

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — MARCH 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 2nd, 4th, and 5th 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 20th of the month

MARCH 2: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

MARCH 9: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

MARCH 15: 10:30 a.m. [Third Month Interim Meeting](#)

MARCH 16: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

MARCH 20: 7-9 p.m. Peace & Justice Center meeting

MARCH 23: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

MARCH 30: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Meeting House and Lands

QUERIES FOR THIRD MONTH: THE MEETING COMMUNITY

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs? (Faith and Practice, p. 38)

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 FEBRUARY: ANNE ARUNDEL CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER
www.aacrc-md.us

Begun in 1993 with support and leadership from many individuals at AFM, AACRC offers "mediation, facilitation and community conferencing services to individuals and groups in conflict" as well as "training and workshops in mediation, anger management and other conflict resolution processes." AACRC relies heavily on volunteers and provides many of its services for free; many Friends have been among those who volunteer.

Some AFM contacts for more information: Wes J and Careen M.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (MARCH 2014): NO FREAK ACCIDENT

From *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, pp. 237-238.

"Saying mass incarceration is an abysmal failure makes sense, though, only if one assumes that the criminal justice system is designed to prevent and control crime. But if mass incarceration is understood as a system of social control—specifically, racial control—then the system is a fantastic success. In less than two decades, the prison population quadrupled, and large majorities of poor people of color in urban areas throughout the United States were placed under the control of the criminal justice system or saddled with criminal records for life. Almost overnight, huge segments of ghetto communities were permanently relegated to a second-class status, disenfranchised, and subjected to perpetual surveillance and monitoring by law enforcement agencies. One could argue this result is a tragic, unfortunate mistake, and that the goal was always crime control, not the creation of a racial undercaste. But judging by the political rhetoric and the legal rules employed in the War on Drugs, the result is no freak accident."

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.

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM

Dear Friends,

Our next deconstructing racism discussion will be Saturday, March 8, 2 – 4 p.m. in the meetinghouse library. The 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!

In peace,
Jean

THIRD MONTH 2014 INTERIM MEETING

- OVERVIEW

Join Friends from all parts of the Yearly Meeting as we join our hosts at Annapolis Friends Meeting and gather on March 15, 2014 to conduct the business of the Yearly Meeting. It is important that everyone indicate if they are attending, so that our hosts may properly plan for committee spaces and how much food to make for lunch and dinner.

The Committees currently scheduled to meet in the morning include: Advancement and Outreach, Ministry and Pastoral Care, Nominating, Religious Education, Stewardship and Finance, Trustees, and Youth Programs.

Friends will begin to gather at 10 a.m. and committee meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. The afternoon's session will commence at 2 p.m.

- HOSPITALITY

Friends,

We have begun to receive requests for overnight hospitality on Friday, March 14 and/or Saturday, March 15 from people attending Interim Meeting at AFM. If you might be able to host a Friend or two from a distant BYM local meeting, please let me know. Include information on how many visitors you can accommodate, whether you have pets, how accessible your home is, and anything else that might

help us make a good match. This is just the information-gathering phase, not a firm commitment. Closer to Interim meeting, I'll circulate a list of people requesting hospitality to the people who reply they might be able to host and we can work together to get our visitors optimally housed.

Thanks,
Karen C (410-280-8995, kcunnyngham@verizon.net)

- HELP MAKE THE NATURE TRAIL AVAILABLE

We Need Your Talents: Celebrate, Share, & **Temporarily** Embellish the AFM Nature Trail.

Your creative contributions can help make the path discernible and joyfully inviting, so we can offer the participants of Interim Meeting a more peaceful & reverent alternative to traversing the roadway between AFM and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

We can mark the trail for use during Interim Meeting with temporary stakes wrapped in fluorescent surveyors tape, but artwork displayed at intervals along the AFM portion of the trail could be a delightful way to designate the path for the event and amuse and entice those traveling the trail. Please let us know if you might be interested in helping with this effort.

Thank you,
Kimberly (svasterias@gmail.com) & Eleni (ee0307@gmail.com)

Temporary Natural Fiber Arts Installation, AFM Nature Trail

Please Contribute: Items Crafted from Natural Objects or Fibers (e.g., Woven, Knitted or Crocheted Swatches; Wreaths; Birdseed Ornaments; Dried Flower Arrangements; Twig Weavings; Finger or Spool Knitted Strings; Pine Cone Clusters;...Your Imaginative Creations)

Allowable Materials: All Materials & Adhesives should stand up to Outdoor Display, but MUST be NATURAL (e.g., cotton, wool, silk, wood, seed,...) and BIODEGRADABLE (On the off chance that they are spirited away by gnomes or fairies before the installation is dismantled). Contributions that do not meet the criteria will NOT be displayed to safeguard the natural environment, which is already more than sufficiently challenged by the cast-offs of last century.

Display: Objects will be secured to stakes, hung from trees, or otherwise displayed along the trail to amuse and entice those traversing the path. The display area will be limited to the portion of the AFM Nature Trail that connects to the UU Trail. Artwork WILL NOT be displayed on any portion of the UU Trail without prior consultation and consent of the UU church.

Submission Deadline(?): We plan to offer our services to embellish the trail over the first 2 weekends in March and possibly some of the intervening week days. You are welcome to participate in the embellishment process or leave your contribution in a designated box in the CREC classroom by the end of February or early March.

Duration: ALL ARTWORK WILL BE REMOVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31. Artists are encouraged to remove and reclaim their pieces prior to that date, personally or via a designated agent. Remaining artwork will be removed by volunteers to return the trail to its rustic condition.

Artwork Ownership: ARTISTS WHO WISH TO RETAIN THEIR PIECES SHOULD REMOVE AND RECLAIM THEM (personally or by designated agent) PRIOR TO THE MARCH 31 REMOVAL DEADLINE.

Unclaimed Artwork: Artwork that is not removed prior to the deadline will be removed by volunteers and considered a DONATION to AFM. Edible and transient natural items will be composted or disposed of accordingly. Donated Artwork of more durable design and materials will be available at SPRING MARKET.

Background: On Saturday, March 15, AFM will be hosting the Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Interim

Meeting. To accommodate the various sessions and committees that gather during the event, we have arranged to use space at the Unitarian Universalist Church to augment our facility. Participants will travel the short distance between the two locations by foot or vehicle. If the weather is favorable, the AFM Nature Trail, which connects to the UU Nature Trail, could offer Interim Meeting a more peaceful and reverent alternative to traversing the roadway.

During the next month as a service to the meeting, some of the children will be grooming our section the trail that connects to the UU Nature Trail. Their efforts will focus on ensuring safe passage: clearing fallen branches, leaves, trash, and debris. Larger branches will be used, when available, to line the foot path, but the trail, as has always been our Meeting's preference, will remain rustic and natural--significantly less manicured and delineated than the UU pathway. We would like to make the trail more inviting for this upcoming event and help the Interim Meeting participants travel it with confidence.

AN APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH WINTER RELIEF

Dear Friends,

For several years, Annapolis Friends Meeting has partnered with Magothy United Methodist Church on Mountain Road in Pasadena to provide shelter under the umbrella of Winter Relief, a program run by the nonprofit Arundel House of Hope to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in North County.

Like many other area churches, Magothy UMC has signed up to house the homeless in its church offices for an entire week. Its week is the last week of March, 24-31. The church, while historic, is small and not very wealthy, and by helping out we are making it possible for them to provide a service that they could not offer on their own.

Please consider helping with this effort, towards which Friends have shown remarkable generosity over the years. Volunteers are needed for three roles:

- Evening/overnight supervision. There are two shifts each night, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. and 1 a.m.-6 a.m. This will be a mixed shelter and both men and women are eligible for these shifts.
- Preparation/serving of Sunday dinner on March 30.
- Dropping in to visit with guests Sat March 29 or Sun March 30 (very ad hoc--the recommended time is to allow 2 hours, but if you can make it, just do it; most of them are at a loose end on weekends)

Please let me know if you are willing to help in any of these roles, particularly the evening or night shifts, which are hard to fill.

Peace,
Peter (410-647-2487)

REQUEST FOR BUDDY

Dear Friends,

Do you live alone? Would you like to have someone to check on you regularly? Would you like to be a buddy to a person who lives alone?

Pastoral Care Committee would be happy to match people who would like a buddy with those who would like to be a buddy. Typically, the person who lives alone emails or calls the buddy each morning. If the buddy does not hear from the person by a time agreed on by the pair, then the buddy calls to be sure that the person is O.K.

The pair also works out a "what then" scenario if the buddy cannot reach the person. For example, one may have a neighbor or family member as a back up to go knock on the person's door, or another may give the buddy a house key so the buddy can investigate.

This is ideal for folks who live alone and do not have close neighbors or family members.

Please reply to me alone or let a member of Pastoral Care know if you would like to participate in this buddy system.

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Committee,
Dotty

LIBRARY CORNER

On February 16, 2014, the Library Committee processed nine new books. The new books, listed below, are on the "new" (right) side of the small bookshelf on the counter in the library.

- *Change and Preservation in the Same Current* by Lloyd Lee Wilson (Quakerism)
- *Yeshu: A Novel for the Open-Hearted* by Charles David Kleymeyer (Fiction)
- *Gathered: Contemporary Quaker Poets* by edited Nick McRae (Poetry)
- *The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery* by Rex Ambler (Quakerism)
- *Parenting for Peace and Justice: Ten Years Later* by Kathleen and James McGinnis (Parenting/Family Life)
- *The God We Never Knew: Beyond Dogmatic Religion to a More Authentic Contemporary Faith* by Marcus J. Borg (Spirituality)
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander (Peace & Soc. Con.)
- *Think on These Things ...* by Gwendolyn Queen Pindell (Spirituality)
- *Following Jesus: The Heart of Faith and Practice* by Paul Anderson (Quakerism)

Materials about the Query of the Month are on the left side of the small bookshelf.

George Fox and the Valiant Sixty by Elfrida Vipont

This nonfiction book, about George Fox and the early Friends who helped spread Quakerism through the British Isles, Europe, and the world, reads with the pacing of a work of fiction. It captures the excitement of their conviction and their faithfulness through martyrdom. This book can be found on the shelves in the library, catalogued under Quakerism.

Reviewed by Phyllis S.

QUAKER QUOTES FOR MARCH

This is the reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you ... for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracle, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (I Corinthians 12: 8-11)

Remember, O my soul that the Prince of Peace is thy Lord, that he communicates his unmixed wisdom to his family, that they, living in perfect simplicity, may give no just cause of offense to any creature, but may walk as he walked. (John Woolman, 1720-1772)

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." (John 12:44-47)

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

SECOND DAY OF THE SECOND MONTH, 2014

Present were: Elise A (Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Bill and Carol K, Ruth S, Sky & Nan E, Phil F, Jack L, Barb T, Kit H, Pat S, Dot W, Karl & Kimberly B, Joanna T, Karen C, Sue P, Cairn K, Wes J, Jennifer D-M, and Kim F. We began with centering worship.

(NOTE: No meeting for worship for business was held during first month.)

A worship sharing: Beginning the new year, we took our focus for worship-sharing from BYM's Vision Statement to seek spirit-led lives and "that which is eternal" among us. We asked ourselves, as George Fox suggested, "Christ says this, the apostles that" but, what can we say and how can we share it with young friends and our community today? Listening is the first step -- to hear others' voices and our own.

Plans for BYM Interim Meeting (Pat S reports). We will host Interim Meeting on Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. We expect, including Annapolis Friends, perhaps 75 or more people. To accommodate committee meetings, we will rent some rooms from the Unitarians.

Friends responded to the call for volunteer coordinators as follows: Sky E – parking, Barb T - room assignments and other logistics, Elise-welcoming, Nan E name-tags, Cairn K - meals, Sue P - transportation between the two buildings. Childcare will be arranged with assistance from Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC). We also will pass a clipboard for more volunteers.

Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W) (Kim F reports) as to proposed changes to AFM's Meeting for Learning (MfL) schedule. Our next MfL meeting will be 2nd First Day in February 7. The topic will be this year's Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) with worship sharing both at 9:15 & during Meeting for Worship (MfW) from 11:30 to closing. Together with our SSO committee reports, this process will enable us to prepare and send AFM's SSOM to BYM as requested in April.

M&W recommends possibly switching our regular adult education schedule as follows: 2nd first-days, 9:15 to 10:45, we might hold full sessions, and on 4th first-days, we might arrange short (perhaps 20 minute) talks on interesting topics during the latter part of potlucks – for example, about what the Meeting is up to and what projects individuals are working on.

On the occasional 5th first-days, M&W hopes to come up with a broader range of "wild-card" programs, rather than continue to present the usual topics to the "usual suspects."

M&W would welcome any suggestions for programs, potluck talks and workshops. Friends approved this proposal.

The budget includes a \$2400 line item for "Friends' leadings." Next month, M&W will bring forward a specific proposal for approval as to guidelines for leadings and for particular allocations.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee (PSC) (Carl B reports) as to the proposed final AFM minute on climate change: Based on guidance from a prior MfB, an ad hoc committee of PSC deleted the minute's references to "technology," added a call for individual "citizens'" action &, in Quaker fashion, removed the bullets. Friends joyfully approved this final version.

PSC will circulate the approved minute to other monthly meetings and to BYM-PSC. We also will publish it in the AFM newsletter and post it with other minutes on our AFM website.

Stewardship & Finance Committee (S&F) (Karen C reports): Our transition from old to new Treasurer is going well. A preliminary version of our 2013 was presented & a final version of our financial report will be presented next month.

Highlights of the preliminary report include: Our rentals exceeded expectations by a little more than \$3000 and tour equity holdings (although an unrealized gain) increased by approximately \$6,000; but we realize the stock value already has gone down. S&F is struggling with the best accounting for this

potential investment income.

Together with savings from lower than expected expenses, our net income could be set at \$15,871. But this perhaps should be reduced, in light of inclusion of the equity increase, to reflect the approximately \$9,000 net cash on hand.

Surplus recommendations will be presented next month. Possibilities include payment of remaining solar panel expenses (possibly including related landscaping), with likely additions to our capital improvements and committee contingency funds. Friends approved this preliminary report, as well as using some of the surplus now for remaining solar expenses.

Relatedly, a Friend discussed how our future plans should recognize the connection between the availability of Meeting House space and support for young Friends and Friends' leadings in the community. Other Friends suggested a threshing or other renewal our "Meeting-wide visioning process" as to the future of the Meeting House. Our Clerk will pursue this.

Minute of thanks for Phyllis S. The Clerk suggested this minute: "Annapolis Friends Meeting is deeply grateful for the Spirit-led work of outgoing Recording Clerk Phyllis S. Her precision and concern for accurate detail kept our business in good order, and her unflinching patience and cheerfulness kept our spirits high." Friends joyfully approved.

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 Phil C, Recording Clerk

A Minute on Climate Change Concerns and Policies

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." Psalm 24:1

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship are our guides in dealing with the challenges of global warming and climate change. Annapolis Friends Meeting supports sustainable relationships among the economic, environmental, and social systems—relationships which emphasize humans as interdependent with and nurturing of the environment and of each other. We believe fundamental questions on policy are spiritual and we embrace our responsibility to protect the earth's life forms and ecosystems.

Annapolis Friends Meeting advocates sustainability and conservation. We support policies leading to sustainable and equitable consumption of energy, sustainable population growth based on universal human rights, and sustainable just economic growth based on healthy ecosystems. These will require development of renewable energy solutions and deliberate action to move away from the primacy of the fossil-fuel resource consumption. The ingenuity to solve problems exists; the will to tackle entrenched interests must be found.

Government, business and all citizens are asked to give full consideration to and implement substantial fees on fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) to make fossil-free energy development and use attractive and to redistribute revenue from such fees as an equal per capita "energy dividend". For example, place a fee, up-stream at the mine, well-head or port of entry on coal, oil and natural gas and use the return to both support research of renewable energy and technology development to counter negative climate effects and to help people and business meet the added cost of electricity and fuel.

Government and business are urged to support and implement programs to conserve energy and increase technological efficiencies in the use of energy through conservation practices for an overall reduction in energy consumption. Programs should: reduce energy use in residential and commercial buildings by improving insulation and using solar systems; support public transportation; improve energy efficiency of motor vehicles; and create more compact walkable and bikeable communities.

We acknowledge the overwhelming evidence supported by research from diverse fields of science that rapid changes are occurring because of human choices and actions. Of particular danger to life on our planet is the exponential growth in the burning of fossil fuels. The extreme buildup of carbon dioxide

in the atmosphere and rising temperatures are degrading the earth's self-sustaining systems that foster life. As a result of global warming, we are now experiencing—and will continue to experience—significant increases in flooding of coastal areas, drought in agricultural regions, freshwater depletion in watersheds, and severe weather events worldwide. Temperature change and rising sea level negatively affect sea life and destroy habitat. Climate change on land negatively affects agriculture and significantly impacts the current mass extinction as species are unable to adjust. As the level of greenhouse gas increases the destructive effects will increase. The disruption and destruction of our ecosystems are now causing massive extinction of species and increased dangerous weather events. We can anticipate scarcity of resources, injustice, strife and violence. While science confirms that there have been significant temperature and sea level changes in the past, those changes occurred over millennia and longer thus allowing ecosystems time to adapt. What is new is that we are now making changes to the climate in decades not millennia, thereby threatening the adaptability of life, including that of human civilization. Further, these conditions and Earth's systems are interacting in ways that, if left without abatement and reduction of greenhouse gases, are predicted to range from a much more extreme climate to making the Earth uninhabitable.

Major change, especially the reduction of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, will be costly. However it will be much more costly to delay change. As conditions worsen, the extent of change required and mitigation of continuing damage will greatly increase our costs. We are living in a time of great risk and opportunity for humans. The health of our planet and human civilization rests on the interconnection of human activity with the natural world.

We assert the fact that we are at one with nature, and give thanks for the beauty of Creation and the gift of life. The storms are gathering. Annapolis Friends Meeting prays that we follow our Testimonies, respect science, and listen to the inward voice urging us to act now for the future of the Earth's children.

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

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