, who passed away on September 29, was active in Annapolis Friends Meeting for nearly a decade, leaving Annapolis in spring 2010 to live at Friends House. Joanna served the meeting in a number of capacities, including clerking Pastoral Care Committee. She started a Spiritual Growth Group which passed on Parker Palmer's teachings that continues to this day. She also served the Annapolis community as a member of the Annapolis Human Relations Commission.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1 P.M.: Memorial Meeting for Pat LaViscount (Dotty Doherty, clerk). Refreshments and a time for fellowship will follow at 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Pat LaViscount spent many years in New York City working as a consultant for health and social service organizations. She was the founder and co-facilitator of a Black Women's Group that focused on organizing and supporting community-based programs that supported wellness in various forms. She left New York City in the late 1990s to attend Earlham School of Religion. After her graduation (M.Div) in 1998, she worked as a chaplain, continued her work as workshop leader and facilitator, and wrote.

Mother of Takenya and wife of Phil LaViscount, Pat was a member of Brooklyn Meeting, NYYM and an attendee at Annapolis Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting. She was a published poet and essayist, and a co-founder of Annapolis Meeting's poetry group.

BYM WORKING GROUP ON RACISM VISIT TO SLAVE MUSEUM

Join the Yearly Meeting's Working Group on Racism on Saturday, November 19, for a visit to the Sandy Spring, Md., Slave Museum (<http://www.sandyspringslavemuseum.org>). All ages are invited, and the visit will begin at 9:30 a.m. The cost will be \$5 (cash or check only).

Following the visit, there will be light refreshments at 11 a.m. at the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting Community House, followed by the Working Group's monthly meeting at 12:15 p.m., at which all are welcome. Childcare is available if requested in advance. To RSVP, contact Ellen Cronin (202-251-1750 or ecronin343@gmail.com). For more information, talk with Pat Schenck.

PLANS FOR HOLIDAY MARKET

The next holiday market will be held on Saturday, December 3, and the proceeds will be distributed as follows:

75% will go to the We Care and Friends organization that operates out of the Stanton Center to serve people in the Annapolis area by

- Helping people find the proper resources for housing, work, clothing, and food
- Empowering and mentoring for youth
- Helping people with drug addiction to find and fund long-term treatment
- Supporting people returning to the community from drug rehabilitation programs or prison
- Providing confidential, free support to individuals and families in need

25% will be divided between CREC and the Peace and Justice Center. We value all that our young friends contribute to our markets and want to continue to empower their creativity, energy, and enthusiasm in giving to our meeting as well as the local and global community. We also value the ongoing work of the Peace and Justice Center to partner with others to spread the seeds of peace through special projects as well as ongoing support of AVP.

This market will be better than ever as we expand our Quaker Quafe menu to include salad with our world famous soups (no exaggeration), hearty breads and herbed butters, 100% recycled holiday wrapping paper, paperwhite bulbs, handmade items from young Friends, new and used books, and alternative giving options and a few surprise freebies. We need your help and there are many ways you can join in the fun:

- Bring new or gently used items to be sold at the market
- Make a pot of soup to serve in the Quaker Quafe
- Make cookies, pies, cakes, and goodies to sell
- Help sort items and set up Thursday and Friday anytime from 3 to 8 p.m.
- Spread the word, put up flyers at your office or school, invite your neighbors
- Come December 3, bring friends, and EAT and SHOP between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Help clean up from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

You won't want to miss this!

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM DISCUSSION

Our next AFM Deconstructing Racism discussion will take place Saturday, December 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the meetinghouse library.

Our group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee. Friends get 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

THINKING ABOUT RACE: "ALL ARE RESPONSIBLE"

At the historic March on Washington in 1963, Rabbi Joachim Prinz, making reference to the Holocaust, to slavery, and other historical outrages, declared, "Few were guilty, all are responsible."

"... All who bemoan multigenerational poverty as a social phenomenon must also bemoan and condemn the policies that make it difficult to escape poverty, including tax policy, housing policies, criminal-justice and wage-labor policies. If we limit our analysis and indignation to the most visible manifestations of poverty, inadequate education, impoverished dreams, and crude or rude behavior, then we risk blaming the victims of failed economic and political policies. ... Few of the people living in poverty ... played a role in designing wretched school systems. Few made the decisions about locating businesses and new jobs in faraway suburbs, or commissioned the housing that no average working people can afford. Few of us are guilty. But all are now responsible for this new and more selfish version of the American dream." (From "Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities" by Robert M. Franklin, p. 48.)

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.

LIBRARY CORNER

"A Peace of Africa: Reflections on Life in the Great Lakes Region" by David Zarembka

This book, recently purchased for the AFM library, will be of particular interest to those who heard David Zarembka speak here this summer and to those who are following Ann Riggs' experiences at Friends Theological College in Kenya. It will also interest those with Alternatives to Violence (AVP) experience, as David started the African Great Lakes Initiative which took AVP to post-genocide Rwanda and post-civil war Burundi.

Nearly one million people were murdered in Rwanda during the genocide in which neighbors murdered neighbors. Now families of victims, still grieving, find themselves living next to perpetrators newly released from prison who are struggling with guilt. Clearly these people need not only the typical AVP experience but also help with trauma. They need to learn to trust one another, and to forgive. These workshops are now being led primarily by Rwandan Friends. The book's section on Understanding Peacemaking describes this work.

David also analyzes in some detail the causes of the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya. He works with Friends churches teaching AVP, especially, to youth who were involved with that violence, in the hope of preventing a repetition in the next election.

Equally interesting to me was David's discussion of the cultures of East Africa. Many customs were familiar, and many others seemed strange to me as he described such issues as gender roles, bridging the traditional and modern worlds, poverty and wealth, family life, and the "mirage of tribe."

David describes how western media give a skewed picture of life in Africa. We hear much of war and starvation--little children with stick-like limbs and bloated stomachs. Yet those conditions are exceptional. In describing his own life in Kenya and his relationships with his Kenyan wife Gladys's family, he shows us ordinary people living ordinary lives.

His section on international NGOs challenged me to be more thoughtful about how I contribute money. (I feel good about my years of giving to the author's African Great Lakes Initiative.)

David is a member of Bethesda Meeting and those of us who attend Baltimore Yearly Meeting have heard him talk about his work with the African Great Lakes Initiative. However, I feel that I understand much more about his work in, and love for, East Africa for having read his book.

Reviewed by Pat Schenck

QUAKER QUOTES

In the stillness you will find your true being. In the silence you will hear the breathing of your soul.
(Neale Donald Walsch)

Seek for yourselves and for your children that full development of God's gifts which is true education. Realize that it should be continued throughout life and that its privileges should be shared by all. Study the Bible intelligently, using the help available from modern sources. Make every effort to understand the Christian faith. Be ready at all time to receive fresh light from whatever quarter it may come; approach new theories with discernment. Remember our testimony that Christianity is not a notion but a way. (Advices, London, 1964)

To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us. A care hath lived on my mind, that more time might be employed by parents at home, and by tutors at school, in weightily attending to the spirit and inclinations of children, and that we may so lead, instruct and govern them, in this tender part of life, that nothing may be omitted in our power, to help them on their way to become the children of our Father who is in Heaven. (John Woolman, 1758)

"A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Samuel F. Pugh

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hunger;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have
no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer.
And, remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency,
bestir my compassion
and be concerned enough to help,
by word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

(As reprinted in "The Thanksgiving Ceremony," Edward Bleier, Editor, Crown, 2003)

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on November 23.
- 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

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Address: 351 DuBois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Telephone: 410-573-0364

Website: www.quaker.org/annapolis

Clerk: Elise Albert (e.albert1656@gmail.com)

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

Newsletter Editor: Phil Caroom (annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)