

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — DECEMBER 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
- The North County mid-week meeting: First Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 410-439-2319 for more information.
- Meditation study group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the meeting room (excluding December 3, 24, and 31)
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20th of the month

DECEMBER 7: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 11:45 a.m. Child Welcoming Ceremony

DECEMBER 14: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

DECEMBER 21: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

DECEMBER 24: 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship; 7:30 p.m. Singing carols around the fireplace. Fresh and mulled cider will be served.

DECEMBER 28: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. Meeting for Learning: "The Spirituality of Chant;" 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Outreach

QUERIES FOR TWELFTH MONTH: EDUCATION

Am I concerned for the responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations? Do I try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do I seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world? Do I honor the life of all living things, the order of nature, the wildness of wilderness, the richness of the created world? Do I seek the holiness which God has placed in these things and the measure of Light which God has lent them? (Faith & Practice, p. 41)

HOLIDAY MARKET

Dear Friends,

Holiday Market brings with it many joys, including time and food shared together.

With respect to food donations, we are hoping to see a number of dishes from our new cookbook, *Cooking with Friends*. Hard copy and digital versions of the cookbook will be available for sale and pick-up of pre-event orders at Holiday Market.

Whether you are able to help in advance or not, we hope to see you at Holiday Market on Saturday, 6 December, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., when we will be spending time together, sharing delicious food, enjoying music provided by our children, and shopping for Christmas presents and other treasures -- all for a good cause! Well, four good causes to be more precise: Doctors Without Borders, Services from the Heart, Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis, and Afghan Women's Fund (through purchases of Afghan jewelry, scarves, and rugs).

See you there!

Peace,
Cairn (for the Market Committee)

END MASS INCARCERATION IN MARYLAND! ATTEND LOBBY TRAINING!

A group of Annapolis Friends has been working hard to develop an alliance of citizens concerned with the huge number of people in our prisons, many of the nonviolent offenders, and they have formulated seven bills to present to the Maryland General Assembly during its 2015 session. We hope many Annapolis Friends will be willing to join in the effort to get these bills passed. (See ma4jr.org.)

Those people involved found out last year that lobbying isn't as scary as they had thought, and this year they will be offering training for lobbying that will give everyone confidence that they know how to lobby and that they can present the bills in a compelling way and answer questions legislators may have.

Please consider attending the training session on December 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at AFM. The success of these bills depends upon legislators hearing from a lot of people.

If you cannot attend the training, please plan to go lobby with someone more experienced. If you are on the "discuss" list, you will be hearing about lobbying opportunities later. Also, plan to flood the offices of committee members and later your own representatives with emails and phone calls. Let them know the people of Maryland want change!

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM TO INCLUDE SKIT

A skit written, directed, and acted by Annapolis First Day School students will be the highlight of their annual Christmas program on December 14. The skit will begin at about 11:30 p.m. following half an hour of regular meeting for worship. It will be followed by cookies, juice, and other refreshments after the rise of Meeting.

CHRISTMAS EVE

On December 24, there will be a 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship for a half hour followed by a half hour of singing carols around the fireplace. Fresh and mulled cider will be served. Friends are asked to share some cookies or other Christmas sweets if they feel led. We are also recruiting musicians of all sorts to share their gifts with us.

If you have questions contact Kim F at kfinch1407@gmail.com.

THINKING ABOUT RACE – "MISTEACHING HISTORY"

"... we've paid great attention to Nelson Mandela's call for forgiveness and reconciliation between South Africa's former white rulers and its exploited black majority. But we've paid less attention to the condition that Mandela insisted must underlie reconciliation -- truth. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Mandela established, and that Bishop Desmond Tutu chaired, was designed to contribute to cleansing wounds of the country's racist history by exposing it to a disinfecting bright light.

"In [this] issue of the School Administrator, I write that we do a much worse job of facing up to our racial history in the United States, leading us to make less progress than necessary in remedying racial inequality. We have many celebrations of the civil rights movement and its heroes, but we do very little to explain to young people why that movement was so necessary. [On Dec. 9, 2013] the New York Times described how the Alabama Historical Association has placed many commemorative markers around Montgomery to commemorate civil rights heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, but declined -- because of "the potential for controversy" -- to call attention to the city's slave markets and their role in the spread of slavery before the Civil War. Throughout our nation, this fear of confronting the past makes it more difficult to address and remedy the ongoing existence of urban ghettos, the persistence of the black-white achievement gap, and the continued under-representation of African Americans in higher education and better-paying jobs."

Richard Rothstein, in the December 2013 issue of School Administrator, "Misteaching History on Racial Segregation - Ignoring purposeful discriminatory government policies of the past contributes to the ongoing achievement gap"

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.

QUAKER QUOTES FOR DECEMBER

This is the message of John Woolman: "I was early convinced...that true religion consisted in an inward life wherein the heart doth love and reverence God the Creator and learns to exercise equal justice and goodness not only toward all men but also towards all God's creatures. That...the mind was moved to love Him in all His outward manifestations." ...You cannot separate the inward experience of God from the outward obligation to live in harmony with Creation. (Marshall Massey, *Uniting Friends with Nature*, *Friend's Bulletin*, October 1985)

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men,
A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.
(John 1: 1-5)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.
(Luke 21:14)

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES SECOND DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH, 2014

Present were:

Elise A (Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Carol B, Bob B, Mardy B, Cairn K, Mary B, Nan & Sky E, Jennifer D-M, Kim F, Kit H, Barb T, Joanna T, Kimberly & Carl B, Karen C, Careen M, Jack L, Pat S, Martha O'H, Marcia O, Sue P, Patty R, Ruth S, Bill K, Lynada J, Wes J, Dot W, Hugh C, and Minette C-S.

We began with centering worship. Our Clerk invited Friends to anticipate the joyous holiday season of the year, reading the Thanksgiving prayer which invites readers to remember those less fortunate. Friends also recalled the loss of two beloved members of meeting - Erica B & Nancy K.

1. Nominating Committee (Barbara T): Barbara T presented a first reading of the 2015 slate-in-progress of committees and related positions, inviting feedback and improvements over the next month. (Attached to these minutes, below.) The second reading for approval will be at Dec. Meeting for Business although Friends can join committees year round. The new terms begin in January.

Barbara thanked Friends on Nominating Committee (Bill K, Nancy Jo S, Susan D, Margaret H) working to connect personal leadings and gifts with AFM needs, and thanked those Friends who, once again, agree to serve in a variety of capacities for the coming year.

One Nominating focus this year will ask Committees to take on some tasks often assigned to individuals, but that logically fall under their oversight. For example, CREC will oversee Nursery coordination, youth programs, and BYM camping correspondent. Outreach is discussing oversight of AFM directory and assisting the newsletter editor with mailings and content. Some previous listings may be dropped if no Friend is found to fill them. If Friends are led to be our liaison to William Penn House, FGC, AFSC, FCNL, NRCAT, Interchange correspondent, etc., Nominating would welcome your offers.

Two important roles are under discussion but will not have to be finally filled until June:

1. Building Use Coordinator (BUC) and 2. Light House Board representative. Per previous agreements, Nominating will seek Meeting's approval, at our second reading, as to exceptions for clerks who have served more than two 2-year terms--for 2015, these are our two hard-working CREC clerks, Kimberly B and Joanna T. All committees would welcome additional participants; however, Nominating feels that each committee is strengthened by this process of discernment and will be in fairly good shape for the coming year.

2. Yearly Meeting report (Pat S): Pat S provided this report on the 2014 annual sessions of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM). Pat read three minutes that were approved by BYM:

- on Punishment of Offenders (preparing for possible contacts with legislators);
- on Inclusion (affirming the right of all individuals, including transgender, genderqueer and questioning young people and adults, to understand and express themselves with authenticity and integrity, both inwardly and outwardly); and
- on closing the embrace of Ann R, appreciating her work at Friends Theological College in Kenya and her careful reporting to the Yearly Meeting

Pat also read parts of a minute, not approved by BYM, encouraging Friends individually to consider whether they are led to boycott products made in the Israeli settlements and divest from corporations that are profiting from the Israeli-occupation of the Palestinian territories. The objections related to the belief that we must support both Palestinians and Israelis.

Finally, she reported on Langley Hill Monthly Meeting's request that the name of BYM be changed to "Chesapeake Yearly Meeting" since only .8% belong to Baltimore meetings and the office hasn't been there for almost 50 years. However, a few meetings in southern Virginia are not in the Chesapeake watershed. BYM Friends will consider this matter over the next year.

BYM's Unity with Nature Committee also called upon each monthly meeting to embrace the concern as to climate change.

4. Peace and Justice Center (Kit H): Kit reported how AFM and St. Phillips' New Jim Crow book club has evolved over the past year into a statewide network known as Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), seeking to reduce our state's extensive incarceration and to provide restorative alternatives. MAJR includes various other nonprofit organizations with honorary bipartisan co-chairs (former Gov. Ehrlich and former CSA Chief Justice Murphy), prospective bipartisan cosponsors, and with a fine website (MA4JR.org) under construction. She noted that at least one primary bill should be passed this year to provide funding for related initiatives. One Friend raised the concern that, per AFM articles filed with state government, AFM should not spend a "substantial" resources in legislative matters. At Meeting for Business in December, Friends will be asked whether to permit MAJR to use AFM's street address on its webpage and whether to be a supporting partner group of MAJR.

5. Building for the Future [BFF] Committee (Kim F): As to listening sessions, Kim reported that a home listening session was held at the Elsrees on October 13 with 17 attendees. Minutes have been distributed and will be published on the website. Another listening session with Younger Friends and young family is planned as an informal discussion session prior to Meeting for Worship & First Day School on November 9 at 9:15 a.m. before meeting. Refreshments will be provided. Please let CREC know if you plan to participate so sufficient food is available.

As to consultants, we have engaged "The Drawing Board," a local architectural firm, to perform a feasibility assessment on 345 Dubois Road. In a walk-through, we found that the main house's garage actually is 4 feet longer than appears on plans. We have also engaged a new appraiser who has inspected 345 Dubois Road, and believes he will have an appraisal ready by November 9 (two week turn-around).

After these listening sessions and committee meetings, a conceptual vision to expand our Meeting House to provide a "Quaker Core" has emerged. There seems to be unity at this time that we need to take the next step to define what our project will look like, how it may nurture our community, and what it will cost. For next step, we need professional facilitation to gather our ideas and propose a shared vision for the future of our Meeting House that frames a strategy for moving forward. Working with an architect does not mean that we are committing to build at this time, but we are exploring the

potential for building in the future. The timeline will depend on our own sense of urgency and need as way opens.

We were lucky to have Evan L, a Quaker architect, to guide our first building project over 20 years ago, and we are fortunate still to have his vision available now as we approach the next phase. Evan offers us with a scope of services agreement for conceptual architectural work at a pace that we feel comfortable. He estimates that the total cost of these services will amount to \$14,200, and requests a retainer of \$2,000 to begin. These funds would be taken from AFM's Building Fund; this work would relate to the current AFM building site only. BFF recommends engaging Evan's services at this time. In response to questions, Kim clarified that this retainer for Evan would not commit AFM on a Meeting House expansion to the exclusion of the neighbor house / campus option. Rather, this would give more information to compare both options. Friends approved this work by Evan, beginning with the \$2,000 deposit and permitting later work up to \$14,200 without further action by Meeting for Business.

On behalf of BFF, a request was forwarded to MHL to increase the budgeted contribution to the Building Fund in the coming year to prepare for an expansion project. It was recommended that the amount be reasonably equivalent to a monthly mortgage payment so we are more aware of what a construction project financially will require of our meeting.

6. Quaker Market Committee (Ruth S): QMC is grateful once again for so many thoughtful suggestions of possible recipients for market proceeds. Our discernment process led QMC to the following recipients for Holiday Market 2014: The first \$100 will go to AFM's children for their own recipient discernment process, with the external 75% of other proceeds split evenly between Doctors Without Borders and Services from the Heart (a local non-profit that provides weekend and holiday food backpacks for children in need), and the internal 25% of proceeds to support the Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA), a group that formed in response to AFM's Minute on Climate Change, and led and championed by members of the AFM community. The committee hopes that Friends will mark their calendars for Holiday Market on 6 December, and we look forward to the community's support to help make this market another success.

QMC also is grateful for AFM's generous support of the cookbook project. As we already have 91 cookbooks pre-ordered, QMC requested permission to increase to 150 the total number of hard copies ordered as only an order of 100 that was approved last month. Friends approved printing 200 copies with funds advanced by the Committee Contingency Fund. Friends are reminded to submit cookbook orders and payment to Kit H as soon as possible.

Three more items for discussion were deferred until December Meeting for Business:

7. Ministry and Worship Committee's report as to Embraced Ministries or Leadings, 8. CREC's homeschool report, and 9. Outreach Committee's report.

Closing: These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. We closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elise A, Clerk, and Phil C, Recording Clerk

Annapolis Friends Meeting Committees, Officers & Representatives for 2015

Committee positions are volunteer with two-year terms beginning in January--e.g., (15) means that a member will serve starting in January 2015 and complete the term end December 2016. A term in which a member has served as clerk is designated by an underline.

Clerk: Wes J (15) Asst. Clerk: Martha B (15)
Treasurer: Sue P (14) Asst. Treas.: vacant until needed
Recording Clerk & Recorder: Phil C (14)

Children's' Religious Education: Co-Clerks: Kimberly B (10)(11)(13)(15) & Joanna T (10)(11)(13)(15) (request exception)
Members: Tim M (10)(12)(14), Denise F (12)(14), Phil F (13)(15), Suzanne S (13)(15), Marcia O (15)

- Nursery Coordinator: to be organized by CREC members collectively
- Homeschooling Subcommittee: Co-Clerks: Eleni E (12)(14) Kimberly B (11)(13)(15), Denise F (13)(15), Cairn K (09)(11)(13)(15), Sarah B (09)(11)(13)(15), Mardy B (09)(11)(13)(15), Joanna T (11)(13)(15)
- First Day School Librarian: Suzanne S (14)
- BYM Educational Resources: Kim F (11)(13)(15)

Library Committee: Clerk: Nan E (10)(12)(14)

Members: Phyllis S (10)(12)(14), Lo H (15) Susan D (15), Dot W (15)

- Friends Poetry Gathering Facilitator: Dotty D (09)(11)(13)(15)

Meetinghouse and Land: Co-Clerks: Bob B (12)(14)(15); Kim F (15)

Members: Karl R (12)(14), Careen M (10)(12)(14), Doug M (12)(14), Peter M (15)

- Hospitality Subcommittee: Pat E (13)(15), Ruth S (14), Carol K (15)
- Building Use Coordinator (BUC): Minette C-S (13) Willing to continue until June. Hopes Jan.-- June will be transition to new BUC. Beth I is discussing with Minette.
- Back-up Coordinators: Sky E, Karl R since 2007, several others offering.

Ministry & Worship: Clerk: Joel R (14)(15)

Members: Martha O'H (11)(13)(15), Leo P (14), Elise A (15)

- BYM Contact: Patty R (15)
- Quarterly Meeting Contact: Pat S (15)
- Interchange Contact: Pat S
- Quaker History & Heritage (since 08): Kim F
- Quaker Burial Ground: Phil C (13)(15)
- Silent Retreat Convener: Jean C
- Spiritual Friendship Group Facilitator: Patty R
- Deconstructing Racism Convener: Jean C

Nominating: Clerk: Elise A (15)

Members: Nancy Jo S (12)(14), Bill K (13)(15), Susan D (14), Patty R (15)

Outreach: Clerk: Pat S (12)(14)

Members: Mardy B (12)(14), Bonnie P (12)(14), Lee L (14), Beth I (14)

To assist Newsletter Editor in gathering information and mailing to those without an email; to oversee AFM Directory updates.

- Web Manager: Wes J (12)(14)
- E-mail List Manager: Doug M (15)
- Newsletter Editor: Beth M (11)(13)(15)
- GAIN: Rep, Mardy B (12)(14)

Pastoral Care: Dotty D (13) (14)

Members: Margaret H (14), Nancy Jo S (11)(13)(15), Lynada J (13)(15), Sheryl I (13), Jennifer D-M (14), Terry D (14)

- Quaker Dudes: Head Dude/Convener: Karl R (10)(12)(14)

Peace & Social Concerns: Clerk: Carl B (10)(12)(14)

Members: Martha B (10)(12)(14), Margaret C (12)(14), Jack L (12)(14), Carol B (12)(14), David I (14)

- Peace & Justice Center: Co-Facilitators: Martha B (14), Barbara T (15)
- AFSC and FCNL Contact: Barbara T (12)(14)
- Lighthouse Shelter Co-liaisons: Marcia O (07)(09)(11)(13)(15), Joel R (13)(15)
- Lighthouse Board: Carol B (09—until LH term ends in June 2015)
- Wm. Penn Hs. Contact: vacant
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture: Jack L (12)(14)
- Quaker Market Subcommittee: Clerk: Cairn K (12)(14)
- Members: Careen M (11)(13)(15), Kit H (11)(13)(15), Margaret H (07-12) (13)(15), Jean C (14), Pat E (14), Beth I-V (14)

Stewardship & Finance: Clerk: Karen C (11)(12)(14)

Members: Sky E (12)(14), Barbara T (12)(14), Bill R (13)(15), Bill K (14), Mary B (15), Sue P ex officio (13)(15)

Trustees: Clerk: Marcia O (12)(14)

Members: Bill K (14), Jack L (14), Wes J (15)

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

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