

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — MARCH 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 Third Month: Meeting House and Lands

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

MARCH 11: 11 a.m. Meeting for worship

MARCH 18: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

MARCH 25: 10 a.m. [Visitors' Sunday](#) orientation; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; noon [Visitors' Sunday](#) reception

QUERIES FOR THIRD MONTH: THE MEETINGS COMMUNITY

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs? (Faith and Practice, p. 38)

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

FIFTH DAY OF THE SECOND MONTH, 2012

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and twenty-eight members and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Recorder's report (Nan Elsbree reporting): The minutes for the last five years and the records of Friends who are no longer with us, by transfer or by death, were copied. The originals of both sets of documents were sent to the Friends Historical Library in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

The membership roles for 2011 were sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Our membership numbers remained the same as last year: we lost three members and welcomed three friends in membership. Those members lost were: by transfer to Patapsco, Stuart Greene, and by death, Joanna Mendelman and Betty Lou Riley. We welcomed Jack Lahr, Wes Jordan, and Sam Shropshire into our community. We have one new familial (associate) member: Ceili McKeown. BYM is now requesting the number of attenders at associated monthly meetings. At AFM we have 35 attenders.

The unedited report is attached in the book of MfB minutes.

Ministry and Worship Committee: Tricia Robinson requested a worship sharing on the Spiritual State of the Meeting, starting at 11:30 a.m. on February 12, 2012.

ACTION: Friends are in unity to alter the usual order of our worship for the worship sharing on February 12, 2012.

Pastoral Care: Mary Barbera reported the memorial minutes for Joanna Mendelman, Betty Lou Riley, and Pat LaViscount. After each memorial minute we united in silence to honor the memory of our departed Friends.

ACTION: Friends approved the minutes, which are attached in the book of MfB minutes.

Meetinghouse and Lands/Growing and Greening: Wes Jordan reported on the well water test report as follows:

A special test for VOCs and heavy metals was run this year on the well water. Results were satisfactory.

Bob Bruninga/Doug McClelland reporting on an exploration of solar power:

Our testimony of simplicity and tradition of stewardship of the Earth lead us in our investigation of solar panels to meet most of AFM's electric needs. Way has opened this year, with SolarCity's introduction of a solar lease program. Since our roof is too shaded for effective solar power, and because we'd need to replace the roof if we were to put 20-year panels on it, MH&L suggests a solar trellis.

MH&L asks MfB to approve proceeding in good faith with SolarCity to develop detailed plans and to ask S&F to recommend a funding approach.

The AFM Solar Project exploratory report is attached in the book of MfB minutes.

ACTION: There is unity on the next steps: MH&L moving forward to give earnest money to SolarCity and S&F to explore funding possibilities.

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

LECTURE/WORKSHOP ON "CARING FOR CREATION"

An international theologian on environmental sustainability and care for creation, Dr. Ellen B. Davis, will be giving lectures and a workshop in Annapolis on March 11 and 12.

She is a Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School. Her most recent book, "Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible," integrates biblical studies with a critique of industrial agriculture and food production.

Dr. Davis' visit is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group (of which AFM is a member), and the Chesapeake Covenant Community. For detailed information visit www.annapolispresbyterian.com.

BYM THIRD MONTH INTERIM MEETING

The Third Month Interim meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting will be held on March 17 at Charlottesville Monthly Meeting/Tandem Friends School. For information, directions, and registration, visit <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/interim/third12.html>.

VISITORS' SUNDAY

Bring your friends, neighbors, spouse, or yourself to Visitors' Sunday on March 25.

At 10 a.m., there will be an introductory presentation in the main meeting room on Quaker worship, history, and testimonies.

After this orientation, visitors will be invited to worship with us at our regular 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship.

This will be followed by a reception for people who define themselves as visitors or new attenders.

Of course, visitors are always welcome, but this will be an opportunity for an orientation prior to worship. Bring people you know who have "always wanted to visit a Quaker meeting."

The session will be led by Mardy Burgess and Pat Schenck.

WINTER RELIEF HOMELESS SHELTER SIGN-UP

Dear Friends,

This spring, Annapolis Friends Meeting is once again partnering with Magothy United Methodist Church on Winter Relief, a program run by Arundel House of Hope, a Glen Burnie-based nonprofit, to provide overnight shelter for the homeless in North County and Annapolis.

Like many area churches, Magothy UMC has signed up to house the homeless in its offices on Mountain Road in Pasadena for an entire week, March 26 through April 2. The church, while historic, is small and not very wealthy, and by joining forces with them we are making it possible for them to provide a service that they could not offer on their own.

Please consider helping with this effort, towards which Friends have shown remarkable generosity over the years. Volunteers are needed for three roles:

- Evening/overnight supervision. There are two shifts each night with two volunteers on each, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. or 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. These shifts are open to both male and female volunteers; female volunteers will be paired with a male volunteer. There is very little work involved, particularly on the overnight shift.
- Preparation/serving of Sunday dinner on April 1 (this will be the very last night of Winter Relief, which operates seasonally).
- Visiting with guests on Saturday, March 31 or Sunday, April 1 (very ad hoc--the recommended time is to allow two hours, but if you can make it, just do it!).

Please let me know if you are willing to help in any of these roles, particularly the evening or night shifts, which are hard to fill. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions. I should also note that this program is separate from our efforts in aid of the Light House in Annapolis.

Peace,
Peter (phone: 410-647-2487/cell: 410-440-9527)

DRAWING PEACE: AN INTERNATIONAL DRAWING AND PAINTING CONTEST

2012 Theme: "Peace Begins With Me"

Objective: The objective of this contest is to foster a culture of nonviolence and peace by raising awareness among young children about these concepts. We hope to raise global awareness and foster curiosity and diversity through the arts.

Teachers and educators participating in the contest can encourage children to use their imaginations to convey the theme using animals, nature, colors, or their own symbols.

Size: No bigger than 11" x 17" drawings should be on paper with a reasonable thickness.

Ages: 5-11 years

All entries are due by: April 9, 2012

For more information, contact Jennifer at Mahatma Gandhi Center of James Madison University at gandhicenter@jmu.edu.

BYM THINKING ABOUT RACE GROUP: RACIAL JEOPARDY BY THE NUMBERS

The following is excerpted from Sojourner Magazine's SOJOMAIL, a weekly email-zine of spirituality, politics, and culture, January 26, 2012. This is one question from a quiz, "Racial Jeopardy," in a guest commentary by Lisa Sharon Harper:

Has the United States ever sought to repair the damage done by more than two hundred years of institutionalized racialized slavery and one hundred years of racialized Jim Crow law?

Answer: What is "no"?

As a result:

- The median net wealth of white U.S. households in 2009 was \$113,149, compared with \$5,677 for blacks and \$6,325 for Latinos, according to July 2011 data from the Pew Research Center. (This is not a typographical error.) For comparison, in 2005, median net wealth for Latinos was \$18,359 and for blacks was \$12,124.
- At the height of the economic downturn, the poverty rate in the black community was 27 percent, compared with 9.9 percent for whites.
- If you were to lay down a map of the nation's most toxic or polluted land and lay on top of that a map of all the most black, Latino, and Native American communities in the country, you would find a nearly one-to-one correlation.
- The U.S. incarcerates black men at a rate 6.6-times higher than that of white men.

So, my answer to the question of whether America has become a post-racial society is this: African-Americans have been completely free for just 47 years. Our nation still has work to do. Race will continue to matter in the United States until we take active, structural steps to counter the more than 300 years of racialized politics and policies ...

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 a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge at david.etheridge@verizon.net or Pat Schenck at pat.schenck@verizon.net.

BYM YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

For information on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends (YAFs--roughly ages 18 to 40), go to <http://bymyaf.org/>. This website will tell you how to get on the mailing list for up-to-date information. The YAFs typically meet three times a year, with a meeting coming up in the spring.

LAYING DOWN OLD TOWN FRIENDS?

By Wes Jordan

Our AFM info email bin received an item I believe worthy of our awareness and consideration. Old Town Friends Fellowship group has met for many months at the McKim Center on Fayette Street in East Baltimore. Originally a very old historic Quaker meetinghouse (I believe the oldest in Baltimore and preceding Homewood, home meeting of Johns Hopkins and other early Baltimore Friends), the building now is in great need of repair (the roof is in terrible condition). The interior betrays the roof

condition, for now, but water damage threatens the entire edifice. Below is the email letter of the OTF meeting convenor:

Dearest Friends,

It may well be time for Old Town Friends to be laid down. Attendance is sparse, being only me (Kevin-Douglas) and Stuart Greene who is a member at another BYM meeting. The rest of Friends no longer attend who used to attend.

I am still feeling led to go to the McKim Center to hold worship on Sunday evenings. I am unclear as to why, when there is no real worship group or "Meeting" left. I do not know if it's me being stubborn, unwilling to just cease going because I wish something would take off, or not. I feel like God is calling Friends there, but perhaps God is just calling ME there. Each time I go to the Mc Kim Center, I feel God saying something to me. I'm not yet clear if it's to serve him by serving McKim, if it's to create a place of healing for Quakers, to bring more Quakers into active service to the McKim community, or to lay the seeds for a future Quaker meeting in East Baltimore where we have such a rich history, but where we have in many ways left behind.

I do not know. I am not clear. What I do know is that for whatever reason OTFF has withered on the vine, and is not producing fruit. If it is to produce fruit, it will require more watering and tending than I can give alone.

So, I will continue to hold worship at the McKim Center at from 5 to 6 p.m. on Sundays until I feel a clear leading to cease doing so. When I am by myself I often pray for the children and the staff, I pray for the homeless walking by and the neighborhood residents playing ball outside. It's a rather economically challenged area full of beautiful people.

I also read the Bible and do inward work that I should do anyway on Sunday evenings. I will probably begin alternately attending Stony Run Friends and St Bartholemew's Episcopal Church as I seek God's will for my life. I am called to ministry, but I am not prepared. I need to worship where the help in such preparation will come. I welcome the opportunity to attend your meeting, but not having a car by choice, I'll wanna hitch a ride with you if you can get me at home.

My email is kevindouglasolive@gmail.com and my home phone is 410-523-7990. I do not own a cell phone. Please...email me personally. I am not clear to close the website, but probably will soon change it to say "Quaker worship group @ the McKim Center" assuming Dwight, Debbie, and the board will not object.

In Christ's service and love to you, I am
Your friend,
Kevin-Douglas "KD" Olive

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On twitter: @oldtownfriends
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LIBRARY CORNER

"EXHAUST THE LIMITS: The Life and Times of a Global Peacebuilder"
By Charles F. 'Chic' Dambach

This outstanding memoir shares experiences from the life of Chic Dambach that helped form his strong passion for solving problems. They were experiences that related to racism and included student activism, the Peace Corps, the Olympics, and worldwide peacebuilding.

Mr. Dambach is President and CEO of the Alliance for Peacebuilding as well as an award-winning public speaker. He served previously as President of the National Peace Corps Association, Operation

Respect, and other national organizations. After achieving national prominence as a champion athlete, he became an Olympic Games Official.

Through real-life stories about these situations, Dambach gives us an extremely intimate roadmap as guidance to meaningful lives. Without being preachy, he lays down a model path to true global citizenship. He lets us know that we don't have to fix the whole world immediately--just one problem at a time. If each one of us seeks out someone, some situation, or town or country that needs help and becomes involved, we can help turn one small cog in the mammoth wheel of change for good on our ever-spinning planet.

Look for the addition of this inspirational book to our AFM Library. Read it and find your cog in the Wheel of Change for Peace.

Faithfully submitted,
Susan Dapkunas

QUAKER QUOTES FOR MARCH

This is the reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you ... for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." (John 12:44-4)

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracle, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (I Corinthians 12: 8-11)

Remember, O my soul that the Prince of Peace is thy Lord, that he communicates his unmixed wisdom to his family, that they, living in perfect simplicity, may give no just cause of offense to any creature, but may walk as he walked. (John Woolman, 1720-1772)

"Nothing can separate you from God's love, absolutely nothing. God is enough for time, God is enough for eternity. God is enough!" (Hannah Whitall Smith, Quaker minister)

A NOTE ABOUT NON-CALENDAR EVENTS

In addition to the [calendar](#) events listed in the newsletter, Annapolis Friends also regularly hold other meetings and provide notice of these via the email "[announce list](#)."

Here are examples of non-calendar events:

- An early morning worship usually is held two First Days per month at 8 a.m. and in good weather meets outdoors.
- Each Thursday at 7:30 p.m., a Meditation Study Group meets with 15 minutes discussion of readings preceding 45 minutes meditation in the main Meeting Room.
- Quaker Dudes, a men's group (although women also are invited), meets almost monthly, almost regularly on a Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., in one member's home.
- Friends Poetry Gathering meets mostly on the 2nd First Day after rise of Meeting for Worship in the Library to share writing by Friends and attenders.
- Deconstructing Racism meets on occasional Saturdays for Friends and attenders to discuss how individuals, including privileged, "non-minority" folks, can respond best to racism in its overt, systemic, and unconscious forms.

If you are "internet challenged" but wish to receive information about these meetings or other occasional meetings you've heard of, please phone Phil at 443-822-4988 to ask about phone or other means of contact.

AFM EMAIL LISTS

Annapolis Friends Meeting has two email lists, the "announce" list and the "discuss" list. Both lists are intended to build community within the meeting. The two lists came about because some people were not interested in discussions about various issues, but they wanted to receive any important announcements. Others valued the opportunity to explore ideas with like-minded people.

Therefore, the "announce" list is limited to announcement about (1) meeting-related events including agendas for upcoming business meetings and (2) news of births, deaths, and people requesting to be held in the Light.

The "discuss" list is for sharing ideas with a relationship to Quaker testimonies. The definition is broad, but it should never include topics about partisan politics (we are a tax-exempt organization), no gossip, no jokes, no recipes--you get the idea. Suggested topics are opinions on anything related to our testimonies, announcements of non-meeting gatherings that would be of interest to Friends, information on resources of interest, and so on.

The two e-mail lists are not moderated. To send a message or to receive one, you must be on that particular list. If you have never received a message from either list and would like to, contact Esther Geil at esthergeil@gmail.com and she will enter your name on the list(s) of your choice. If you want to get off a list, do the same. If you want to receive messages from both lists, you must be on both lists.

To send a message to the "announce" list, send it to announce@annapolis.quaker.org. To send one to the discuss list, send it to discuss@annapolis.quaker.org.

Friends are reminded that if a matter is of concern only to a few people, it is best to send the message only to those people.

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on March 18.
- 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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