

## ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — JANUARY 2012

### CALENDAR

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m. on First Days
- 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 First Month: Ministry & Worship

JANUARY 1, 2012: 9:15 a.m. Meeting for Learning: Poetic Vision of Renewal for the New Year; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; Please note that there will be no First-Day-School, but children will be welcome to join in meeting for worship

JANUARY 8: 9 a.m. Meeting for worship with attention to business; 11 a.m. Meeting for worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch and [speaker on equality and racism](#)

JANUARY 15: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

JANUARY 22: 9:15 a.m. Meeting for Learning: Meet Riley Robinson, BYM General Secretary; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

JANUARY 29: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

### QUERIES FOR FIRST MONTH: MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine Guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged? Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways?

(Faith and Practice, p. 37)

### MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

FOURTH DAY OF THE TWELFTH MONTH, 2011

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 29 other Friends and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Stewardship and Finance Committee (Karen C. reporting on the final 2012 budget, attached in book of MfB Minutes): Given the information at the time of developing the budget, S&F is able to fully fund the restricted funds, as currently suggested. Note that rental funds are going up, and contributions are up a little (perhaps from the converted North Lawrence Avenue contributions). Also note that the Founders Fund interest income counted towards income this year instead of being rolled over into the Founders Fund. The Committee Contingency Fund may be used to help if more is needed from a restricted fund than what the restricted fund holds. There may be a surplus from 2011, which may be used to "top off" the restricted funds that were depleted during the budget process.

**ACTION:** With one Friend standing aside, the 2012 budget was approved. The Friend stood aside because of the inclusion of Quaker Causes as a line item in the budget.

Nominating Committee (Barbara T. reporting the final 2012 slate, which is attached in the book of MfB Minutes): The Nominating Committee offered the second reading of the AFM Officers and Committee clerks for 2012. Several committees could use additional members: Stewardship and Finance, Children's Religious Education, Hospitality, Pastoral Care. Committees should feel that the whole Meeting is a resource to assist with discrete tasks. In addition, several representative positions are unfilled: Darfur Coalition, William Penn House. In several cases, the current representative, although willing, is seeking replacement: BYM, Interchange. There will be a change to the way the slate is presented in order to report since year began for positions for which there is no time limit.

A discussion followed. Some Friends are concerned that we may be driven more by agendas than by Spirit in committees and Meeting. The idea of leading bubbling up is very important.

**ACTION:** The slate was approved. Meeting is in unity that there be an exception to the by-laws to embrace long-term attender Mary B. to be Clerk of Pastoral Care.

CREC (Kimberly B. reporting): Request for children's Christmas program to start at 11:45 a.m. and run until 12:15 p.m. on December 18. A discussion followed, reminding us that every day is used to celebrate the Spirit.

**ACTION:** Meeting is in unity in approving the times for the children's program.

Ministry and Worship (Tricia R. reporting membership requests): Ministry and Worship joyfully reports the request of Sam S. for membership in the Religious Society of Friends.

**ACTION:** Meeting joyfully affirms Sam's membership in the Religious Society of Friends.

Ministry and Worship: Joyfully announces that Ceili Maeve M., daughter of Jennifer and Sean M., is a familial member in the AFM. Familial membership is available to a child of a member of the Meeting and is extended at the request of the parent. A discussion of familial membership followed. M&W is asked to consider further discussion about membership.

BYM Interim Meeting (Pat S, AFM representative to BYM, reported on the October 22 Interim Meeting at Stony Run): Pat, Ted H., and Karen C. attended. Friends have raised the \$91,000 needed for a pond at Camp Shiloh. It should be ready for camp session in 2012. It is about 0.3 acre. Meanwhile, Friends are reminded to contribute to BYM for general purposes. Unless \$50-70,000 is raised by the end of the year, it will be necessary to take money from unrestricted reserves.

This year there were two teen adventure biking programs. There is a new cabin at Catoctin. A wind energy program has been approved at Camp Catoctin. Friends are reminded that the camps can be rented. A group of camp alumni are working to diversity Camp Catoctin. They have provided scholarship support and worked with inner city children to prepare them for the camping experience. Meetings could support a camper. In general, the camps are not full.

The Intervisitation Program that has featured visiting other FUM meetings is now being asked to train other groups for intervisitation, including within Indiana Yearly Meeting, where differences over homosexuality are splitting the yearly meeting apart. The group is still discerning whether our Intervisitation Program should continue. One Friend described her experience of visiting other meetings as a constant practice of loving people who are different from her and receiving their love in return.

The next Interim Meeting will be in Charlottesville on March 24, 2012. Riley Robinson will be speaking at AFM on January 22, 2012. Friends are encouraged to speak with Karen C. or look at resources in the Library if they have questions about BYM and BYM committees. They can also Google BYM for further references.

Lighthouse Shelter (Carol B. reporting): Carol is now president of the Board of the Light House, which is still in transition. The staff is fully in place now, and policies and procedures are in the process of development. The Capital Campaign was successfully closed out in July. Surplus from the campaign was used for capital upgrades that were not initially anticipated. A full-building generator was added, and the kitchen and pantry will be expanded. There is a "career closet" to lend for interviews, and the Light House provides training. The anticipation is that the culinary program will be self-sustaining in the future. The Light House is in a good financial situation at this point. Annapolis (Winter) Relief is in process currently, at the Light House's previous location. The Light House is facing challenges as it transitions. New programs are being developed and its services are expanding. The full report is in the book of minutes for Meeting for Business as an attachment to these minutes.

Peace and Social Concerns (Phil F. presenting P&SC's leading for a discussion of the Occupy Wall Street Movement and a possible AFM response): The minutes from ASFC and the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting are attached in the book of MfB Minutes. P&SC would like to promote a discussion of the Occupy Movements and perhaps the creation of a Minute from AFM. It was suggested that there be a meeting for learning next First Day.

ACTION: Meeting will have a meeting for learning about the Occupy Wall Street Movement and a possible AFM response next Firstday at 9:15 a.m. (December 11, 2011).

PLEASE NOTE THAT ON JAN. 1, THERE WILL BE NO FIRST DAY SCHOOL, BUT CHILDREN WILL BE WELCOME TO JOIN IN MEETING FOR WORSHIP.

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 Phyllis S., Recording Clerk

### **LEARN ABOUT THE UPCOMING WORLD GATHERING OF FRIENDS**

Have you heard about the upcoming World Gathering of Friends, which happens only once in a generation? Would you like to learn more about it and the Friends World Committee on Consultation which is organizing the Gathering?

Join Friends on Saturday, December 31, at 12:30 p.m. for lunch at Friends Meeting of Washington and a discussion with Baltimore Yearly Meeting's delegates to the April 2012 World Gathering of Friends at Kabarak University in Kenya.

The following Baltimore Yearly Meeting Delegates will gather at Friends Meeting of Washington to offer reflections and worship sharing on the World Gathering and the message and ministry which Quakerism has to offer the world today:

- Marion B. - Bethesda Friends Meeting
- Justin C. - Friends Meeting of Washington
- Jason E. - Nottingham Monthly Meeting
- Adam H. - Little Britain Monthly Meeting
- Ann R. - Annapolis Friends Meeting

We also expect to be joined by the General Secretary for Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Riley Robinson. All are welcome to join us. If you can, drop a line to Justin Connor at justinconnor@gmail.com or 202-641-0085 to let us know to expect you or just feel free to come and join us.

We will gather on Saturday, December 31 at 12:30 p.m. for a potluck luncheon in the Assembly Room at Friends Meeting of Washington (2111 Florida Ave. NW, Washington DC), with the program to begin at 1:30 p.m., which we would expect to be finished by 3 p.m.

## **JOIN IN G.A.I.N'S. NEW YEAR'S EVE INTERFAITH CELEBRATION!**

As it has the last two years, the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN) is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Interfaith Celebration on December 31 at Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis.

The celebration begins with music at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. It lasts about an hour, and there are refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

Many denominations are represented at these celebrations, and they present short prayers and readings from their faith traditions. Last year, Quakers asked the congregation to reflect in silence on how they personally could work for peace in 2011. In addition, local community groups and leaders offer reflections from their own perspectives.

Quakers have traditionally been well represented at this event and we would love to welcome even more this year. Our own Barbara Thomas is GAIN's current chairperson. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions about the event; I'm AFM's rep on the GAIN board.

Peace and Best Wishes for the Holidays,  
Peter (410-647-2487)

## **MEETINGS FOR LEARNING IN JANUARY**

January 1: 9:15 a.m. "Poetic Vision of Renewal: Thoughts for the New Year" led by Dotty D.

January 8: During potluck lunch, Pat Schenck will discuss her new Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience." Friends will learn how Pat became interested in the topic, reasons for the pamphlet, and her continued concerns racism in our society and world. We can ask Pat to autograph pamphlets!

January 22: 9:15 a.m., Meet the General Secretary of BYM, Riley Robinson

## **2012 BYM WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Women of BYM are invited to the 2012 BYM Women's Retreat to come into sanctuary to contemplate, process, and worship around change. The retreat will be held January 27-29.

From Friday evening until mid-day on Sunday, there will be Meetings or Worship, singing, worship sharing in small groups, and an entertaining coffee house. There will also be a variety of workshops, items by our Quaker artisans for sale, delicious meals, fellowship, laughter, and fun. The retreat will be located at the Skycroft Center in Middletown, Md. (just west of Frederick, Md.).

Scholarships are available. For more information and to register, go to the website at <http://bymwomensretreat.org/>

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

Two exciting new pamphlets, reviewed by Phyllis S.:

### **AN IMPORTANT PAMPHLET BY SOMEONE YOU KNOW**

We have the newest Pendle Hill pamphlet in the library. Its author is known to you all: Patience A. Schenck. Its title is "Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience."

In this pamphlet, Pat captures a lot of what "we" (white) Friends struggle with by sharing her experiences and feelings. She also gives some ideas of how to try dealing with our own racism. It is a good lesson pamphlet.

It will be on the turntable on the table or the counter. Try it out but don't keep it too long; others will want to read it.

## EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW BUT BEEN AFRAID TO ASK ABOUT "THE DYNAMICS OF AN UNPROGRAMMED MEETING FOR WORSHIP"

The Queries of the Month for January relate to Meeting for Worship, so...

This timely and short booklet by Mary R. Hopkins reflects workshops she led on "promoting a worship environment where the Divine can be directly experienced" and shared corporately in a Meeting for Worship.

Hopkins starts with an individual's responsibilities for preparation and engagement, follows with committee responsibilities for fostering the Spirit in Meeting for Worship, and ends with a description of a workshop for prayerful discussion of the topic.

This pamphlet is most powerful in its descriptions of gathered meetings.

### **QUAKER QUOTES**

For when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it, I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up.  
(Robert Barclay)

Bring the whole of your daily life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Live adventurously. In every situation seek to be aware of the presence of God, praying that spiritual energies in yourself and in others may be released for the furtherance of God's kingdom.  
(Advices, London YM, 1964)

With diligence meet together, and with diligence wait to feel the Lord God to arise, to scatter and expel all that which is the cause of leanness and barrenness upon any soul; for it is the Lord must do it, and he will be waited upon in sincerity and fervency of spirit; ... and let none be hasty to utter words, though manifest in the light in which ye wait upon the Lord; but still wait in silence, to know the power working in you to bring forth the words, in the ministration of the eternal word of life to answer the life in all.  
(Stephen Crisp, 1663)

The Quaker meeting for worship is not a place for individual meditation, it is a community in which two or three are gathered together to wait upon the presence in the midst which links us all.  
(Edward Hoare, Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting, FGC, 1995)

John Woolman experienced the mystical Presence of God long before it ever occurred to him that slavery was unethical. Then one day in his retail office someone asked him to write out a receipt for a slave. Something revolted in Woolman's conscience because, as a result of his spiritual consciousness, he was terribly present to that moment--awake, mindful. He didn't write the receipt. It was a personal matter for him. Gradually thereafter, he began speaking to his friends, to his meeting, to other meetings, about freeing the slaves. His ethics spontaneously grew from his spiritual sensitivity. No one pressured him to join any committees. He did not start with an ethical ideal of human rights and go to meeting in order to talk about it. It happened the other way around. He went to meeting to be present before God. His ethics was the flowering of Silence.  
(Alfred K. LaMotte, 1982)

We become what we do. A great religious interpreter of our times once said that he kissed his child because he loved her and that he kissed his child in order to love her more. Regular participation in corporate worship is a school and workshop in which those who would grow in the religious life, no matter how tenuous may be their present connections, should be in attendance.  
(Douglas V. Steere, Prayer and Worship, FUP, 19)

"If we divide into camps--even into violent and the nonviolent--and stand in one camp while attacking the other, the world will never have peace. We will always blame and condemn those we feel are responsible for wars and social injustice, without recognizing the degree of violence within ourselves. We must work on ourselves and also with those we condemn if we want to have a real impact."  
(Ayya Khema, "Be an Island")

#### **HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on January 22.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:announce@annapolis.quaker.org); Discuss List: [discuss@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto: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](http://www.quaker.org/annapolis)

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

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

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