

## **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — MAY 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
- Pastoral Care is offering a monthly Meeting for Healing on first Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m. (April 3)
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

MAY 4: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

MAY 11: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

MAY 18: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; Last official [First Day School](#) session until after Labor Day

MAY 25: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Stewardship and Finance

### **QUERIES FOR FIFTH MONTH: PERSONAL WAY OF LIFE**

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? So you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways? (Faith and Practice, p. 39)

### **NORTH COUNTY MIDWEEK MEETINGS START—FIRST TUESDAYS**

Mark your calendars for the first North County mid-week meeting: May 6, the first Tuesday, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at my home, 7627 Locust Grove Road, Glen Burnie. For any questions, my phone is 410-439-2319.

Diane E

### **SPRING MARKET**

Join Annapolis Friends from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for our annual Spring Market on May 10. There will be homemade soup, salad, quiche, and other baked goods, portobello mushroom sandwiches and other delicacies from the grill, flea market finds, annual and perennial plants, live music from our young musicians, SPCA dogs for adoption, and information on our new solar array.

Items suitable for donation to Spring Market include clothing (of all seasons), accessories, books, housewares, linens, craft/art supplies, stationary, gardening equipment/supplies, tools, sports equipment, small furniture, music/entertainment items, toys, games, etc. Items can be brought to meeting Sunday, 4 May - Friday, 9 May (or earlier by prior arrangement). If the building is locked, please leave items on the porch, and volunteers will bring them inside for sorting. Tax receipts are available for these and other donations.

The bulk of the proceeds will benefit St. Philip's Quad E after-school program providing academic support for students living in inner-city Annapolis, and Madison Quakers, Inc., fighting poverty in Vietnam ([www.mylaipeacepark.org/](http://www.mylaipeacepark.org/)). The sale of handmade Afghan jewelry, rugs, and embroidery will benefit the Afghan Women's Fund ([www.afghanwomensfund.org/](http://www.afghanwomensfund.org/)). Hope to see you there! For more information, contact Cairn K (at 410-257-2379 or [cairnkrافت@comcast.net](mailto:cairnkrافت@comcast.net)).

### **LAST FIRST DAY SCHOOL OF THE SEASON**

The last "official" First Day School session will be on Sunday, May 18. During the summer, nursery care will be available, and parents are welcome to use the classroom and its resources with their children during Meeting for Worship, if they wish. First Day School will begin again after Labor Day.

### **DAYSRING SILENT RETREAT: MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2014**

True silence ... is to the spirit what sleep is to the body: nourishment and refreshment. (William Penn, 1699)

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

SPONSOR: Annapolis Friends Meeting

FACILITATOR: Jean C

WHERE: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876

PHONE: 301-916-1131

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

DEPARTURE: 2 p.m. Sunday

BRING: Toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight.

MEALS: Vegetarian meals are prepared by a Dayspring cook. Friends share final preparation, set-up and clean-up.

DIRECTIONS TO DAYSRING 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.

COST: \$210. The fee covers a single room, 6 vegetarian meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth, meadows, ponds, woods, wildlife.....

REGISTRATION: Deadline is Friday, May 23 (or when full). Minimum number is 9 participants. Maximum is 18. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

QUESTIONS? Call Jean C at 410-544-1912 or e-mail [jschristianson@gmail.com](mailto:jschristianson@gmail.com)

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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, with this completed form. We need a minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot. Registration deadline is Friday, May 23. Checks will be deposited after the retreat.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **MEETING FOR LEARNING AND SHARING: HOLISTIC HEALING/HEALTH**

Holistic Healing/Health: body, emotions, mind and spirit work together for our health. How does healing happen? How has this happened for you personally and/or in your work? Share your experience so that others might benefit on June 8. Focus on alternative therapies as complementary to medical methods.

We had thought to have four persons share their experience - each with a 10 minute presentation and five minutes for questions in our 1 and 1/2 hour time frame. This leaves some time for more questions and other experiences. I believe August will be a month when Ministry and Worship will focus on healing, continuing the learning. Mardy B will facilitate.

We are most interested in your experience of healing. E-mail me (Mardy) if you'd like to participate - as a presenter or with a few questions or comments. I would appreciate it if you would contact me before May 10 (I will be away May 12 to May 30). Kit H (kithanley@verizon.net) will be involved and will manage comments and questions during Mardy's absence.

Many thanks. Hope to see you.

Mardy

### **WHITE FRIENDS WORKING TO ELIMINATE RACISM**

Pat S, Elizabeth D, and Gail T will offer a workshop, "White Friends Working to Eliminate Racism," on Saturday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the meetinghouse.

The morning program will be similar to workshops Pat has given around the yearly meeting. She has not shared most of this material with AFM before. It will include exercises from her 2011 Pendle Hill Pamphlet, with plenty of time to talk about how we, as a meeting and as individuals, can work toward a more equitable society.

The afternoon program will be a workshop by Elizabeth D of Stony Run Meeting and Gail T of Bethesda Meeting called "Children Can Discriminate," given previously at BYM annual sessions. Kids as young as 6 months judge others based on skin color. What's a parent to do? This workshop is inspired by the work of child psychologists Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, in their 2009 book, "Nurture Shock." We teach our children that there is that of God within everyone, yet the larger society often tells them otherwise. How can we help them sort through the mixed messages with integrity—ours and theirs?

There will be a \$10.00 charge for the workshop, which will include lunch. Registration will be closed on Sunday, June 8, and the minimum number to go forward will be eight registrants.

### **THINKING ABOUT RACE: COLORBLINDNESS AS BLINDNESS**

From "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," p. 241.

"The deeply flawed nature of colorblindness, as a governing principle, is evidenced by the fact that the public consensus supporting mass incarceration is officially colorblind. It purports to see black and brown men not as black and brown, but simply as men—raceless men—who have failed miserably to play by the rules that the rest of us follow quite naturally. The fact that so many black and brown men are rounded up for drug crimes that go largely ignored when committed by whites is unseen. Our collective colorblindness prevents us from seeing this basic fact. Our blindness also prevents us from seeing the racial and structural divisions that persist in society: the segregated, unequal schools, the segregated, jobless ghettos, and the segregated public discourse—a public conversation that excludes the current pariah caste. Our commitment to colorblindness extends beyond individuals to institutions

and social arrangements. We have become blind, not so much to race, but to the existence of racial caste in America.

"More than forty-five years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. warned of this danger. He insisted that blindness and indifference to racial groups is actually more important than racial hostility to the creation and maintenance of racialized systems of control."

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) or Pat S (at pat.schenck@verizon.net or 410-263-4529).

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

"The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery," by Rex Amber

This short book gives a description of Quakerism and what the main parts of it are. Although the author says it is for those not acquainted with Quakerism, it is a good review for those of us who have been around for a while.

In seven Chapters he goes from Finding the truth (how silence opens up to ourselves and an awareness of a force outside ourselves) to Changing Things (how the Quaker way can change things). Throughout the emphasis is on silence and how it affects us and how we can use it. A quote from George Fox: "You have a presumption to talk about God when you are not even aware of him. Silence I tell you."

The section on Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business was very interesting as it gave some guidelines on how we might conduct ourselves to make it happen.

The community and how we conduct our lives are other chapters that have worth. In all this is not an easy read, but a useful one.

Reviewed by Nan E

## **QUAKER QUOTES FOR MAY**

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple lifestyle is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace. (From BYM Faith and Practice, p. 32)

All the faithful are not called to the public ministry; but whoever are, are called to minister of that which they have tasted and handled spiritually. The outward modes of worship are various; but whenever any are true ministers of Jesus Christ, it is from the operation of his Spirit upon their hearts, first purifying them and thus giving them a just sense of the conditions of others. This truth was early fixed in my mind and I was taught to watch the pure opening, and to take heed lest, while I was standing to speak, my own will should get uppermost, and cause me to utter words from worldly wisdom, and depart from the channel of the true gospel ministry. (John Woolman's Journal)

The individual Friend should lead a life rooted in an awareness of God's presence in all times and places. Although special times and locations may provide helpful reminders of the need for spiritual communion, they cannot take the place of turning daily to God for guidance. The foundation for all our personal life and social relations should be the consciousness of the Holy Spirit. (BYM Faith and Practice, p. 19)

Dwell in the life, and love, and power and wisdom of God, in unity one with another and with God; and the peace and wisdom of God fill all your hearts, that nothing may rule in you but the life, which stands in the Lord God. (George Fox)

**MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES**  
SIXTH DAY OF THE FOURTH MONTH, 2014

Present were: Elise A (Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Nan & Sky E, Phil F, Wes J, Lynada J, Mardy B, Beth & Dave I, Joanna T, Kit H, Phyllis S, Careen M, Jack L, Minette C-S, Jennifer D-M, Cairn K, Mary B, Karen C, Will C, Kim F, Pat S, Martha O'H, Bill and Carol K, Carl and Kimberly B, Marcia O, Jean C, Patty R, Pete M, Dot W. We began with centering worship.

Announcements:

1. Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Interim Meeting: Elise passed along thanks from attenders of Interim held at AFM on March 15. So many Friends worked so hard to provide a warm welcome, an efficient organization, an inspirational setting, and abundant, gourmet food!
2. African Great Lakes flood relief: As requested by last month's Meeting for Business, Peace & Social Concerns Committee (Carl B reporting) relayed the committee's decision on the amount to contribute to the relief fund for Bujumbura flood victims, as requested by Friends Peace Teams - African Great Lakes Initiative. We contributed \$500 - over half the amount that was in the ESC fund.
3. Spring Market update (Cairn K reporting): Our May 10 Spring Market flyer is posted on the AFM website. Two notes of caution: a) The SPCA will bring dogs for possible adoption. b) Please do not bring donations to the Meeting House prior to Sunday May 4 as a wedding will be held at here on Saturday May 3. Business clothing for women perhaps could be brought on May 4. Cairn says, "start potting your perennials."
4. Pat S suggests we consider revival of a prior activity -- an all-ages coffee house, "talent night." We agreed to let this idea percolate until someone has the leading to implement it.

AFM website: Wes J, as AFM Webmaster, used our large screen video monitor to present an overview of AFM web pages with emphasis on content, calendars (in-house and rentals), the Meeting House wireless system (password omitted from online minutes: AFM Friends and attenders should contact Wes directly for password, if needed), and an appeal for more contributions and committee oversight.

Calendar contributions should be made through Pat S or, if she is unavailable, through Wes. Minette as BUC only calendars rental users. To avoid conflicts, those sending information for calendar events should include times, room location & duration of events (including set-up and clean-up time).

Other content contributions should be submitted to the Outreach Committee for discussion and implementation. Photos, if including AFM children, may be screened via CREC.

Wes also noted our webpages now include a list of officers & committee clerks with email links, although the public will not "see" our email addresses. (We now occasionally receive inquiries from the public via the webpage.)

Wes invited suggestions for better use of our system, perhaps also having webpages as an archive for photo galleries, document storage and online retrieval, as well as routine periodic backup. A few suggestions offered at Meeting included:

- Showing both MH use & events calendar, overlapped;
- Adding a link so Friends can see production of the MH solar system with one click; and
- Updating search optimization "key words" so that site visitors easily will find the current spring market.

Due to extensive interest, we may schedule another separate event for further discussion of AFM's website, digital calendars, etc.

Future of the Meeting House (Kim F reporting): Kim offered this history lesson. --Approximately 20 years now have passed since our completion and occupation of the current Meeting House. At the 10 year point in 2003, we held discussions about future plans and we repeated this process in 2008-2009. Each time, we laid down the topic, despite recognized needs for more classroom space, more bathrooms, etc. Our 2008 plan called for "greening and growing," pursuing environmental initiatives, now implemented.

The Meeting House architect, Evan Lippincott, originally provided plans for a later "ultimate meeting house" including a worship room that could accommodate up to 200. A retreat center was planned for the upper part of our site (now the children's play area). A new development is that the unfinished house next door soon will go up for sale. That property includes 2.08 acres and perhaps could be reconfigured for Friends' purposes. It was salvaged from a bankruptcy proceeding; the owners reportedly hope to net \$200,000 for its sale. If the property is bought by someone else, we might lose that potential. (Church property can be included with residential zoning.) We have not heard an asking price, but we have asked for AFM to be excluded from any listing in case Friends wish to buy it.

Friends rejoiced to have Careen with us, who was an ardent advocate for the original Meeting House and has strongly advocated its expansion. Careen began our discussion today, noting "Friends always say, 'We don't have the money to do this.' But, we didn't have the money when we began years the building process, years ago. Cast your bread upon the waters! Don't stop your peace & justice work for one minute! We need to believe in ourselves and in the uniqueness of our message, as we discussed in Quaker Quest. 'If not now, when? If not us, who?'"

Various questions were asked and answered. One Friend commented, as to the possibility of acquiring the property next door, "We should be clear that our interest represents a real need and not just only 'greediness' because it is available." Another Friend suggested that we should plan to hire an architect by the hour for a small initial expense to consider feasibilities and price ranges.

Elise suggested, the ultimate question, at this point nearly 20 years after initial construction, is whether there is enough interest for a small ad hoc committee to study & carry this issue forward? She proposed an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibilities of a) expanding the Meeting House according to our original master plans and/or other possibilities for addition, b) acquiring the next door property, and c) setting up further meetings for this discussion. Friends approved this proposal with Kim to act as an initial convening clerk for the ad hoc committee; various other Friends volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

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

## **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**

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Address: 351 DuBois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Telephone: 410-573-0364

Website: [www.quaker.org/annapolis](http://www.quaker.org/annapolis)

Clerk: Elise A ([e.albert1656@gmail.com](mailto:e.albert1656@gmail.com))

Building Use Coordinator: Minette CS ([minette3@cs.com](mailto:minette3@cs.com) or 410-544-5838)

Newsletter Editor: Beth M ([annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com))