

## **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — January 2014**

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> First Days
- Meditation study group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the main meeting room
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

JANUARY 5: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; First Day School classes resume

JANUARY 12 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. [Meeting for Learning](#): Incarceration for Minor Drug Offense; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

JANUARY 19: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

JANUARY 26: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:15 a.m. [Meeting for Learning](#): Brief BYM Camping Presentation; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Ministry and Worship

### **QUERIES FOR FIRST MONTH: MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP**

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine Guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?

Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways? (Faith and Practice, p. 37)

### **DECONSTRUCTING RACISM**

Dear Friends,

Please mark your calendars for the next Deconstructing Racism Discussion: Saturday, January 4, 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

### **MEETING FOR LEARNING**

- JANUARY 12 @ 9:15 A.M., "INCARCERATION FOR MINOR DRUG OFFENSE"  
AFM members Pat S, Barbara T, and Martha B will present an update on the progress of the GAIN initiative directed at the Maryland State Legislature to change law relating to the incarceration, primarily of young African-American men, for minor drug offense. Learn more of the AFM efforts to make it a happier New Year for young drug offenders that find themselves in prison and their life opportunities greatly diminished.

- JANUARY 26 @ 12:15 P.M., BRIEF PRESENTATION AT POT LUCK

Presentation of BYM Camping program information will be given during the first pot luck scheduled for the 4th Sunday, January 26, 2014. Funding for scholarships are available both from AFM and BYM. And there are volunteer opportunities during the camp sessions for adults to participate.

**DAYSPRING SILENT RETREAT: FEBRUARY 14-16**

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Friends, I hope you can share in the silence of Dayspring Retreat Center. The warmth of spiritual community in the heart of winter, amid nature’s beauty--what a blessing! Love and LIGHT to you as you consider joining in this adventure.

The purpose of silent retreat is the deepening of communion with God, with other persons and with oneself. ... (W)e make space for... a time of waiting in silence, in solitude, to hear the voice of the One Who speaks in everything that is, and who, most of all, speaks in the depths of our own being. (Thomas Merton)

LOCATION: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20874 (Telephone, in case of emergency: 301-916-1131.) See [www.dayspringretreat.org](http://www.dayspringretreat.org).

DIRECTIONS: DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING RETREAT CENTER: 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 1) Over 50 years ago, Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C. was led to establish Dayspring as a silent retreat center. Two simple buildings overlook meadows, woodlands and ponds filled with wildlife. The Inn (18 single rooms, each with Bible, bed, sink, desk and reading chair) and the Carpenter’s Lodge (living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen and porch) are connected by a path.
- 2) Meals are vegetarian. A Dayspring cook prepares the food. Retreatants carry out final preparation, set-up and clean-up in silence.
- 3) Silence is maintained from Friday’s opening meeting for worship through Sunday’s closing worship.
- 4) Retreatants often bring devotional reading, personal journals, sketch books, knitting. Most importantly, we bring open hearts.
- 5) You will need toilet articles, warm casual clothes, walking shoes or boots and a flashlight. Bed linens, blankets, pillows, washcloth and towels are provided.

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REGISTRATION

Make check for \$210 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122. We need a minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum capacity is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot. Registration deadline is Friday, February 7. Checks will be deposited after the retreat. Annapolis Friends are encouraged to ask AFM for scholarship assistance if the fee is an obstacle. Feel free to email [jschristianson@gmail.com](mailto:jschristianson@gmail.com) or call me at 410-544-1912 with questions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly Meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## **THINKING ABOUT RACE: (January 2014) Black Dolls**

Excerpts from "Black Is Beautiful: Why Black Dolls Matter," by Lisa Hix in *Utne Reader*, February 2013. The article focuses on the documentary "*Why Do You Have Black Dolls?*" by Samantha Knowles. The film debuted in October 2012 at the Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival in New York City, where it won the Reel Sisters Spirit Award. It was also selected for the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival and the Hollywood Black Film Festival in Beverly Hills.

"When a young child is playing with a doll, she is mimicking being a mother, and in her young, impressionable years, I want that child to understand that there's nothing wrong with being black. If black children are force-fed that white is better, or if that's all that they are exposed to, then they might start to think, 'What is wrong with me?'" says Debbie Behan Garrett, author of "*Black Dolls: A Comprehensive Guide to Celebrating, Collecting, and Experiencing the Passion.*"

Knowles says that [doll maker Debra] Wright best sums up her answer to the question posed by the film: "I think women know that they're beautiful ... But when you see a doll, it's such a wonderful reminder of that beauty—because somebody took the time to make a doll in your likeness."

Among Knowles interviewees were Barbara Whiteman, a black doll collector who runs the 25-year-old Philadelphia Doll Museum where she has a rotating display of 300 of her collection of 1,000 black dolls. On Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, Knowles' documentary screened during the Black History Month programming at the National Black Doll Museum in Mansfield, Massachusetts. Read more at: <http://www.utne.com/arts/why-black-dolls-matter.aspx#ixzz2mcEyykDk>

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 at [david.etheridge@verizon.net](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net) or Pat S at [pat.schenck@verizon.net](mailto:pat.schenck@verizon.net).

## **AFM QUAKER CAUSES**

Each year the Peace & Social Concerns committee makes a nominal financial contribution on behalf of the Meeting to a small core of organizations serving Quaker causes. This year we plan to briefly highlight one of these organizations each month in the newsletter to help new members and attenders learn about some of the important work going on in these organizations, increase awareness throughout the Meeting of the organizations that are supported, and encourage additional individual involvement and financial support from those who are so moved.

HIGHLIGHT FOR JANUARY: FRIENDS WILDERNESS CENTER, [WWW.FRIENDSWILDERNESS.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSWILDERNESS.ORG)  
FWC is a 1400-acre wilderness preserve near Harper's Ferry dedicated to "caring for the rustic, natural setting entrusted to us, and to enable others to find spiritual nurturing." Located near the Appalachian train and Shenandoah river, visitors can relax, renew and recharge as they hike, camp, enjoy beautiful scenery or participate in monthly scheduled activities. Overnight stays with home-cooked meals are available as well. Sheila B is the FWC General Manager and resides on the property.

Some AFM contacts for more information: Benson family, Patty R, Martha O'H

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

Pendle Hill Pamphlet #423: "Queries as Prayers" by Ron Rembert  
"Beginner's Grace" by Kate Braestrup  
Reviewed by Nan E

Just as I was getting ready to review one of my favorite books I picked up a Pendle Hill Pamphlet #423, "Queries as Prayers." Written by Ron Rembert who teaches at Wilmington College in Ohio. One of his classes is entitled: "Baseball and Philosophy."

His pamphlet is intriguing. He advocates not just reading queries and thinking to ourselves what our answers would be. He suggests that writing a response makes us examine our true thoughts and feelings. An Awareness Exercise by Renee Crauder is quoted as a way to get started with prayer and self examination. He does note that writing is not the end in itself but a means of focusing on a higher power. The aim is that prayer is a way of life.

Now I recommend reading "Beginner's Grace" by Kate Braestrup who ordained in "community ministry". She is chaplain to the Maine Warden Service accompanying game wardens to accidents, drowning, searches, hospitals etc. She encounters many different types of stressful situations. Throughout the book she quotes the bible even though she admits to having a difficult time with it at first. There are many meaningful short prayers which are available at the end of the book so that you can find the one you want quickly. In one example she relates a childhood experience when she was taking piano lessons. Her teacher said she had a choice to practice or unpractice. She suggests that this applies to prayer too.

I hardly recommend this book as a down to earth every day reader. It is one that you can read a chapter and put it down and feel you have been nourished by it.

### **QUAKER QUOTES FOR JANUARY**

For when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it, I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up. (Robert Barclay)

Bring the whole of your daily life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Live adventurously. In every situation seek to be aware of the presence of God, praying that spiritual energies in yourself and in others may be released for the furtherance of God's kingdom. (Advices, London YM, 1964)

With diligence meet together, and with diligence wait to feel the Lord God to arise, to scatter and expel all that which is the cause of leanness and barrenness upon any soul; for it is the Lord must do it, and he will be waited upon in sincerity and fervency of spirit; ...and let none be hasty to utter words, though manifest in the light in which ye wait upon the Lord; but still wait in silence, to know the power working in you to bring forth the words, in the ministration of the eternal word of life to answer the life in all. (Stephen Crisp, 1663)

The Quaker meeting for worship is not a place for individual meditation, it is a community in which two or three are gathered together to wait upon the presence in the midst which links us all. (Edward Hoare, Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting, FGC, 1995)

John Woolman experienced the mystical Presence of God long before it ever occurred to him that slavery was unethical. Then one day in his retail office someone asked him to write out a receipt for a slave. Something revolted in Woolman's conscience because, as a result of his spiritual consciousness, he was terribly present to that moment—awake, mindful. He didn't write the receipt. It was a personal matter for him. Gradually thereafter, he began speaking to his friends, to his meeting, to other meetings, about freeing the slaves. His ethics spontaneously grew from his spiritual sensitivity. No one pressured him to join any committees. He did not start with an ethical ideal of human rights and go to meeting in order to talk about it. It happened the other way around. He went to meeting to be present before God. His ethics was the flowering of Silence. (Alfred K. LaMotte, 1982)

We become what we do. A great religious interpreter of our times once said that he kissed his child because he loved her and that he kissed his child in order to love her more. Regular participation in corporate worship is a school and workshop in which those who would grow in the religious life, no matter how tenuous may be their present connections, should be in attendance. (Douglas V. Steere, Prayer and Worship, FUP, 1978)

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

FIRST DAY OF THE TWELFTH MONTH, 2013

Present were: Elise A (Clerk), Phyllis S (Recording Clerk), Tom B, Mary B, Carl B, Mardy B, Will C, Phil C, Jean C, Karen C, Nan E, Sky E, Phil F, Esther G, Wes J, Bill K, Carol K, Cairn K, Peter M, Martha O'H, Marcia O, Sue P, Karl R, Tricia R, Pat S, Ruth S, Joanna T, and Dot W.

Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Nominating Committee – Cairn K presented the 2014 slate and the Nominating Committee report. Serving as an officer or on a committee at Annapolis Friends Meeting is both a service to the community and an opportunity as individuals to deepen our faith, broaden and increase our knowledge and skills, and enrich our lives and strengthen our community through the bonds we form with other members as we work together to achieve common goals. It is with gratitude for all of those who have stepped up to offer their service that the Nominating Committee requests approval for the final slate of committees and officers for 2014.

ACTION: Friends approve the final slate of committees and officers for 2014.

Stewardship and Finance Committee – Karen C presented the 2014 budget and the report from the October 27 Meeting for Learning.

Note that the Friends Fiduciary Funds dividends will be rolled over for reinvestment.

ACTION: Friends approve the 2014 budget.

At the Meeting for Learning, Quaker Causes were discussed. Friends at the MfL decided that the fund for support of leadings would be better administered as a restricted fund under M&W. Friends agreed to meet to discuss the administration of restricted funds in the new year.

Update on Nancy Jo S - presented by Marcia O

Nancy Jo is undergoing a sea change of emergence, growth and presence. She is healthier than ever, but feeling her mortality. She is aware that she is writing her last chapter, which she would like to be titled "Coaching as Peacemaker." At this time, she has not begun the fleshing out of that process, but she is finding herself to be more of Nancy Jo than ever. That step has brought her into a restful presence of creative spirit. She has spent time in the art studio and this week will display some of her finished works, of which she is quite pleased.

Her authenticity is clear, she is not still 20 years old, but she is herself with many gifts. How she will use her remaining days is yet to be revealed, but she is strong, rested and present. We are certain that she will surprise us all with her brilliance.

Nancy Jo will be present at the December 8 Meeting for Learning to give her experience with Clearness Committees.

Library Committee Report – presented by Nan E.

The Library committee's purpose is to provide fictional, factual, spiritual, and educational material for the meeting community. The variety of materials ranges from books to magazines, CDs, DVDS, and pamphlets. Several were shown, together with brief descriptions.

The library committees' various responsibilities were presented.

Friends are encouraged to give suggestions of books to be purchased. They are encouraged to let the committee know if an adult session is planned around a book so that one may be available in the library. Donated books are welcome with the understanding that the committee may pass them on if it feels the material is no useful due to our limited space. Friends are encouraged to make use of all the materials in the library.

The committee hopes to invite a Quaker author to a Meeting for Learning to discuss their work.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee – Carl B discussed Quaker causes and Philippine typhoon relief. There are twelve Quaker causes, one of which will be discussed in each monthly newsletter. The organizations and amounts will appear in the newsletter and in the book of MfB minutes. Going forward, the amount for Quaker concerns will be based on actual unrestricted contributions from the previous year.

P&SC is considering contributions for Philippine typhoon relief. There are multiple options. Friends are hoping that a Quaker organization be chosen.

ACTION: Friends are in unity that Meeting contribute \$700, from the Emergent Social Concerns Fund, to Friends World Committee for Consultation for Philippine typhoon relief.

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

Attachment MfB  
Peace and Social Concerns: 2013 Quaker Causes

As you may be aware, 10% of the unrestricted contributions to Annapolis Friends Meeting are set aside for contributions to Quaker causes. This year \$882 will go to the Emergent Social Concerns Fund and \$1,000 will go to the Lighthouse Shelter. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee was tasked with allocating the remaining \$2,530. The committee generated the following list:

\$540 American Friends Service Committee  
\$385 Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center  
\$255 Friends Committee on National Legislation  
\$150 Friends International Center in Ramallah  
\$150 Friends Peace Teams  
\$150 Pendle Hill  
\$150 Quaker House of Fayetteville  
\$150 Right Sharing of World Resources  
\$150 Friends Wilderness Center  
\$150 Washington Work Camps, DC  
\$150 William Penn House  
\$150 Afghan Women's Fund

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

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

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