

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — July 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

JULY 1: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch (No Meeting for worship with attention to business in July)

JULY 8: 9:15 a.m. Meeting for Learning, "[The American Soul](#);" 11 a.m. Meeting for worship

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

JULY 22: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; Newsletter items deadline: please email!

JULY 29: 11 a.m. Meeting for worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Ministry & Worship

QUERIES FOR SEVENTH MONTH: CARING FOR OTHERS

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for, and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic condition?

In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy? (Faith & Practice, p. 40)

MEETING FOR LEARNING: THE AMERICAN SOUL

AFM members and others are invited to join in our Meeting for Learning discussion of the book, "The American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders" by Jacob Needleman (2002).

On Sunday, July 8, between 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. before Meeting for Worship, we will look at "The America of Our Hopes: Rediscovering and Practicing Democracy in the 21st Century" (Ch. 11, 12). Handouts about the discussions will be provided previous to or on the particular Sunday.

For more information, contact Mardy B. at mardypb@comcast.net or 410-295-4940 or Kim F. at kim.finch@ppd.mncppc.org or 301-952-3506. The book is available on Amazon.com.

LIGHT HOUSE NEEDS x 3 – CAN AFM HELP?

1) JULY LIGHTHOUSE PANTRY NEEDS

Dear Friends,

Annapolis Friends Meeting shares with another congregation a special responsibility for making sure the food pantry at the Light House is filled during the month of July.

As we have in years past, we will start early by putting extra containers in the corridor at the Meetinghouse this weekend to collect nonperishable food. Because July starts with the holiday, we traditionally try to frontload our food contributions at the beginning of the month... but the shelter needs food all year long!

Below is the Light House's list of what it needs; if you feel moved to donate perishable items, you may deliver them directly to 10 Hudson Street (near the Armory).

Peace and thank you,
Peter

Bacon/Sausage, Mayonnaise, Canned Goods, Milk, Chili, Oatmeal, Coffee, Peanut Butter, Dried Herbs, Pancake Mix, Tea Bags, Ramen Noodles, Eggs, Soup, Fruit Juice, Spaghetti/Pasta, Gravy, Spaghetti Sauce, Hamburger Helper, Spaghettios/Ravioli, Canned Beans (all kinds), Syrup, Jelly, Tuna, Macaroni and Cheese, Cereal, Peanut Butter, 5lb Bags of Sugar, Powdered Creamer, Canned Tomatoes, Sliced Cheese, Shredded Cheese, Ground Beef, Rice, Salad Dressing, Lunchmeat

2) LIGHTHOUSE JOB-RELATED MENTORS

The Shelter is looking for mentors for 14 clients starting June 28. The Shelter is looking for a minimum commitment of two hours a week meeting with residents. The purpose of this mentoring program is job related and would help residents with resume writing, completing employment applications, interviewing skills, etc. This is a pilot program that the Lighthouse Shelter hopes to extend.

Many years ago, I ran a job search program for disadvantaged individuals in Philadelphia. I assume this mentoring program would be similar. I am very interested in serving as a mentor.

If you have an interest in becoming a mentor, please send me an e-mail (jsrodkin@comcast.net). Once I know the number of Friends interested in this program, I will schedule a time for us to meet and discuss how AFM would like to participate. I will also call Michele Marshall at the Lighthouse Shelter and provide her with our information.

Joel R.

3) LIGHTHOUSE FUNDRAISING – “RUN FOR SHELTER”

The Light House is holding a Run for Shelter on September 30, at 7:30 a.m., and because one of the events is a half-marathon--not something to venture on without training--we offer this early notice. (Luckily, there's also a 4.2-mile fun race). The neighborhood is Quiet Waters/Hillsmere. Details are available at:

http://www.halfmarathons.net/usa_half_marathons_maryland_annapolis_run_for_shelter_half_marathon.html

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 pcaroom@gmail.com.)

Peace and happy running,
Peter

FIRST DAY SCHOOL TAKES A BREAK FOR SUMMER

We will not have structured First Day School classes during Meeting for Worship for the duration of the summer! But we will re-convene on Sunday, September 11.

As always, parents are welcome to spend time with their children in the First Day School classroom during Meeting for Worship, reading books and using the various arts and crafts supplies, or to use our play area outside.

We only ask that anything you do use be put away neatly. As always, nursery care for our youngest members will be available on all First Days during Meeting for Worship.

Wishing everyone a joyous summer,
Joanna T. and Kimberly B.-Co-Clerks, Children's Religious Education Committee

BYM THINKING ABOUT RACE GROUP: RACE OBLIVIOUSNESS

Excerpt from "Racial Healing: Confronting the Fear Between Blacks & Whites"
By Harlon L. Dalton, 1995 (pp. 109-110)

"Why do most White people not see themselves as having a race? In part, race obliviousness is the natural consequence of being in the driver's seat..."

"Whatever the reason, the inability or unwillingness of many White people to think of themselves in racial terms has decidedly negative consequences. For one thing, it produces huge blind spots. It leaves them baffled by the amount of energy many Blacks pour into questions of racial identity... It blinds Whites to the fact that their lives are shaped by race just as much as are the lives of people of color. How they view life's possibilities; whom they regard as heroes; the extent to which they feel the country is theirs; the extent to which that belief is echoed back to them; all this and more is in part a function of their race.

"This obliviousness also makes it difficult for many Whites to comprehend why Blacks interact with them on the basis of past dealings with other Whites, and why Blacks sometimes expect them to make up for the sins of their fathers, and of their neighbors as well. Curiously enough, many of the same folk wouldn't think twice about responding to young Black males as a type rather than as individuals."

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.

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES SIXTH MONTH, 2012

Present were: Wes J. (Assistant Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 23 other Friends and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Treasurer's Report (by Joel R.): After four months our contributions are about \$14,362--around a third of where we need to be. Our building use coordinator is doing a very good job--we have three new renters. Rentals continue to be very consistent. Committees continue to be well under budget. MH&L is consistently spending, but the mild winter has contributed to low expenditures. Financially we are healthy, with funds balances around \$173,430. The full report appears as an attachment in the MfB book and newsletter below.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Phil F. reporting on the continuing consideration of a newly revised and updated AFM Minute for Peace, dated May 26, 2012. Meeting created an ad hoc committee about a year ago. Seven F/friends met Seventh Month 2011 and a draft Minute was presented Fourth Month 2012. The committee suggests that AFM approve the Minute as presented. Friends at MfB suggested various means for distribution of the minute or excerpts of it.

The committee intends that there be three groups of readers for the new AFM Minute: 1) Annapolis Friends. We hope a new peace minute will enlighten our individual decisions, e.g. in choosing which organizations are worthy of our personal contributions of resources, and by the meeting as a whole, e.g. in the future, fostering minutes that concern particular situations of peace and violence; 2) Other Peace-Oriented Groups. We intend to send the minute, when approved, as a message of encouragement to: (a) other Quaker organizations, including monthly and yearly meetings; (b) other organizations of faith; (c) Peace Action Groups; and (d) peacemakers of all kinds; 3) The World. Via a new minute, we want to provide a positive message about alternatives to war to our non-Quaker neighbors.

Action: With one Friend standing aside, Friends are in unity with the following minute:

MINUTE FOR PEACE SIXTH MONTH, 2012

"Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace and ensue it; to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God; seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all." (George Fox and others, 1660)

Annapolis Friends Meeting (Quakers) fears that we and other men and women of goodwill have become so blinded by violence and terrorism that we have become tolerant and numb toward them. Thus we seemingly accept acts of injustice and violence such as nation-instituted regime change, suspension of habeas corpus, entrapment of people, disregard for rules of war, executing people with or without due process, and the accidental or intentional killing of civilians, anywhere in the world. Our convictions as Friends/Quakers compel us to proclaim the continued revelation of our Peace Testimony. We know that we must start with our own hearts and minds to apply this testimony to present-day interpersonal, intergroup, and international violence, the destructiveness of modern weapons, and the cheapening of human life. Therefore, we are led to adopt the following minute:

We of Annapolis Friends Meeting advocate actions by individuals, groups, and governments to eliminate all violations of the identity and integrity of people. We will work for expanding human rights, applying science and reason to human affairs, ensuring that people can participate with dignity in their economy, and honoring strangers and world cultures. As history teaches us that we live in a world of conflict, let us view conflict as an opportunity to understand human differences, to resolve such differences without violence, and to undertake acts of courageous love and creative nonviolence.

To foster peace, Annapolis Friends Meeting affirms that we will support, practice, and engage in:

- Sharing the world's resources so that all persons have the basic needs of life;
- Research, education, and human development, worldwide;
- Enhanced rights for women, cultural minorities, and youth;
- Commercial relations that provide fair opportunities for buyers, sellers, workers, and displaced employees;
- Respect for different cultures;
- Honor for the humanity of accused people and victims of violence;
- Rescue of distressed people and communities;
- Collaborative processes and peace building to resolve conflict;
- Just application of domestic and international law;
- Integrity and humility in human relationships; and
- Simple and sustainable living.

Let all people of conscience make individual and collective decisions that reflect the value of the Spirit residing in each of us. Together, let us listen to the whisperings of hope, the urge to aid brothers and sisters in need, and the call for nonviolent solutions to conflict. Let our lives speak for peace and justice.

Quarterly Meeting Concern: Jennifer D.-M. reporting that Monthly Meetings are asked to consider whether they can unite in endorsing a religious petition for marriage equality in Maryland (<http://www.equalitymaryland.org/religiouspetition>). Friends also are invited to attend Quarterly Meeting next weekend. Patapsco MM reached a decision to do so in April and asks other Meetings in the Quarter to consider endorsing it as well. Maryland passed a bill providing for marriage equality, and a public referendum on the law is expected in November.

ACTION: With Phil Caroom standing aside in case there is a legal challenge to the law, AFM stands in unity with endorsing the following religious petition for marriage equality in Maryland. The assistant clerk will respond to the website requesting AFM endorsement of this petition.

We are Maryland clergy and religious leaders of many faiths, traditions, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. We represent religious institutions, organizations, and movements throughout the state. We come from different political parties and philosophies but lift our voices in unity to speak a faithful word for justice and equality for all families.

We declare that our faith calls us to affirm marriage equality for loving same-sex couples. Our religious traditions and scriptures teach us that wherever love is present, God is also present. One of God's greatest gifts to us is our human capacity to love one another. The ability of two people to enter into relationships and form families of love and care is one expression of this gift. It is holy and good. We therefore affirm that all Maryland families are worthy of fair treatment and deserve equal legal recognition. We recognize that there are principled differences on this issue within the religious community.

We affirm that the state should not require any religious group to officiate at, or bless, same-sex marriages. However, the state also should not favor the convictions of one religious group over another by denying individuals a fundamental right to legally marry whom they love. We expect and trust the legislation in Maryland will protect religious freedom and provide full protection for religious institutions to maintain their beliefs and traditions.

God is love and love is for everyone. Now is the time for Maryland to stand on the side of love and compassion to affirm equality for all LGBT families.

Ministry and Worship Committee: Tricia R. reporting the Spiritual State of Committees reports: The purpose of these committee reports is to give the committees a reason to reflect on their spiritual foundation and how that leads their deliberations. M&W suggests that each committee prepare a spiritual state of their committee, which can then be used as a permanent record of what's been done and can be given to their incoming members for the next year. Committees report practices that support their spiritual foundation, such as periods of silence during the committee. Some speak of the accomplishments of the past year and give a preview of future plans. Among future plans are a Pastoral Care, Children's Religious Education and Outreach collaboration on how to best support families and newcomers, and the presentation on the possible AFM solar project. Ministry & Worship hopes the Committees found the exercise valuable and that the reports will be helpful to new committee members in 2013. The Spiritual State of the Committee minutes will be preserved in the M&W file.

We received a Traveling Minute from Maureen Pyle. Friends are asked for comments on the Traveling Minute for Maureen.

ACTION: Tricia will respond to the Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting about the Traveling Minute for Maureen Pyle.

Other Member/Attender Concerns: AVP: Some AFM Friends had the opportunity to host attenders at the AVP Shame workshop. CREC: As of last First Day, CREC had their last formal First Day School program until after Labor Day. CREC extends its appreciation of F/friends assisting at First Day School. Nursery will continue through the summer. CREC is especially grateful that F/friends exhibit, through their interactions, Quaker community.

Closing: These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wes J., Assistant Clerk, and Phyllis S., Recording Clerk

AFM TREASURER'S REPORT of June 3, 2012

Operating Budget			Fund Balances	
Income	2012 To date	2012 Budget	Restricted Funds	2012 To date
Contributions	14,362	43,485	Adult Scholarship	1,215
Interest/Dividends/ Distribution	3,818	3,004	Building Fund	111,160
Rentals	8,138	19,000	Capital Improvement	3,784
Total Income	26,318	65,489	Capital Replacement	27,426
			Committee Contingency	6,137
Expenses			Emergent Social Concerns	1,310
Committee activities			Founders Fund	10,011
CREC	418	1,850	Growing & Greening	191

Library	0	400	Memorial Garden	3,965
Meetinghouse and Lands	8,731	26,392	Peace & Justice Center	3,781
Ministry and Worship	700	800	Suffering Fund	1,450
Outreach	76	630	YF Opportunity Fund	3,000
Pastoral Care	0	650	Total	173,430
Peace and Social Concerns	0	1,450		
Stewardship and Finance	171	368	Other off-budget activities	
Restricted Funds	0	17,170	CREC school projects	132
Quaker Causes	0	3,479	CREC camping fund	2,150
Apportionment	6,150	12,300	Solar project	200
Total Expenses	16,245	65,489	Total	2,482
Net	10,074	0		
Account Balances				
BB&T Checking		19,554		
Friends Fiduciary Corporation		59,837		
ING Orange Business Non-profit		114,303		
Sandy Springs Savings Bank CD		10,022		
Total		203,716		

LIBRARY CORNER

Dear Friends,

The Library Committee wants to let you know about two exciting books donated by the author Judy Sorum Brown. Here is a sample of her poetry:

STEPPING BACK

Stepping back
 Creates the space-
 For insight,
 Some small flame
 Of creativity,
 For some new
 sprout
 To push through
 To the light.

the growth will
Do what's needing to be done;
Our work is to
Create the space.

The books will be on the rack on the counter in the "new" section to the right. After a suitable time they will be on the Poetry shelf. Enjoy!

The Library Committee

QUAKER QUOTES FOR JULY

The gift of love is the gift of the power and the capacity to love, and, therefore, to give love with full effect is also to receive it. So, love can only be kept by being given away, and it can only be given perfectly when it is also received. (Thomas Merton)

Divine love imposeth no rigorous or unreasonable commands, but graciously points out the spirit of brotherhood and way to happiness. (John Woolman)

What does love look like? It has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. (St. Augustine)

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
This is the great and first commandment.
And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
(Matthew 22:37-40, KJV)

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by July 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.
- 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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