

## ***ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — NOVEMBER 2015***

### **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
- The North County mid-week meeting: First Tuesday (November 3) from 7 to 8 p.m., at 7627 Locust Grove Road, Glen Burnie. Call 410-439-2319 for more information.
- The Meditation Study Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the meeting room
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

NOVEMBER 1: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. Friendly Bible Study

NOVEMBER 8: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. Meeting for Learning—William Penn, led by Tom W; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. Friendly Bible Study

NOVEMBER 15: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 10:30 a.m. [Singing at AFM](#); 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. CREC Meeting

NOVEMBER 22: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. Worship Sharing: "How Do We Approach the Holidays as a Spiritual Journey with Christ in the World;" 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. Potluck lunch and Poetry Group meeting

NOVEMBER 29: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 10 a.m. Worship Sharing: How is Your Life Affected by Racism; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Stewardship and Finance

### ***QUERIES FOR ELEVENTH MONTH: EDUCATION***

Do you provide religious education, including the study of the Bible and of Friends' history and practices, in your Meeting? Do you ensure that schools under the care of Friends exemplify Friends' principles? Do you support and strive to improve the public schools? (Faith & Practice, p. 41)

### ***HAVE LUNCH WITH FRIENDS AT WHOLE FOODS***

Every First Day except the fourth, when we have potluck, Friends meet at the Whole Foods salad bar and buffet for an informal lunch.

Join the group to get to know other members and attenders of AFM and discuss a variety of topics of interest to Friends.

### ***BENEFIT CONCERT / HOLIDAY MARKET***

Please mark your calendars now so you can be sure to attend Holiday Market on 5 December, as well as a Holiday Market prequel on Saturday, 7 November, when our own Katrine A has graciously offered to perform a benefit concert with her band at the meetinghouse to raise additional funds for the Holiday Market causes. In case you didn't catch her tunes at Spring Market, Katrine is a fine Scottish vocalist, and we look forward to her benefit concert with anticipation and gratitude.

As is the case with all of our Quaker Markets, 75% of the proceeds will be awarded to external non-profit causes, while 25% will be awarded to an internal cause. The internal portion of the proceeds can be used to support a variety of causes, including projects being completed at AFM (e.g., construction of the solar panels) as well as projects/causes that AFM supports as a meeting community (e.g., Winter Relief). And, as usual, the first \$100 will go to our First Day School/CREC so that the children can work through their own process to determine a recipient for their portion of the proceeds.

Peace,  
Cairn (for the Market Committee)

## **MINISTRY AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Ministry and Worship Committee joyfully announces these upcoming events:

### MEETINGS FOR LEARNING

- November 8, 2015 - William Penn – Tom W.
- December 13, 2015 - Singing of Holiday Songs

Meetings for Learning will take place from 9:15 until 10:45 a.m.

### WORSHIP SHARING SESSIONS

- November 22, 2015 - "How do we Approach the Holidays as a Spiritual Journey with Christ in the World"
- November 29, 2015 – As part of AFM's Deconstructing Racism initiative, there will a Worship Sharing Session on "How is Your Life Affected by Racism."

Worship Sharing Sessions will take place from 9:15 until 10:45 a.m.

### SINGING AT AFM

- November 15, 2015 - Signing at AFM at 10:30 a.m.

### FUTURE MEETINGS FOR LEARNING

The Ministry and Worship Committee will begin scheduling the 2016 Meetings for Learning at our next Committee Meeting on November 15, 2015. Please let Joel know if you are interested in presenting a Meeting for Learning. Joel can be reached at [jsrodkin@comcast.net](mailto:jsrodkin@comcast.net)

## ***BEST DINNER AND PROGRAM ON THE MADISON, WISCONSIN FRIENDS' VIETNAM INITIATIVE***

The final dinner prepared for the meeting by the BEST program of the Lighthouse Shelter will be held on Thursday, November 12, followed by a program on the Madison, Wisconsin Friends' Vietnam Initiative. Some Friends will remember when the program's founder, Mike B, gave a program on the program several years ago at AFM. Come find out about the work that continues, as this Vietnam veteran works to improve the lives of Vietnamese people. The program will be held at AFM at 7 p.m. following the dinner. It is being sponsored by the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN).

Kids at the dinner eat free! More details will follow.

## ***THINKING ABOUT RACE (November 2015) – "Between the World and Me," Ta-Nehisi Coates***

Ta-Nehisi Coates' recent book, "Between the World and Me," is written as a letter to his 15-year-old son. In an allusion to the fact that "race" is a social construct, he refers to white people as those "who believe themselves to be white," and also refers to them as "Dreamers."

From page 107:

"Part of me thinks that your very vulnerability brings you closer to the meaning of life, just as for others, the quest to believe oneself white divides them from it. .... You have been cast into a race in which the wind is always at your face and the hounds are always at your heels. And to varying degrees this is true of all life. The difference is that you do not have the privilege of living in ignorance of this essential fact."

From the BYM Working Group on Racism. For information or to attend a meeting, contact Pat S at pat.schenck3227@gmail.com.

## ***POETS AND WRITERS GATHERING***

Dear Friends,

To accomodate schedules, we have decided on the following First Days for the poets and writers gathering. Please note these on your calendars, as they have changed from the usual:

- November 22 (4th First Day)
- December 13 (2nd First Day)

Still 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the library. All are welcome! Reminders will be sent closer to the actual dates.

Hope to see you there,  
Dotty

## ***PASTORAL CARE TEAM'S JOURNEY***

Friends, as you may have noticed, the Pastoral Care Team has been hosting meetings for learning using a variety of titles and you may have found it confusing. You have been witnessing our journey, our process of discernment, and we appreciate your patience. In responding to the needs of our community as a committee or "team," we began to observe that there were common needs for support, information, and connection. We began to look for ways to help our community to think ahead, have conversations with our family and friends and to plan for change, whether it be a new child, a serious illness, a move, reduced mobility, death of a loved one, or our own death. Our goal is to empower all in our community by offering opportunities to consider our own plans for the future in a safe and thoughtful way and resources to help those who are interested to take active steps in preparing for these possibilities. We began with the theme of a "Gift of Love", believing that taking steps to communicate our values, hopes, fears, and preferences to those we love is truly a gift to them if/when they are faced with the need to make critical life decisions with or for us. We then began talking about "Aging in Place" but found that neither title was clear and broad enough to fully cover the full conversation and the needs we want to address. So we have now settled on "Preparing for Life's Transition" which allows each of us, whatever our age, to each think about the next stages of our life and to find support in caring for loved ones.

We hope you will join in this journey as we thoughtfully consider our own stories, connections, needs, joys; learn about the resources that exist; and take active steps to plan for future stages and transitions. Watch for a future meetings for learning and for worship sharing as we continue to build on this theme.

## ***QUAKER QUOTES FOR NOVEMBER***

In the stillness you will find your true being. In the silence you will hear the breathing of your soul.  
(Neale Donald Walsch)

Seek for yourselves and for your children that full development of God's gifts which is true education. Realize that it should be continued throughout life and that its privileges should be shared by all. Study the Bible intelligently, using the help available from modern sources. Make every effort to

understand the Christian faith. Be ready at all time to receive fresh light from whatever quarter it may come; approach new theories with discernment. Remember our testimony that Christianity is not a notion but a way. (Advices, London, 1964)

To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us. A care hath lived on my mind, that more time might be employed by parents at home, and by tutors at school, in weightily attending to the spirit and inclinations of children, and that we may so lead, instruct and govern them, in this tender part of life, that nothing may be omitted in our power, to help them on their way to become the children of our Father who is in Heaven. (John Woolman, 1758)

"A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Samuel F. Pugh

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hunger;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have  
no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer.  
And, remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency,  
bestir my compassion  
and be concerned enough to help,  
by word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.  
Amen.

(As reprinted in The Thanksgiving Ceremony, Edward Bleier, Editor, Crown, 2003)

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

"THE ETHICS OF IMMIGRATION" BY JOSEPH CARENS

Every summer I work for a national nonprofit, College Summit, that gives low-income high school students the tools they need to apply for college. At the end of every four-day workshop, we put together a list of schools they can reasonably expect to take their applications seriously.

The first few years it went great. Then College Summit sent me to California, where I worked with rising seniors from three Los Angeles High Schools. One of them – let's call him Jose – wrote a wonderful application essay about his part-time job, helping his uncle deliver giant aquariums to Asian restaurants. I told his college counselor he was a sure bet for college – his grades were decent, and he interviewed well. The counselor glanced down at her notes, then shrugged her shoulders. "This student isn't going anywhere," she said. Jose's parents had smuggled him into the United States as a child, and no public college in California will accept undocumented students.

If you're troubled by a system that makes high school education mandatory, then denies its products a college education; if you're bothered by an immigration process that thinks it's more important for a Bosnian war refugee to be able to answer the question "Why did the colonists fight the British?" than to demonstrate that she can handle a checkbook; or if you're horrified by the way Europe and the rest of the world have handled the Syrian exodus, Joseph Caren's book will make you think.

Analytical rather than prescriptive, it compares and contrasts current immigration practice in Western democracies and questions many of the assumptions behind them. Immigration law as we know it is a nineteenth-century construction, so it's not surprising that it reflects the mindset of the great nation

states of that period. To me, the chief value of Carens' book is that it stands apart from national perspectives and asks an ethical question: How should our regard for human rights inform our approach to immigration?

In the last couple of chapters, Carens discusses the concept of open borders, or doing away with controls altogether. This is a popular topic in ethics and political philosophy, but few readers will want to go that far. It's a strength of this book that Carens recognizes this, even suggesting that readers might want to put the book down before the end. It's the questions he asks earlier that will get you thinking.

Peter M

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

FOURTH DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, 2015

Present were: Wes J (clerking), Phil C (recording), Mary B, Peter M, Susan P, Barb T, Phil F, Jack L, Patty R, Joel R, Martha B, Carol B, Jennifer D-M, Karen C, Kim F, Karl R, Lee L, Sky and Nan E, Ann R, Barb T, Pat E, Cairn K, Jeanne W, Joanna T, Jean C, Pat E, Bob B, Marcia O, Mardy B, Doug M, and Sheryl I.

1. Opening: We began with centering worship. Our Clerk alerted Friends that we have a full & late-breaking agenda, so omitted his customary quotations from Faith & Practice and asked for Friends support.

2. Miscellaneous: Our Clerk initially offered a few miscellaneous items:

- As to the encroachment by a garage on neighboring property on AFM's boundary, Wes and Kim reported that we have not reached a "meeting of the minds" with the neighbor Mr. B. He has resumed work on the house, is considering taking down the garage. In order to consider AFM's previously proposed landswap, Mr. Belcher asked for a payment of money – an option not within our AFM subcommittee's mandate. One Friend suggested that, if a payment of money for the neighbor's land is proposed, this should be brought to MfB.

-As to AFM's need for a new Building Use Coordinator (BUC), Wes also noted that our search still is underway & a replacement is needed by year end.

-The County on 10/8/15 via GAIN will offer "emergency planning" for houses of worship; Wes will attend and invited others to join him if so moved.

3. Holiday Market announcements – Cairn reported that the Market Committee's discernment meeting has planned allocation of funds from Holiday Market 2015 proceeds: \$100 will go to CREC and the children of First Day School to work through their own discernment process; the External 75% will be split evenly (37.5% each) between Mennonite Central Committee's Syria and Iraq Crisis Response Project and Smile Train; and the Internal 25% will be awarded to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP USA).

Cairn also suggested Friends mark our calendars for Holiday Market on Saturday, 5 December, and its prequel, a benefit concert by Katrine Anderson and Friends, on Saturday, 7 November. We look forward to AFM's usual generous support for Quaker Market activities.

4. Chesapeake Quarter reports – As to Chesapeake Quarter's MfB held at Gunpowder MM on 09-27-15, Phil summarized a talk by Natalie Finegar (a Quaker and a Baltimore Deputy Public Defender) as to problems with Maryland's pretrial money bail system, as well as a Young Adult Friend's presentation as to his leading to take action against climate change. CQ's business meeting also agreed to lay down of an ad hoc committee on fracking for the present, and to endorse the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform. Annapolis Friends also are reminded that we will host the next CQ Meeting in Annapolis on 3/13/16.

5. Treasurer's report & first draft of 2016 Budget – Treasurer Sue P provided a first draft of our 2016 budget (attached) and an update of our 2015 finances. Sue thanked Friends for our contributions to

AFM, but also noted we remain below budget on both contributions and rental income three-quarters through the year. Proportionally, we should have \$ 33,750 contribution income versus the \$27,195 actual for a shortage of \$6,555; and we should have \$15,750 for rental income versus the \$11,720 actual for a shortage of \$4,030. The combine income shortage is \$10,585. Given the shortage, we have not yet funded the building and capital replacement funds. Karen, as clerk of S&F, commented that we still have a "committee contingency fund" so the current shortage is no excuse for committees not to do their work. Wes noted that it is not uncommon for Friends to save contributions until year end, but our rentals will not suddenly be caught up as we lost and have not yet replaced a couple of major tenants.

6. Ministry & Worship (M&W) Committee report: For M&W, Joel asked to schedule our annual "Spiritual State of the Meeting" for half our normal MfW time on 2/14/16; Friends approved. Our report is due to be sent to BYM in April.

On another recent questions of "what is a member, attender, associate member?" Joel reminded us that in April 2009 AFM adopted a statement titled "what does membership mean?" Wes noted that "familial members" is a new term we use in 2015 in lieu of "associate members"; in the 2009 statement, "attenders" is not defined.

Friends discussed the meaning of attender extensively including these comments:

- As to possible roles attenders in Meeting, BYM Faith and Practice(F&P) states that attenders may serve in all but a few Meeting positions;
- Friends' testimony that there is that of God in all of us;
- Many Friends have a spiritual home at AFM but their membership is in other meetings;
- Friends traditionally have not sought consensus on a human level but on a divine level;

Our Clerk suggested our minutes should reflect that we welcome all attenders; Friends approved. However, our recorder commented that, despite this ideal, BYM asks that we report our annual number of "attenders" which probably should not include any guest who walks through the door just once. He asked, could we provide our own definition for reportable attenders, perhaps as those either contributing or participating in AFM committees.

Our S&F clerk commented that just contributors or committee members does not identify membership as some members do not contribute or belong to committees. On this point, a Friend suggested that, if AFM lists members individuals are completely inactive and no longer attend, M&W should contact them to confirm whether they should be removed from our roles.

Returning to the BYM attender reporting issue, one Friend suggested that AFM might ask BYM why they want the number of attenders or how BYM would define attender? Friends approved this plan.

7. "Black Lives Matter" vandalism discussion – At our last MfB, AFM approved installation of a "Black Lives Matter" banner that had been donated to us by our neighboring Unitarian church. Wes noted that some unknown person has removed our newly installed "Black Lives Matter" banner and Friends discussed many possibilities as to how to proceed:

- Wes noted that the Unitarians again have offered at no cost a replacement banner.
- Another Friend suggested a different banner to say that "all lives matter."
- One Friend suggested replacing the banner in the same location along with a public announcement that we will continue this for a year so that the message would not become meaningless with passage of time. The theft of the sign may have been the action of only a single individual, but the sign could be an eyesore to many neighbors.
- Our Deconstructing Racism Workgroup suggested replacing the banner and, possibly, designing a new banner that might say "when black lives matter all lives matter."
- Another suggested, in context, that a deep pain may be caused by submerging the message against racism in the generic slogan, "all lives matter"; as to moving the banner, she suggested that Friends reread MLK's "Letter from Birmingham jail" suggesting that the greatest obstacle to justice sometimes may be moderation.

-Another Friends suggested that the banner question is just "the tip of the iceberg" as to what AFM should do; such that our actions should not end with installing a banner. We might start a group

reading a book called "waking up white," calling a "town hall meeting," worship sharing, or similar program open to the community.

-Our Clerk affirmed the sense of the Meeting that the question of "what do we do about the banner?" only is the first of many questions we must matter.

-Another Friend suggested a banner query might be better than an assertion; for example, "what would the world look like if black lives mattered?"

-Another Friend commented, "As the only African American who continues to attend meeting, I come here for spiritual nourishment. It is painful to be in this dialog which also is part of my everyday life. She does not know what the answer is, but some Friends' comments do not make me feel like I have a sanctuary here where I can come and just be human... where my race does not matter & just my heart matters. It touched me that you put the banner up. To be part of this Meeting & have some visitor think I'm the cleaning person or to assume other things about me... Today, my heart hurts with this conversation as it jars me out of my spiritual silent practice with like-minded Friends and brings me back to the everyday reality and pain of the impact of being black in this society. ...Sometimes I just want to be quiet and not have/need/want to address these issues. So I do appreciate the struggle Friends are having with this issue, as I have my own struggles on how to deal with this. But mostly I hope you will see all of me, the heart part of me & not just the black part of me."

-As our time for MfB ran out, Our Clerk asked for unity to replace the banner & to keep on the agenda for next month the question of how best to proceed with community discussion and other action needed. A representative of Outreach stated, on the 5th First Day of November, they likely will offer worship-sharing on this topic.

Closing: Running short on time, all but the final section of these minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. MfB closed with silent worship transitioning into MfW.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wes J, 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**

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