

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — August 2013

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
- Early meeting for worship (weather permitting outdoors) at 8 a.m. on 2nd, 4th, and 5th First Days
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20th of the month

AUGUST 4: 9:15 a.m. [Meeting for Learning](#) on query for the eighth month: Outreach; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

AUGUST 11: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

AUGUST 18: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; After meeting [community picnic](#)

AUGUST 25: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Pastoral Care

QUERIES FOR EIGHTH MONTH: OUTREACH

Do you as way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance? (Faith & Practice, p. 40)

MEETING FOR LEARNING

Due to Annual Meeting, so the August meeting for business will not be held until August 11. Meeting for Learning has been moved to August 4, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. in the multipurpose room. The topic will be the 8th Query from our current Faith and Practice, and a comparison to the revision being considered at Annual Meeting this year. Ann R, our embraced Friend who is serving as the Principal of Friends Theological College in Kimasu, Kenya will be our special guest to discuss her most recent efforts and plans for her last year at FTC.

Kim F, for Ministry and Worship

GAIN ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS

GAIN (Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network) is sponsoring another free, thought-provoking film at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 620 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis.

AUGUST 8: "Queen of the Sun." What the bees are telling us is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis. Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, Hauk and Vandana Shiva. Together they reveal both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

For more information, contact Martha S at [410-295-7550](tel:410-295-7550) or at Zakiyyams@verizon.net.

DONATING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Dear Friends,

With the recent extreme heat it may not seem possible that the start of school is right around the corner, but given busy summer schedules, it will be here before we know it. As is our custom, we will be collecting school supplies for two schools this year.

PHILADELPHIA

With the closure of Ferguson Elementary (one of 29 schools that were closed in Philadelphia after the 2012/2013 school year), we will be following our partner teacher, Lise C, to her new school, McKinley Elementary. She won't know the exact grade level or class size until 26 August, but we will be targeting the following items to support her and her new students:

- Lined Paper (college or wide-rule)
- Spiral Notebooks (college or wide-rule)
- Pencils, No. 2
- Eraser Caps
- Crayola Markers, broad or fine, 10-pks
- Crayola Colored Pencils, 12-pks
- Expo Dry Erase Markers, black
- Black Socks, new (for erasing individual white boards)
- Clay or Play doh (since art is one of the subjects Lise will need to teach)
- Checkers or Mancala

This year we will be collecting supplies as way opens, rather than targeting specific numbers. Please place these items, as well as any other school supplies you think would be good for elementary school (probably 3rd or 4th grade), in the collection bins in the coat area at the meetinghouse by 11 August. Lise is not yet sure of her schedule, but hopes to join us for meeting and potluck that day. Last time that Lise and her husband, Mark, joined us for potluck they spoke to us about Lise's school in North Philadelphia, the students, the teaching, and the impact on their lives. It was very informative and helped us to get to know them better, and also to better understand the challenges faced by an inner-city school teacher.

SILVER SPRING

AFM's Jenn DM has suggested that backpacks are always needed at her inner-city school. Grades span pre-school through second grade, so a range of sizes would be good. Backpacks should be placed in the joint collection bins in the coat area at the meetinghouse by the end of August.

If you would like to help, but don't have the time or inclination to shop, financial donations would also be greatly appreciated and can be given to Cairn K or Ruth S so we can bundle them together to give to AFM treasurer, Joel R. Checks should be made payable to AFM, with "schools project" in the memo.

Thank you for your support- it means so much to the teachers and children we are able to help!

Peace,

Cairn K and Ruth S

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Enjoy an afternoon of conversation, picnicking and swimming at the AFM Community Picnic on August 18 after Meeting for Worship. The picnic area is shaded by trees and swimming is in an artesian fresh water pool adjacent to the Severn River. New children's play equipment is in the picnic area.

Please bring a dish to share.

The annual swim/picnic will take place after Meeting for Worship on August 18th at Ben Oaks Community Picnic Area. Park alongside picnic area-on the hill just beyond the pool on Severnside Avenue.

Directions from the Meeting House:

Route 50 West to 97 North. Exit #10 Millersville, Severna Park. Bare Right off the exit (before the light) You will be going south on the Access Road -Veterans Hgwy. Turn left at the light, West Benfield Road and go about a mile. Turn right onto Severnside Road and drive past the pool. Park along side the picnic area on Severnside Avenue just beyond the pool. For GPS direction, you can use my address (Ben Oaks Dr West is one block passed Severnside Road).

Tricia R
402 Ben Oaks Dr West, Severna Park, MD 21146
410-987-8675

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM

Dear Friends,

Deconstructing Racism Discussion will take place Saturday, September 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the meetinghouse library. Our group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee. Friends gather every two or three 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 exchange. All are welcome!

In peace,
Jean

LIBRARY CORNER

"Staying True: Musings of an Odd-Duck Quaker Lesbian Approaching Death" by Lynn Waddington

When we purchased this book for the AFM Library, we puzzled over which shelf to put it on. "Family Life" because it deals with family, life stages, and facing death? Biography, because it is a woman's memoir of events and processes throughout her life? Peace and Social Concerns, because the writer talks about her experiences as a lesbian (a topic covered in very few of our library's publications)?

On reading this book to discern its "proper place" as well as to review it, I found it covered all the above subjects and more. I'd call it a spiritual biography--the story of Lynn Waddington's inner life, from her early childhood in an isolated southern New Jersey seashore village to her last months living with a terminal illness. Lynn was raised in a long-time Quaker family, amid difficulties, secrets and traumas--and creativity, freedom, and a close connection with the natural world. Her deep spiritual experiences began in her childhood, ranging from unconscious union with the sea and living things to a profound experience of God's utter love for and acceptance of her. Lynn grew into a determined young woman who learned, traveled, and lived as a playwright, wife, mother, anthropologist and artist, among other roles.

Chapters are divided according to stages in Lynn's life, although each chapter begins at a particular time but usually reaches forward to the fruit of what she learned in the past, to her present time of dying, and sometimes back to her childhood or her ancestors. Lynn's writing skill prevents these time-shifts from becoming confusing. Her use of metaphor is unique and fits each situation perfectly, as when she describes her spirit as one like the bristlecone pine tree that is strong enough to live for centuries only when living in an inhospitable area. Most of Lynn's imagery is from nature, befitting her love of and connection with the natural world.

Some passages are less universal or profound than others; for instance, I found Lynn's conviction that the Paleolithic and Neolithic human societies were matriarchal utopias to be somewhat naive. But

overall, Lynn's spirituality rings true, particularly her recognition that her life seemed to move in a spiral--away from growth and deep spirituality but later returning to her center with new insights and creative work. Lynn's Quaker sensibility pervades her life and thoughts, from the radical equality of a university program she helped create to the name she chose for her daughter.

Lynn's writings on her own upcoming death express her outer and inner experiences of tying up loose ends, enjoying last moments with friends and artistic creations, and preparing for whatever will meet her after death. Her path of contemplation and activity, struggle and love, collaboration and being true to herself is laid open in this book as with a trusting spiritual friend. Staying True will be on the library's new-book shelf for a while, then look for it under "biography"--and expect more.

Review by Beth C, Library Committee

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES SEVENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, 2013

Present were: Wes J (Assistant Clerk), Mary B (Acting Recording Clerk), Mardy B, Will C, Phil C, Jennifer DM, Dotty D, Nan E, Sky E, Nancy Jo S, Bill K, Carol K, Cairn K, Jack L, Doug M, Peter M, Marcia O, Harold S, Pat S, and Joanna T.

Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Report from Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting - Jennifer DM reporting (Report attached to minutes): Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting was held on June 9, 2013 at Gunpowder Friends Meeting. Concerns about the revision of Faith and Practice have been minuted by Homewood Monthly Meeting and Alexandria Monthly Meeting. Homewood Meeting is divided about this and would like other monthly meetings to consider "Who we are as Quakers." Friends may see the Baltimore Yearly Meeting website for further information. Discussion of the Gunpowder Friends Meeting Minute against Hydraulic Fracturing was discussed following the report on BYM Interim Meeting.

Report from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting Report - Pat S reporting (Report attached to minutes): The Interim Meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting was held in June at Friends Community School in College Park with Adelphi Monthly Meeting hosting. The Unity with Nature Committee shared a minute against fracking from New York Yearly Meeting. At the interim meeting, BYM proposed a one sentence minute that they will send to monthly meetings for consideration. At Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, Gunpowder Friends Meeting presented their Minute against Hydraulic Fracturing and asked other meetings to endorse it. Annapolis Friends have referred the question of response to both the BYM Unity with Nature Committee and Gunpowder Friends to Peace and Social Concerns Committee. It is recommended that P&SC sponsor a gathering for the community so that we are informed about the issue prior to requesting any meeting action. A question was raised about whether AFM needs a Unity with Nature Committee.

The minutes were approved to this point.

Pastoral Care Committee - Mary B and Dotty D reporting: The marriage of Elizabeth Anne AB and Samuel Jacob S took place in good order with great joy under the care of Annapolis Friends Meeting on Fifteenth Day, Sixth Month 2013.

A memorial minute for David E. J was read and we paused for silence to hold him and his family in the light. His creative, gentle presence is missed by Annapolis Friends Meeting.

The leading of a member to attend a nine-month residency program at Pendle Hill was presented. Nancy Jo S shared her discernment and deep desire to develop methods and process to help communities and individuals resolve conflict peacefully. She asked for the meeting's blessing and support. Thanks were expressed for the depth of spirit she has already shared with the meeting, the children and through the community dialogues. Adult scholarship funds have been requested through Stewardship and Finance. Ministry and Worship Committee will be bringing the process for supporting embraced friends to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in September; additional financial support could be available in the new year. Annapolis Friends Meeting supports the leading and

ministry of Nancy Jo. The clerk will send a letter of support to Pendle Hill explaining AFM's commitment to support this leading while also noting our on-going support to the ministry of Ann R at Friends Theological College.

The minutes were approved to this point.

Other Friends' Concerns -

A request from Friends Wilderness Center for support will be sent to Peace and Social Concerns Committee for consideration.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held on the SECOND First Day in August (8/11/13) since many will be at Yearly Meeting the first weekend in August.

Closing: Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wes J, Assistant Clerk, and Mary B, Acting Recorder

MfB Attachment
Notes for Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting 6/9/2013 @ Gunpowder
Submitted by Jennifer DM

Gunpowder weaved throughout the day the theme of treading lightly on the Earth, including reusable dishes and napkins at lunch and a rich and varied afternoon program. Links to many of the resources they shared have been added to the web post announcing their program at <http://chesapeake.bym-rsf.net/?p=323> , including a guide to nearby bike rides, quotes on the spiritual basis for earthcare, and their recent minute on fracking.

At our recent meeting, Annapolis Friends shared an appeal for funds to support Ann R's ministry. Georgia F of Langley Hill wrote a nice piece that provides additional background on that appeal, complete with colorful and relevant photographs from her visits there. Her piece highlights many aspects of Ann's work that you might not think about in connection with training pastors at a theological college, like the Alternatives to Violence Project, peacemaking-especially relating to election violence, promoting and providing clean water, sustainable agriculture, supporting micro-enterprises, and more. Check it out at <http://chesapeake.bym-rsf.net/?p=341> .

Travel Minute

Stepping down as clerk for this business item, Ken S (Patapsco) presented a travel minute from Patapsco for Quarterly Meeting's endorsement (<http://tinyurl.com/lwmrboxf>) for his leading to do intervisitation among Friends, in part through Baltimore Yearly Meeting's intervisitation program. He noted the endorsements he has received on the travel minute that was endorsed a year ago, which are available at <http://tinyurl.com/lb78sd8>. He explained that his new minute reflects that changes are anticipated in that program given the pending proposal to lay down the ad hoc Intervisitation Committee and create in its place a working group under Ministry and Pastoral Care. The meeting approved endorsing the minute. Of particular value was hearing the endorsements from the Meetings Ken's has visited since they are communications to our Quarterly Meeting.

- Homewood Minute on Faith and Practice - Susan RW presented the following minute on the draft Faith and Practice revision:

"Homewood Friends appreciate the hard work of the BYM Faith and Practice Committee over 10 years. After careful study, deep reflection, worship, and many meetings, Homewood Friends Meeting finds that we cannot come to unity regarding the draft Faith and Practice and, in fact, have serious divisions regarding it. In particular, we find that we lack unity on the statements in the draft regarding the essentials of the faith and practice of Friends and our common understanding of what it means to be a member of the Society of Friends. It appears to us that the question of unity on such essentials needs threshing by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as a whole. We recommend that all of us, as members of the yearly meeting, engage in a process of exploration and discernment regarding the fundamentals of Quaker faith and practice, beginning at the monthly meeting level."

This minute will be distributed to the clerks of BYM, the executive secretary of BYM, the clerk of Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, Homewood's representative to BYM, and Homewood's representative to Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting.

In response to a question on differences Homewood found among themselves about the revised draft, a Homewood Friend responded that the draft makes references to individuals finding their own truth and bringing that to Meeting while in other places the draft has more traditional assertions that there is one Truth and Light. Are we a group of perpetual seekers or have we found something? Another Homewood Friend said the draft seemed very individualistic for a religion that is very corporate, and that the queries had been changed so that they did not imply a standard of behavior. Still, some Homewood Friends had no problems with the draft along these lines. Still another Homewood Friend noted that the proposed draft, in describing how we are all over the map, might well represent where we are as a Yearly Meeting and thought it would be good for us to spend some time understanding who we are.

Note: On 6/22, 10am, at Langley Hill, the BYM Faith and Practice Revision Committee held a Listening Session on Faith and Practice.

For Annapolis' consideration.

Minute from Gunpowder on Fracking

We approved asking the Quarter's Monthly Meetings to consider endorsing this minute and reporting back at the next quarterly meeting, noting that will be the last quarterly meeting before the next legislative session in Maryland.

Gunpowder Friends Meeting Minute Against Hydraulic Fracturing

As Quakers, we are called to a right relationship with Nature. A right relationship requires that we learn and respect the ways in which Nature works. A right relationship requires that humans share the Earth's productivity and resources with one another and with other species. A right relationship requires us to be good stewards of our planet.

The practice of Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) to extract natural gas from deep below the earth's surface is inconsistent with our understanding of right relationship with Nature. Fracking disrupts the environment by using disproportionate amounts of our precious water resources, by contaminating that water with proprietary chemicals that are not subject to rigorous scientific safety studies, and by expanding our reliance on fossil fuels. Because Fracking involves both vertical and extensive horizontal drilling, it stresses the environment far beyond the immediate drilling site. Because it extends our reliance on fossil fuels, it accelerates the release of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere, where the consequences of human activity contribute to imbalance, climate change, and possible squandering of Nature's bounty.

Fracking in the Marcellus Shale fields of our neighboring states of Pennsylvania and West Virginia has led to reports of destruction of ecologically sensitive ecosystems and contamination of streams and drinking wells, reports we find too credible to dismiss in the name of expediency and short-term rewards. We have the opportunity to act now in the State of Maryland to prevent Fracking rather than to clean up environmental damage later and deepen our dependence on fossil fuels.

We encourage the further exploration and development of alternative and sustainable sources of energy. We ask that the government wait to approve any new fracking until a full Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study on the matter is concluded. We seek a pause and slow reversal of our patterns of unsustainable exploitation and reshaping of planet Earth. This will not be easy in state, national, or international terms, as it requires vision beyond ourselves and our generation. Yet, the choice is clear enough, and where data remain uncertain, we favor a prudent expectation that the resiliency of Nature as we know it is not limitless. We urge an assumption of individual, collective, and governmental responsibility to bring our energy consumption in better alignment with available resources. We seek a right relationship with Nature.

Looking Ahead to 9/29/2013 CQM at Patapsco Friends Meeting -
Patapsco's program will be on "Embracing the Interfaith Community."

Patapsco Friends Meeting is exploring ways to interact and work with people of other faiths. They are a founding member of "People Acting Together in Howard" (PATH) and interfaith network that has acted to secure improvements in the environment, healthcare and affordable housing. Patapsco has begun an interfaith listening projects that involves inviting people of different faiths to listen together and will share the results so far. Gary G of Homewood MM will also talk about his work as Executive Director of the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council. We will hold a worship sharing on the query, "How are we enriched by deep sharing with members of other faiths?"

MfB Attachment

Report to AFM on Interim Meeting
Held June 15, 2013
At Friends Community School
College Park, MD
Hosted by Adelphi FM

Robinne G, the BYM Director of Development for the past five years, gave her final report. Her position will be filled, according to the Development Committee. Robinne's tenure has resulted in much more broad-based financial support for the yearly meeting. People expressed appreciation for her work.

The revised and updated BYM youth safety policy can be found at the BYM website. It is directed at the camps, Young Friends, Junior Young Friends, and BYM annual sessions. It is not directed at monthly meetings, but there will be a workshop at annual sessions for monthly meetings. The ad hoc committee was laid down, to be replaced by a working group to deal with policy regarding youth safety. Several people will serve ex officio, such as the camp directors, the Youth Program Director, and so on.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is forming a working group, time limited to three years, to examine Israel/Palestine issues. They are charged with finding ways to respond to the conflict there in a way that fosters justice for all. They plan to dialog across the yearly meeting.

The Unity with Nature Committee read a minute from New York YM in opposition to hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Then they proposed a minute for BYM from their committee, a one-sentence statement urging friends to express opposition to the practice to lawmakers in their various states. Friends felt that the committee should confer with State College and West Branch meetings, which (I believe) have been studying the issue, and where (I believe) fracking is occurring. They felt that it is a complex issue and there may be a middle ground. They urged monthly meetings to engage with the issue. The NYYM minute and the BYM proposed minute will be sent to monthly meetings with a request that they consider what BYM should do.

Members of the ad hoc Vision Implementation Committee will visit monthly meetings. Friends are urged to read the vision statement at the BYM website.

QUAKER QUOTES FOR AUGUST

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

"Let me light my lamp," says the star "and never debate if it will help to remove the darkness." (R. Tagore)

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 the 20th of the month.
- Beth M is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to 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

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