

## ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — June 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 Sixth Month: Outreach

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

JUNE 10: 9:15 a.m. Adult Learning, "[The American Soul](#);" 11 a.m. Meeting for worship

JUNE 17: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; Newsletter items deadline: please email!

JUNE 24: 9:15 a.m. Adult Learning, "[The American Soul](#);" 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

### QUERIES FOR SIXTH MONTH: HOME AND FAMILY

Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults? Are you as children learning to be accountable for your own actions? Do you as parents help your children to grow in independence and responsibility? Do you consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle? (Faith & Practice, p. 39)

### DAYSRING SILENT RETREAT

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

Dear Friends:

June 8 through 10, we will keep the silence from Friday evening through worship on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice. I hope you can share in the next precious experience of Dayspring's meadows, ponds, woods, and wildlife. (See registration form below.)

Peace and Light,  
Jean

PS: Please remember that AFM scholarship money can be requested from the Stewardship and Finance Committee to help cover the cost of this opportunity.

WHEN: June 8 - 10, 2012

WHERE: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876

PHONE: 301-916-1131

ARRIVAL: 3:30 to 7 p.m. Friday (Dinner at 7 p.m.)

DEPARTURE: 2 p.m. Sunday

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

REGISTRATION: Make check for \$210 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122, with this completed form. We need a

minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum capacity is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot. Registration deadline is Friday, June 1. Checks will be deposited after the retreat.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **A WORLD WITHOUT WAR?: QUAKERS BUILDING PEACE IN KENYA And How Friends in the U.S. Can Help Promote Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflicts**

On June 17 at 1:15 p.m., Diane Randall, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will speak on Quakers' efforts to help build the peace in Kenya at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. A light lunch will be served after the 11 a.m. meeting for worship.

As Kenya's national elections approach, the risk of a new outbreak of deadly violence increases. FCNL and other Friends organizations are working inside and outside Kenya to help prevent another crisis. There is an urgent need for Friends in the U.S. to advocate for foreign policy that supports—rather than undermines—the progress in local peace building and conflict prevention that Kenyan Friends have made in their communities. Learn how to be an effective messenger for peace in Kenya with your members of Congress. Diane Randall will speak from her recent experience of traveling to Kenya for the Friends World Committee for Consultation and a tour of Quaker peace-building initiatives.

You can read blog posts from Diane's trip, a letter to the Obama administration and key members of Congress about preventing conflict in Kenya, and take part in action alerts on our website, [fcnl.org](http://fcnl.org). The Sandy Spring meeting house is located at 17715 Meeting House Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. For more information, contact: John Salzberg, 301-774-9792 or [john.salzberg@verizon.net](mailto:john.salzberg@verizon.net).

### **"THE AMERICAN SOUL: REDISCOVERING THE WISDOM OF THE FOUNDERS"**

Beginning in late May, we began a series of Meetings for Learning on the book "The American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders" by Jacob Needleman. This book was issued in 2002, and is available used on Amazon.com. The theme of the book, which is about the thinking and concepts behind the American Constitution, how they expressed an "American Soul," and how through examination of our national history rediscover the "American Soul" which the constitution was based on are highly relevant our current national discussion.

The book is written in very short essays, which are very readable. Individuals are encouraged to read the book to the extent that they are interested, but individual essays will be brought forward for discussion, and provided as handouts the week before so that all interested can participate. Readings are not a prerequisite to participation, and all are invited.

The themes will be as follows:

- June 10: Revisiting Iconic American Figures: Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln (Chapters Three, Four, and Five)
- The Chapters related to The Crimes of America will not be discussed in these meetings for learning due to time constraints.
- June 24: The Two Democracies: the Democracy We Have Versus Experiments in Utopian Democracies (Chapters 8, 9, and 10)
- July 8: The America of Our Hopes: Rediscovering and Practicing Democracy in the 21st Century (Chapters 11 and 12)

Friends are also directed to a more recent book, "Roger Williams and The Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty," by John M. Barry. Roger Williams was a puritan who was run out of Massachusetts to Rhode Island, and a contemporary of George Fox (125 years before the Constitutional Convention). The oldest yearly meeting in the world is Rhode Island Yearly Meeting as a result of his view of the "American soul" when Quakers were prosecuted in Massachusetts. The book discusses the writings of the Enlightenment, later included in the American Constitution, which influenced the political and religious thought of the 17th century. These are very pertinent to the founding of Quakerism, the 17th century immigration of Quakerism to Maryland, and the Maryland Act of Religious Tolerance (1653).

We are looking forward to a thoughtful discussion from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. on these First Days. As these sessions go forward, we expect that our schedule will be adjusted to participants and interest.

Peace and Light,  
Kim F. and Mardy B.

### **DECONSTRUCTING RACISM DISCUSSION**

Save Saturday, June 30, for a Deconstructing Racism Discussion held in the Meetinghouse library from 2 to 4 p.m. Our group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee. Friends get together every 2 or 3 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. All are welcome!

Peace,  
Jean

### **BYM THINKING ABOUT RACE GROUP**

"Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience" is a recent Pendle Hill pamphlet (December 2011). The author is one of BYM's own – Pat Schenck of Annapolis Friends Meeting. The following passage is from p. 5:

"... white Friends will ask, 'What does this have to do with me? I'm not prejudiced!' But racism has a number of aspects: the prejudice that may exist in individual people's thoughts and actions is one aspect; institutional racism, such as who gets the best schools, health care, and jobs, in another; and cultural racism, the fact, for example, that history is generally written and taught from a European American perspective, is a third. As individuals, we have little control over institutional and cultural racism, but we benefit by it. Life is just easier if you are white, all other things being the same, and that is not fair. But a white person may not be aware of his or her advantage."

And from p. 29: "Remember, being anti-racist does not mean being totally free of prejudice; it means committing to recognizing prejudice in ourselves and racism in society and then doing something about it."

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., usually 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.

### **AFM COUPLE ENRICHMENT GROUP UPDATE**

Relationships need support and nurture to stay vibrant and grow. Couple Enrichment, a process consistent with our Quaker faith and testimonies, helps couples affirm common values and priorities and, using Divine Assistance, effectively handle differences and stresses that we experience in our day-to-day lives. Couple Enrichment is not therapy, not marriage counseling, and not an encounter group. It is designed for couples with a strong commitment to each other who want to enhance their relationships.

AFM has a Couples Enrichment group meeting at 12:30 p.m. on the third First Day. There are five couples who have been participating since September 2011, using a variety of materials and resources. The process includes worship, practice of deep dialogue with partners, and other means for authentic sharing privately and in the group. The centerpiece of Couple Enrichment is Couple dialogue, which is easy to learn and a powerful practice to check in with your partner. Members are learning and practicing relationship skills that deepen intimacy and facilitate creative use of conflict. All couples are committed to continued relationship growth in the Spirit.

Ria and Ted Hawkins helped launch the September 2011 group following a workshop sponsored by AFM in March 2011 by Joan and Rich Liversidge from Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting. The AFM group has decided to open to any couple who would like to attend starting September 2012 for the 2012-13 program year (September to June). If interested, please contact Karen Pell at rise of Meeting for Worship, by phone at 443-319-5327, or by email at kpell851@comcast.net.

### **MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES**

SIXTH DAY OF FIFTH MONTH, 2012

Present were: Elyse A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 17 other F/friends. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Ministry and Worship Committee: Tricia R. reporting the recommendation for Susan D's membership request. There will be a welcoming for Susan in June. ACTION: Friends joyfully affirm Susan's membership in Religious Society of Friends.

Stewardship and Finance Committee: Karen C. reporting about a portion of the 2011 surplus. S&F brings forth the assignment of \$500 to P&SC for the Emergent Social Concerns Fund. Note that the ESC is for external concerns and the Committee Contingency Fund is for internal concerns. ACTION: Friends approve the assignment of funds to the ESC.

American Friends Service Committee report (by Barbara T): As one of five BYM appointed reps to AFSC Corporation and AFM rep, Barbara Thomas shared the highlights of the annual AFSC Corporation meeting that took place March 2 & 3, 2012, in Philadelphia. The main message is that AFSC has weathered their financial difficulties and is looking forward with the guidance of our testimonies and values. The AFSC has down-sized regional centers, their board, and staff. AFSC's four organizational goals are the basis for strategic planning and programming decisions are Peace, Human Migration and Mobility, Economic Justice, and Healing Justice. In selecting programs, AFSC considers our values and testimonies; our capacity (skills, expertise, financial); possibilities of partnering with other organizations; and filling a gap waiting for AFSC.

It is suggested that the Library Committee devote a shelf for AFSC materials. The full report appears later in the newsletter and as an attachment in the book of MfB minutes. Websites and contacts for further information: [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org), [www.afsc.org/campaign/wage-peace-afghanistan](http://www.afsc.org/campaign/wage-peace-afghanistan): contact Peter Lems, 215-241-7170, [plems@afsc.org](mailto:plems@afsc.org), [www.afsc.org/goal/healing-justice](http://www.afsc.org/goal/healing-justice) (issues of incarceration and injustice): contact King Downing, 215-241-7120 or [kdowning@afsc.org](mailto:kdowning@afsc.org), [www.afsc.org/project/immigrants-rights](http://www.afsc.org/project/immigrants-rights): contact Ricardo Hernandez ([rhernandez@afsc.org](mailto:rhernandez@afsc.org)) or Christian Ramirez ([cramirez@afsc.org](mailto:cramirez@afsc.org)), Palestine-Israel Program Director, Mike Merryman-Lotze: [mmerryman-lotze@afsc.org](mailto:mmerryman-lotze@afsc.org), 215-241-7612, Friends Liaison, Luch Duncan, [lduncan@afsc.org](mailto:lduncan@afsc.org)

Quarterly Meeting report (by Jennifer D. M.): The morning talk at Quarterly Meeting, on Quakers and Social Action noted that Social Action begins with a spiritual search to find what the Light is saying to us – especially what we need to do to address root problems. Seneca Valley Preparative Meeting has moved from Boyds to Ijamsville. Of interest to CREC: the Matthews Fund exists to support leadership development of Young Friends of whatever age. Meetings have been asked to set aside time to give input into FCNL priorities. FCNL can help set up meetings with members of Congress, and can attend these meetings also. The next Chesapeake Quarterly meetings will be in Little Falls on June 10, in Sandy Springs on September 23, and in Annapolis on March 10, 2013.

Additional committee updates or Friends concerns:

FWCC report by Dot W. Her ten days in Africa are best described as a joyful celebration of the totality of the Religious Society of Friends. We are joined by our common goal of following our testimonies. FWCC's meeting was a celebration of the kaleidoscope of Friends. We are part of a world-wide organization.

P&SC: Phil F. reported some recent activities (Occupy Movement, FCNL priorities, NRCAT minute). Carl B. and Lee L. have worked on the National Day of Peace. P&SC is supporting the ad hoc committee on new peace minute. Some Peace and Justice Center activities: AVP training for

facilitators an initiative in working with the Maryland legislature on the dram shot law about selling alcohol to the underage; creating a sister cities relationship with Annapolis, Ramallah, and a partner city in Israel; Peace Essay contest with other partners.

M&W: Tricia Robinson's comment about membership includes discussing membership with more attenders. Next week the meeting for learning will be about Worship with Early Friends. The following MfL will be multigenerational. There will a meeting on Saturday. BYM is creating queries about Unity with Nature.

CREC: The focus this year has been on prophecy (including Nelson Mandela). Sue P. and Cairn K. have been running nursery staffing. CREC is entertaining suggestions on themes for next year.

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

### **QUAKER QUOTES FOR JUNE**

If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world. (Chinese Proverb)

Endeavor to make your home a place of peace and happiness where the presence of God is known. Try to live simply. Remember to value beauty in all its forms. Encourage the appreciation of music, literature, and the other arts and the development of taste that will reject the worthless and the base. God's good gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely. (From Advices, London, 1964)

Watch with Christian tenderness over the opening minds of your children. Seek to awaken in them the love of Jesus Christ and an understanding of his teaching. Uphold in your own conduct, and thus encourage in theirs, truthfulness and sincerity. Through example and training help them to recognize and obey the voice of God in their hearts that they may be joyful and willing in his service. Remember, at the same time, that there is a unique potentiality in each human being as a child of God, and that the Holy Spirit may lead your children along paths which you have not foreseen. (From Advices, London, 1964, in Daily Readings from Quaker Writings Ancient and Modern, p. 292, Linda Renfer, Ed.)

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

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by June 17.
- 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: Leo Pickens ([leo.pickens@sjca.edu](mailto:leo.pickens@sjca.edu))

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