

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – September 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
- Meditation study group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the main meeting room, starting September 11
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 25th of the month

SEPTEMBER 1: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

SEPTEMBER 8: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch and presentation by Lise Cheney of Philadelphia

SEPTEMBER 15: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. [Community Picnic](#)

SEPTEMBER 22: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 9:15 a.m. [Meeting for Learning](#): Transgender Issues and Experience; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

SEPTEMBER 29: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. [Meeting for Learning](#): Mysticism

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Meeting House and Lands

QUERIES FOR NINTH MONTH: THE SOCIAL ORDER

Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing? Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values? Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences? Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged? Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service? Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things? (Faith & Practice, p. 40)

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

FIRST DAY SCHOOL STARTS

Hello Friends,

It is hard to believe that the summer is fast coming to a close and plans for the new year of First Day School are falling into place. We hope all our children and families have enjoyed a wonderful summer, and look forward to having the First Day children with us again soon at Meeting. First Day School programs will begin on September 8, and we invite all the children and grandchildren of AFM to join us for what should be a fulfilling and exciting year. As always the children will meet in the classroom from 11 to 11:45 a.m., and then join Meeting for Worship for the final 15 minutes.

We have a theme for each year's First Day program, and this year CREC has decided on the theme of sustainability and stewardship. The committee felt that this would be particularly appropriate in a year when AFM looks forward to installing solar panels at the Meeting House. Sustainability and stewardship also speak to the ongoing work of the Meeting in caring for creation, in our own immediate community and beyond, work that we hope will be taken up by our children as they grow. The theme is meant to offer a broad outline for our programs and classes for the year, but is not meant to exclude other ideas that Friends may have for First Day School classes. We invite all members of the community who have an idea for a session (or several) that they would like to offer for the children to sign up for a class. We will begin passing around a sign-up clipboard in the next couple of weeks. If you have an idea for a session, and a date that you would like to teach, please also feel free to contact either or both of us, and we can put you on the schedule.

Finally, we extend our thanks to all the members of the AFM community for the care, concern and love they continue to show the children of the Meeting. Your attention to and support for these young people opens the way for the growth of Spirit among us all.

Kimberly B and Joanna T, Co-Clerks
Children's Religious Education Committee

FRIENDLY EIGHTS SIGN-UP

It is time to let us know if you are interested in joining a Friendly Eights group for this year. Friendly Eights has a long tradition in Friends Meetings as a way for members and attenders to get to know each other in a more social and intimate way. Friendly Eights groups gather for a simple meal (usually potluck) and fellowship in homes of members and attenders. Participants take turns hosting the gatherings. The group determines the frequency of the gatherings.

A clipboard will circulate at Meeting for Worship for the next few weeks, or you may send a email to Mary B (afmeeting@ yahoo.com) with the information below:

- NAME(S)
- ADDRESS
- PHONE
- EMAIL

Pastoral Care will gather all the requests and arrange groups at our next committee meeting so please sign up no later than September 13. Also, if you have a special request for grouping or a need, please call Mary at 410-626-0732; please leave a message if we are not home.

We hope many will participate in this wonderful activity.

Mary B, Pastoral Care Committee

COMMUNITY PICNIC RESCHEDULED

Enjoy an afternoon of conversation, picnicking and swimming at the AFM Community Picnic, which has been rescheduled on September 15 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 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

MEETING FOR LEARNING

- **TRANSGENDER ISSUES AND EXPERIENCE:** September 22 at 9:15 a.m.

Chloe Schwenke is a transgender Friend from Adelphi Meeting who transitioned from male to female with the care, understanding, and support of her Quaker community. Adelphi learned much through holding Chloe and her family in the Light, and in many important ways this transition helped the whole community participate in this challenging spiritual journey of authenticity and wholeness. Chloe was later selected as one President Obama's first three transgender political appointees, and she now serves as vice president of Freedom House, the oldest human rights organization in America. With the support of her meeting, Chloe will be traveling in the ministry to share insights on gender, identity, and diversity arising from her journey with Annapolis Friends.

- **MYSTICISM:** September 29 at 12:30 p.m.

Joan Hickey will conduct a Meeting for Learning on Mysticism. Ms Hickey's book, "A Cloud of Witnesses," which is available in our library, sketches the background and context of mystical experiences in the past and modern times. It is a book of true stories from people who have had "unexpectedly, and in the middle of the everyday lives mystical experience." Some studies indicate that over half of present day American have had extraordinary experiences of God.

Ms Hickey is a Pastoral Counselor and is associated with the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, DC.

If you wish, bring lunch. We'll have coffee, juice, and cookies available

THINKING ABOUT RACE

Does our criminal justice system work?

The bodies of poor, unemployed youths are worth little on the streets but become valuable commodities once they are behind bars.

"People have said to me that the criminal justice system doesn't work," Kerness said [Bonnie Kerness of the American Friends Service Committee]. "I've come to believe exactly the opposite—that it works perfectly, just as slavery did, as a matter of economic and political policy. How is it that a 15-year-old in Newark who the country labels worthless to the economy, who has no hope of getting a job or affording college, can suddenly generate 20,000 to 30,000 dollars a year once trapped in the criminal justice system? The expansion of prisons, parole, probation, the court and police systems has resulted

in an enormous bureaucracy which has been a boon to everyone from architects to food vendors—all with one thing in common, a paycheck earned by keeping human beings in cages. The criminalization of poverty is a lucrative business, and we have replaced the social safety net with a dragnet.”

Prisons are at once hugely expensive—the country has spent some \$300 billion on them since 1980—and ... hugely profitable. Prisons function in the same way the military-industrial complex functions. The money is public and the profits are private.

(From “The Shame of America’s Gulag,” Chris Hedges, on www.Truthdig.com, March 17, 2013)

The BYM Working Group on Racism launched a One Book program at annual sessions this year. Every Friend is urged to read “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander.

AFM has organized a discussion group in cooperation with our neighbor, St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church. Please read the book’s introduction and join us on Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting will be at St. Phillip’s, 730 Bestgate Road in Annapolis.

The BYM 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 E, david.etheridge@verizon.net or Pat S at pat.schenck@verizon.net or 410-263-4529.

DAYSRING SILENT RETREAT FOR BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS

Dear Friends - The beautiful autumn retreat at Dayspring is not far off. Registration form is pasted below and attached along with our schedule and suggestions and reflections from Dayspring's retreat folder. I hope you can take advantage of this precious opportunity to enjoy God's creation, worship in community and refresh your spirit in solitude. In peace and LIGHT, Jean

.....
October 11 - 14, 2013

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

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Silent Retreat at Dayspring for Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends. We will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God’s creation in meadows and woods, walking, resting, praying, reading, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

WHERE: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 (301-916-1131).

FACILITATOR: Jean C, Member of Annapolis Friends Meeting

ARRIVAL: 3:30 -7 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.) DEPARTURE: 2 p.m. Monday.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Individual room in the Inn with Bible, bed, desk, sink, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth. 9 vegetarian meals in the Lodge dining room. Gatherings in the Yoke Room for community worship and shared solitude by the fireplace. 200 acres for roaming.

COST: \$290.

REGISTRATION: Deadline October 4 (if not filled earlier). Minimum number is 9 participants. Maximum is 18. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

BRING: Toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight. Long socks and hats are recommended to deter ticks.

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

DIRECTIONS: From I-270 take the Damascus exit (#15-A), Route 118 to the north. Go 8/10 of a mile on Route 118 to MD Route 355. Turn left on MD Route 355 and go a VERY SHORT block. Turn right on Neelsville Church Rd. Continue 6/10 of a mile on Neelsville Church Rd. to Dayspring Retreat Center. OR From I-70 take Route 27 south at Mount Airy. It will merge into 355 (Frederick Rd.) continuing south. Turn left onto Neelsville Church Rd. (just before reaching Route 118) and follow directions above.

The emergency telephone number for Dayspring is [301-916-1131](tel:301-916-1131) .

Make check for \$290 payable to **Dayspring Retreat Center** and send with registration form to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122

Name(s) _____

Meeting _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

LIBRARY CORNER

A NEW arrival: The updated Index of Pendle Hill Pamphlets has arrived. These are short concise pamphlets on topics of interest to those interested in Quakerism. You can find pamphlets under topic, title, or author in this guide. We have most of the pamphlets and each month the ones on the topic of the month are on the rack under Query of the month. Please do not take it out of the library as it is for reference only.

Thanks
Nan

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

Present were: Elise A (Clerk), Phyllis S (Recording Clerk), Martha B, Mary B, Mardy B, Jean C, Minette CS, Karen C, Jennifer DM, Nan E, Sky E, Phil F, Wes J, Carol K, Cairn K, Peter M, Marcia O, Sue P, Pat S, Nancy Jo S, Barbara T, and Dot W.

"God is the energy that drives us, the torch that leads us, the life that beckons us, the Spirit within that carries us on." (Joan Chittister)

Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Attachments will appear in the Newsletter and in the book of Meeting for Business Minutes.

Question: Should we avoid the Labor Day weekend by postponing the September business meeting to the second First Day, September 8?

ACTION: Friends approve moving the Meeting in September to September 8.

Stewardship and Finance Committee – Karen C reported the 2014 budget timeline and a recommendation supporting Nancy Jo S.

Over the next month Committees will prepare their own budget requests and give to the S&F committee. S&F will present a first reading of the balanced budget in October and the final budget in December.

The cost of a year at Pendle Hill is about \$50,000, but an endowment allows them to reduce the amount to \$25,000. Nancy Jo will need a remaining \$10,000 to fund her year at Pendle Hill. Marcia O, member of Nancy Jo's support committee, has sent an email to the AFM announce list about personal donations for supporting Nancy Jo's time at Pendle Hill.

ACTION: Friends approve supporting Nancy Jo's tuition at Pendle Hill with \$1,000 from the Adult Scholarship Fund and replenishing the ASF with \$500 from the Committee Contingency Fund.

Yearly Meeting Report – Pat S presented this report, which appears as an attachment. Friends appreciate Pat's thorough and thoughtful report.

Peace and Justice Center Updates – Phil F reported information about three initiatives and current work at the P&JC. The initiatives include the Annapolis Youth Initiative, the Geneva Initiative, and the One Book Project (reading *The New Jim Crow*). The full report is an attachment. The next meeting of the P&JC is August 27.

Meetinghouse and Lands – Wes J presented the interim solar project update. This Thursday AFM received the final plans from Solar City. After MH&L agrees that the plan meets AFM concerns, MH&L will present an update to MfB to request final Meeting approval. The final cost will be about \$19,000.

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

MfB Attachment
BYM's 342nd Annual Sessions
July 29-August 4, 2013
Pat S Reporting

Martha B, Karen C, Phil F, Lynada J, Lee L, Ann R, Pat S, and Barbara T attended BYM annual sessions this year. The theme was "Growing From Common Roots Toward the Light."

The week began with a retreat led by Don G and Michael C, which addressed the theme.

There were three plenary sessions: on Tuesday evening, Michael N spoke on "Where Words Come From: Texts and Textures in a Monthly Meeting;" on Wednesday afternoon, the Working Group on Racism led the yearly meeting in the workshop "What Is This Thing Called Privilege" (which many Annapolis Friends experienced on a smaller scale at Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting held at AFM in March); and Robin M, General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, gave the Carey Memorial Lecture on Friday evening, in which she urged Friends of all branches to learn to be bilingual, to understand and appreciate one another's religious language.

There were many workshops and interest groups to choose from. An alternative on Friday was to meet with Friends from other meetings to see how they address ministry, pastoral care, outreach, and stewardship and finance. Barbara T and Martha B led an interest group on their trip to Indonesia with Friends Peace Teams and Pat S co-led a workshop called "Coming to Terms with Race and Ethnicity."

The Working Group on Racism launched a "One Book Program," urging everyone in the yearly meeting to read *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. Friends are encouraged to form study groups on the book in their monthly meetings.

One of the most important issues to come before the body was the consideration of the new Faith and Practice document. The committee that has worked for ten years was due to step down, and they hoped that the document would be accepted. However, it was not. One major reason seemed to be that it is too individualistic, rather than stating basic Quaker beliefs and practices as what it means to be a Quaker. Others felt that they had not had enough time to study such a lengthy document. Of course, any changes will cause the disapproval of other Friends, so the task will not be easy. Nominating Committee was tasked with finding a new committee, and they are instructed to work from the 2013 draft, not the 1988 version. We were reminded that as of now, the 1988 version is still the official one. Meanwhile, monthly meetings are asked to continue to discern a way forward. Anyone with ideas about who might be good members of a new F&P committee is urged to let Nominating Committee know.

Another sticky topic was the budget, which included funds to hire a new development director, as Robinne G has resigned. Spending this money to raise money is controversial, with feeling running high in both directions. The budget was passed with the understanding that Supervisory Committee will meet with camping staff and office staff to consider whether there might be a less expensive alternative. One thing that came out in the discussion was how very overworked the office staff is, almost to the breaking point.

This Friend was very impressed by the quality of clerking on the part of Betsy M when these two controversial issues came up. She was very careful to be sure everyone had ample opportunity to be heard. She said, "I want this to be a safe place where all points of view are heard."

An amount of \$2600 was included in the budget for FUM, to be used in support of Ann R.

Every morning started with worship sharing or Bible study. There were two times set aside for committee meetings. One of the joys of yearly meeting is hymn singing every evening after dinner. And Saturday evening is reserved for the coffee house, in which children and adults perform music, recite poetry, and put on hastily prepared skits.

No AFM children attended, which is unfortunate, as BYM teaches children much about being a Quaker and they have a great time. And, as my children always said, you can have as much ice cream as you want!

MfB Attachment

Annapolis Friends Peace and Justice Center: A Status Report

MISSION (as shown on the AFM Website)

The Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) Peace and Justice Center (P&JC) provides:

1. A place where people who want to champion peace and justice initiatives can clarify their ideas, gather resources, and organize efforts;
2. Opportunities for training and education about peace and justice;
3. Safe space for people to dialogue about controversial public issues;
4. Networks and partnerships with individuals and groups who share peace and justice concerns; and
5. A more visible community presence for the Annapolis Friends Meeting.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Individual leadings become initiatives of the Center only after a clearness/discernment process.

Annapolis Youth

Goal: To form a diverse community of young people, enhance their skills as peacemakers, and help articulate their concerns and hopes for the future.

Primary Facilitators: Joanna T and Kimberly B
Primary Partner: Teaching Peace Initiative
Co-sponsors: Boys and Girls Clubs of A&A; Chesapeake Montessori School; Light of the World Family Ministries; St. Philip's Episcopal Church; Woodside Gardens Community
Activities: (1) A youth conference on the International Day of Peace, September 21, 2013; and (2) a forum in 2014

Middle East Negotiations

Goal: Encourage U.S. policy makers to engage in peace making in Israel and Palestine; raise the profile of the Geneva Initiative group as a source for peacemaking ideas.

Primary Facilitator: Phil C
Primary Partner: Geneva Initiative Group
Co-sponsor: Middle East Peace Working Group
Intern: Lauren S

Activities: (1) Candlelight March for Peace at Lafayette Park (across from the White House) on 10/1/2013; and (2) National Press Club News Conference on 10/2/2013

New Jim Crow

Goals: Study and share about the book "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander.

Primary Facilitator: Pat S
Primary Partner: St. Philip's Church
Activity: Meetings to discuss the book beginning on September 24, 2013 and continued every other week thereafter until the end of the year.

LEADINGS/IDEAS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR AN INITIATIVE

- Dram Shop Law for Maryland
- Global Warming: considering options for action following approval of a minute on the issue.

Standard Operating Procedure for Clearness and Discernment about Leadings and Ideas (as shown on the AFM Website)

P&JC Welcomes New Initiatives

Do you have a strong idea, interest, or concern about an issue involving peace or justice? (It may be small or large in scope.) Are you willing to be a champion for your cause? Might you want to work with the P&J Center in creating an initiative around your idea?

If your answers to these questions are "yes," we encourage you to write a proposal to work with the Center. In a proposal of two pages, or so, please answer the following questions:

- 1) What is your idea, interest, or concern?
- 2) What end results you would like to realize?
- 3) What activities are you considering?
- 4) What support from the P&JC do you believe you need to move the idea forward?
- 5) As the champion for your initiative, what will you contribute to the effort?
- 6) (Please include your name and contact information.)

If your idea is accepted as an initiative by the Center, your sustained presence and activity will be essential. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Center co-clerks.

Contacts: Kit H and Phil F, Co-clerks

QUAKER QUOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

For God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1: 7)

We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone and as we let our own light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to do

the same. As we are liberated from our own fear our presence automatically liberates others.
(Nelson Mandela)

And all friends everywhere this I charge you... live in peace... and therein seek the peace of all men and no man's hurt.... And so...it is love that overcomes and not hatred with hatred, nor strife with strife. Therefore live in the peaceable life, doing good to all men, and seeking the good and welfare of men. (George Fox, 1659)

Love was the first motion, and then a concern arose to spend some time with the Indians, that I might feel and understand their life, and the Spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of Truth amongst them. And as it pleased the Lord to make way for my going at a time when the troubles of war were increasing and when by reason of much wet weather traveling was more difficult than usual at that season, I looked upon it as a more favorable opportunity to season my mind, and bring me into a nearer sympathy with them. And as mine eye was to the great Father of Mercies, humbly desiring to learn what his will was concerning me, I was made quiet and content. (John Woolman, 1763)

In describing the concern that led him to visit the Indians, John Woolman wrote, "Love was the first motion." Love of our fellow man is more fundamental than international influence or economics or even the preservation of our nation. For 300 years Quakers sensitive to the spirit have endeavored to express a love that knows no limits of race or creed or nation. When motivated by this power, they have testified by word and deed to the dignity of all men everywhere. (Frank S. Loescher, The First Motion)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

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