

# **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2016**

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

- 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 the Meeting Calendar below and in Other Scheduled Items and Items of Note
- 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 (All committees and their reps, and all F/friends with leadings are welcome to submit items for inclusion).

## **MEETING CALENDAR**

JANUARY 3: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship;  
JANUARY 10: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. Worship Sharing — Simplicity Testimony, William Penn, led by Joel R and M&W Committee; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. Friends Poets and Writers Gathering  
JANUARY 17: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 10:30 a.m. Singing at AFM; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. CREC Meeting  
JANUARY 24: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. Worship Sharing: Truth and Integrity; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. Potluck Lunch and Mennonite Central Committee presentation  
JANUARY 31: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. Worship Sharing: "Waking Up White" - Deconstructing Racism & Black Lives Matter; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship  
CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Ministry and Worship Committee (Note: Peter T is assisting with mid-week check-in and reporting of any discrepancies found; Thank you Peter!)

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

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

Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways? (From BYM Faith & Practice, 1988)

## **OTHER SCHEDULED ITEMS AND REPORTS (Expanded in paragraphs following; all events at AFM unless otherwise noted)**

Meditation Study Group (January 6)  
CSGA Meeting with Elvia Thompson (January 7)  
GAIN Forum on Climate Change Legislation 2016 (January 14)  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner in honor of Carol B (January 15)  
Memorial Service For Carol Kinzer (January 16)  
Thinking About Race (January 16)  
Book Discussion Group – Active Hope (January 21)  
CSGA Business Meeting (January 21)  
Meeting for Learning - Truth and Integrity (January 24)  
Meeting for Learning - "Waking Up White" - Deconstructing Racism & Black Lives Matter – January 31  
Winter Silent Retreat at Dayspring (February 5-7)  
Deconstructing Racism Discussion – (February 20)  
Changes to the Ministry and Worship Schedule  
Nominating Committee Report  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business January 2016 Minutes

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## **Meditation Study Group - January 6**

The meditation study group will meet this Wednesday evening 1/6 at 7:30pm. We will conclude Jack Kornfield's "After the Ecstasy the Laundry." Please read chapter 17. Let's gather in the meeting room. Looking ahead to 1/13, we next begin the study of Thich Nhat Hanh's approach to mindfulness meditation via his

recorded dharma talks on 'The Present Moment.' No reading necessary! Just come and give a listen. Leo P.

### **GAIN Forum on Climate Change Legislation 2016 - January 14**

The meditation study group will meet this Wednesday evening 1/6 at 7:30pm. We will conclude Jack Kornfield's "After the Ecstasy the Laundry." Please read chapter 17. Let's gather in the meeting room. Looking ahead to 1/13, we next begin the study of Thich Nhat Hanh's approach to mindfulness meditation via his recorded dharma talks on 'The Present Moment.' No reading necessary! Just come and give a listen. Leo P.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner - January 15**

Martin Luther King, Jr Awards recognition banquet honoring Carol B and other community leaders. The featured speaker is the Baltimore City Attorney Marilyn Mosley.

If you would like to purchase tickets (\$60) please send an email to jacklahr@gmail.com. If you have already done so, I have you on the list. Everybody who has requested tickets can pick up their tickets in your envelope in the library. Pick up your envelope of tickets and leave a your check in the collection envelope. Checks should be made out to : MLKing 2016 Awards Dinner.

For you who have not yet signed on for tickets and send me an email request preferably by January 10, I will get you your ticket envelope in a way most convenient to you and will pick up your check .A number of folks have inquired about car pool arrangements, because parking can be a problem. I will contact all ticketholders by email well in advance of January 15th with a list of all AFM attendees to date and you can then make your own arrangements with each other. Arrangements have been made for us to be seated in tables together, which will be marked "AFM" and receptionists will point out table locations.

Questions: contact me anytime: jacklahr@gmail.com, cell 202-531-3841.

### **Memorial Service For Carol Kinzer – January 16, 11 am (UU Church)**

A Memorial Meeting for Worship to celebrate the life of Carol Kinzer will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 333 Dubois Rd, on January 16, 11 a.m., followed by a catered lunch reception. Wes Jordan will clerk the meeting. Carol's family chose to have the memorial service at the UU Church due to the large number of people expected to attend. In the Light,  
Dotty D, Clerk, 2015 Pastoral Care Committee

### **Thinking about Race – January 16**

THINKING ABOUT RACE (January 2016) – "Being in a White Garden"

"Being in a white garden means that we hold the accumulation of centuries of wealth, power, and privilege. Some of us may come with personal trauma or gender, sexuality, or class struggles. However, race is the number one predictor of housing values, health outcomes, employment, educational success, and incarceration. We are the inheritors of tremendous power and privilege just because of our white garden-ness. Once we acknowledge this, many of our first feelings may be guilt, followed by shame, anger, and fear. To change we need to do the hard spiritual work of leaning into those uncomfortable feelings. These emotions are our tools. They are the hoe, shovel, and rake we need to clear out the unhealthy aspects of our privileged identities rooted in white supremacy and begin to replant a healthier garden. I thank God that my Friends of color put up with my racial ignorance and arrogance. As a community, we are not going to grow a more inclusive garden by sitting around in silence, waiting for more African Americans to walk in the door or our meetinghouses."

- From "Waking Up in the White Garden," by Scott Holmes of Durham (N.C.) Meeting and professor of law at the North Carolina Central University School of Law, published in Friends Journal, October 2015, p. 6. Holmes uses the metaphor of a "white garden," prompted by his walks through a section of the Duke Gardens where all the flowers are white.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaisons at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting for publication in their newsletter or other means of dissemination. The WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at various monthly meetings. On January 16 we will meet at Homewood Friends Meeting in Baltimore and participate in a protest vigil across from the Lee-Jackson statue where the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be honoring Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas Jackson during the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday weekend. If you would like to attend the WGR on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David E, david.etheridge@verizon.net or Pat S at pat.schenck3227@gmail.com.

### **Book Discussion Group – January 21, 6 pm**

After the holidays are over . . . begin the new year with hope.

Book discussion on Active Hope -The challenges we face How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy by Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone will begin on January 21st at 6 pm. From the book jacket..."Books about social and ecological change too often leave out a vital component: how do we change ourselves so that we are strong to fully contribute to this great shift? Active Hope fills this gap beautifully, guiding readers on a journey of gratitude, grief, interconnection and ultimately transformation" Naomi Klein - The Shock Doctrine

Primary issue in Active Hope is planetary emergency but the concepts we will be exploring of empowerment informed by mythic journeys, modern psychology, spirituality, and holistic science are applicable to all peace and social issues. We will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 pm before the Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis meet at 7 pm to facilitate anyone who wants to attend both meetings. Soup/salad will be provided. Please read the Introduction and Chapter One.

The book is readily available and also can be purchased at the Pendle Hill bookstore or at FGC bookstore (Lots of Meetings reading Active Hope. It was recommended to me at BYM Annual session.) – Tricia R.

### **CSGA Business Meeting - January 21, 7 pm**

CSGA Business Meeting to discuss continuing Policy and Educational Initiatives

### **Worship Sharing – January 24, 9:15 am**

Meeting for Learning on Truth and Integrity – led by Tom W.

### **Worship Sharing – January 31, 9:15 am**

The Ministry and Worship Committee along with Outreach and the Deconstructing Racism working group will begin a new Book Study Group around "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving. This book is available in paperback and can be ordered on Amazon.com, or at your local bookseller. Irving's story is consistent with AFM's continuing Deconstructing Racism and Black Lives Matter efforts. Joel R and Jean C and Mardy B. will facilitate the dialog.

The schedule for future Book Study Group sessions will be discussed at the first session. As always, the Ministry and Worship Committee welcomes suggestions for Worship Sharing Sessions and Meetings for Learning, as well as suggestions for improvement on how we can best serve AFM.

### **Winter Silent Retreat at Dayspring February 5-7, 2016**

Our winter silent retreat at Dayspring is coming soon. I hope you can experience the beauty of woods, meadows and ponds. I hope you can share the warmth of the fire at the hearth and in our hearts as we listen for the still small voice. Registration sheet is attached and pasted below. While Annapolis Friends will have priority at this retreat, all Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends and friends of Friends are welcome and encouraged to register. We have always had plenty of room at the Dayspring Inn. In peace and LIGHT, Jean C.

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### **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING SILENT RETREAT AT DAYSPRING February 5 - 7, 2016**

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

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

Details about the retreat follow, starting with excerpts from the Retreat Center welcome letter:

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

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

DIRECTIONS: DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING RETREAT CENTER: From I-270 take the Damascus exit (#15-A), Route 118 to the north. Go 8/10 of a mile on Route 118 to MD Route 355. Turn left on MD Route 355 and go a VERY SHORT block. Turn right on Neelsville Church Rd. Continue 6/10 of a mile on Neelsville Church Rd. to Dayspring Retreat Center. OR From I-70 take Route 27 south at Mount Airy. It will merge into 355 (Frederick Rd.) continuing south. Turn left onto Neelsville Church Rd. (just before reaching Route 118) and follow directions above.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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

SCHEDULE:

Friday:

- 3:30-7:00pm Arrival
- 7:00 Dinner, Intros, Orientation
- 8:30 Worship Sharing, Meeting for Worship (Silence Begins)

Saturday:

- 7:30am Wake-up Chimes
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:30 Meeting for Worship
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 3:45 Tea
- 4:00 Meeting for Worship
- 6:30 Dinner
- 8:00 Meeting for Worship

Sunday:

- 7:30am Wake-up Chimes
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Meeting for Worship
- 11:00 Break (Maintaining Silence)
- 11:15 Worship Sharing
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 2:00 Departure

REGISTRATION

Make check for \$220 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122. We need a minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum capacity is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot. Registration deadline is Friday, 1/29. Checks will be deposited after the retreat. Annapolis Friends are encouraged to ask AFM for scholarship assistance if the fee is an obstacle. Feel free to email jschristianson@gmail.com or call me at 410-544-1912 with questions.

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

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**Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA) - Thursday, February 18, 7 pm**

CSGA and the Maryland Climate Coalition (MCC) **will gather at 7:00 p.m. Don Boesch, speaking on *climate change science and policy*.** (This presentation will be the initial event in a speakers series cosponsored by CSGA and the MCC.)

**Deconstructing Racism Discussion – Saturday, February 20, 2 pm**

Our next Deconstructing Racism discussion will be Saturday, February 20, 2 to 4 PM in the meetinghouse library. The



(15.5), George Casey (16)

Subcommittees:

BYM Contact: Patty Robinson (15)

Quarterly Meeting Contact: Pat Schenck (15)

Interchange Contact: Pat Schenck

Quaker History & Heritage (since 08): Kim Finch

Quaker Burial Ground: Phil Caroom (13)(15)

Silent Retreat Convener: Jean Christianson

Spiritual Friendship Group Facilitator: Patty Robinson

Deconstructing Racism Convener: Jean Christianson

Nominating Committee: Clerk: Elise Albert (15)

Members: Nancy Jo Steetle (12)(14)(16), Bill Kinzer (13)(15), Susan Dapkunas (14)(16), Patty Robinson (15)

Outreach: Co-Clerks: Mardy Burgess (12)(14)(16) & Lee Lougee (14)(16)

Members: Jenn DeLorge McKeown (16), Diane Evarth (16)

Subcommittees:

Directory: Wes Jordan (16)

Web Manager: Wes Jordan (12)(14)(16)

E-mail List Manager: Doug McClelland (15)

Newsletter Editors: Susan Wolfe (16) & Nicole Smile (16)

GAIN Representative: Mardy Burgess (12)(14)(16)

Pastoral Care: Co-Clerks(?): Margaret Holmes (14)(16) & Mary Barbera (16)

Members: Nancy Jo Steetle (11)(13)(15), Lynada Johnson (13)(15), Sheryl Ingraham(13)(15), Mary Dadone (16), Katrine Anderson (16), Patty Robinson (16), Kim Ross(16)

Subcommittees:

Quaker Dudes: Head Dude/Convener: Karl Richmond (10)(12)(14)(16) & Phil Caroom (16)

Peace & Social Concerns: Clerk: Barbara Thomas (16)

Members: Margaret Candler (12)(14)(16), Careen Mayer (16), Suzanne Goll (16), Stephen Poe (15), David Ingalls (14)(16), Will Candler (16), Jeannie Ward (16)

Subcommittees:

Peace & Justice Center: Co-Facilitators: Martha Baer (14), Barbara Thomas (15)

AFSC and FCNL Contact: Barbara Thomas (12)(14)(16)

Lighthouse Shelter Co-liasons: Marcia Ormsby (07)(09)(11)(13)(15), Joel Rodkin (13)(15)

Lighthouse Board: Sue Podolin (15.5)

Friends of the Lighthouse Board: vacant

William Penn House Contact: vacant

Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group: Patty Robinson (16)

Quaker Market Subcommittee: Clerk: Cairn Krafft (12)(14)(16), Careen Mayer (11)(13)(15), Kit Hanley (11)(13)(15), Margaret Holmes (07-12) (13)(15), Pat Else (14)(16), Jean Christianson (14)(16), Beth Ingalls-Vernon (14)(16), Ruth Casey (16), Francis Wayne (15.5), Ruth Slavin (16)

Stewardship & Finance: Clerk: Karen Cunyngnam (11)(12)(14)(16)

Members: Sky Elsbree (12)(14)(16), Bill Kinzer (14)(16), Phyllis Singer (16), Phil Caroom (16), Carl Benson (16), Sue Podolin ex officio (13)(15)

Trustees: Clerk: Marcia Ormsby (12)(14)(16)

Members: Bill Kinzer (14)(16), Jack Lahr (14)(16), Wes Jordan (15)

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business January 2016 Minutes**

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### **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING (AFM) MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS (MFB) THIRD DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH, 2016**

Present were: Wes Jordan (clerking), Phil C (recording), Kim F, Barb T, Mary B, Jean C, Lee L, Joel R, Karen P, George & Ruth C, Sky & Nan E, Lynada J, Jeanne W, Evalina E, Van V, Martha B, Phil F, Mardy B, Cairn K, Kim R, Bob B, Minnette C-S, Karen C, Ann R, Martha O, and Marcia O

Opening: We began with centering worship. Our Clerk welcomed Friends to the new year, thanking our outgoing clerks & committee as well as all who stepped forward to clerk & work on committees this year.

1. Misc Short Notes/Announcements: Wes mentioned that police have taken another report as AFM's "Black Lives Matters (BLM)" banner again was removed for the third time overnight (as has happened at other area churches), suggesting that this conversation among ourselves and the community should continue. He also expressed appreciation for our local police stepping forward to assist with the BLM concern. He noted that county police reportedly will hold a three police-community relations meetings in the near future, including one on 1/26 at Annapolis high school.

Wes also noted that Peter T, who has volunteered to check the Meeting House weekly, discovered one of our doors unlocked on New Year's Eve. Wes reminded Friends to check & make sure doors are secured before we leave. Wes also spoke of the GAIN interfaith New Year's program where AFM members joined with those from more than 10 different faith communities to share scriptural readings, music & celebration & dancing. Friends also were reminded that the Martin Luther King dinner & award ceremony on 1/15/16, where AFM Friend Carol Brantley will be honored, is approaching. Those interested in tickets should contact Jack Lahr.

2. A final Holiday Market update : For the Market Committee, Cairn offered this final report- "Many thanks to all who contributed in so many ways to the success of our 2015 Holiday Market and Katrine Anderson & Friends Benefit Concert! We simplified our lives, built community, and shared our flea market treasures, food, music, and dance with each other and the broader community. Shoppers were able to buy goods they needed at prices they could afford, additional items were distributed to the Light House, proceeds from the sale of Fahima's items went to support Afghan Women's Fund, and \$7,340.90 was raised for our Holiday Market causes. Of that generous total, the first \$100 will go to First Day School/CREC so the children can work through their own recipient discernment process, \$2,715.34 will be awarded to each of our external causes (Smile Train and Mennonite Central Committee's Syria and Iraq Crisis Response), and \$1,810.23 will be awarded to our internal cause (Alternatives to Violence Project [AVP USA]). On a related note, the Market Committee hopes you can join us on first day, 24 January, when Jim and Deb Fines, a Quaker couple who worked with Mennonite Central Committee, will join us toward the end of potluck to talk about their work with MCC in Iraq. And, of course, please mark your calendars now for Spring Market 2016, coming up on the first Saturday in May (7 May)!"

3. Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR): Phil C reported that, in the past year, this Peace & Justice Center-established group has grown to embrace over 30 partner organizations and about 700 individual members from other Meetings, churches & communities around the State. With bipartisan support in the Md. General Assembly, we obtained passage of a bill to establish the "Md. Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council(JRCC)" with the mandate to review Md. sentencing and corrections policy seeking to reduce costly incarceration and to substitute more effective rehabilitation measures. A JRCC-drafted bill is expected which could reduce Md. prison sizes by over 15% & save \$270M in the next decade that can be used for drug treatment, employment, diversion, etc. When the bill is introduced (expected in mid-January), MAJR will ask Friends, other MAJR supporters & the public to support legislators in what they likely will consider a "tough vote." Responding to a question, Phil stated that AFM trustees believe this limited amount of lobbying will not constitute a "substantial portion" of AFM activities so as to endanger our tax-exempt status.

4. Olive oil/Tent of Nations project: Phil C reported that AFM Friends & attenders purchased over \$1,000 worth of olive oil & related products at Christmas time to support the "Tent of Nations (TON)" Palestinian project. While not tax exempt, TON's efforts are consistent with many Friends' testimonies at they, with the motto "We refuse to be enemies," pursue peaceful solutions with Israelis, as well as teaching organic farming and women-run businesses. Phil thanked all those who participated.

5. Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA): Phil F announced two impending CSGA events:  
a) "Green Annapolis" founder Elivia Thompson will speak this Thursday, 1/7 at 7 pm at AFM;  
b) two weeks later, the next CSGA will offer a new book club (first book - "Active Hope") at 6 p.m., followed by a CSGA business meeting at 7pm to organized for its two missions of advocacy and education.

6. Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting: AFM will host the next Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting on First Day 3/13/16. A Friend pointed out that this date will be the first day of spring daylight savings, so we should include this in our plans and announcements. Wes suggested that AFM should form an ad hoc committee to plan our logistics, including: a) announcements, b) food, c) other hospitality, d) a "program" to be offered by AFM - perhaps as to Annapolis' Friends leadings on environment / climate change, e) other logistics. We agreed to ask Pat S as current Quarterly Meeting Representative (QMR), Marcia O as Clerk Of Hospitality, Joel R as clerk of Ministry & Worship, and Jennifer D-M as past QMR to form this ad hoc committee, to begin email discussions, and to draft others as needed. One Friend noted that we should consult Sara Burr, as clerk of the Quarter, about timing issues.

7. Carol Kinzer's Memorial Service will be held on Sat., 11am 1/16/16, at the Unitarian Church to be sure there is enough seating space. Mary B, our new PC clerk, noted that plans are underway. Bill K stated that there will be a catered lunch and some singing planned. Sky E noted that it is traditional also to have one or more Friends to direct

parking.

8. Peace and Justice Center – Barb T provided this annual update as to the Peace and Justice Center (PJC). The PJC has been a “working group” of Annapolis Friends Meeting for the last 8-9 years, which means that it welcomes Friends and others with leadings to explore, gather support and champion peace and justice initiatives.

Having successfully launched MAJR and CSGA over the last several years, PJC co-clerks Martha B and Barb T, invited Friends in December to take stock of where we have been, where we are and where we are led to journey in the near future. In this listening session, new areas of concern brought forward included:

1. Maryland’s role in receiving refugees
2. Fostering understanding toward our Muslim neighbors
3. Community dialogues to hear diverse views on relevant topics

Two Friends have stepped forward to champion Maryland’s role in receiving refugees:

George C suggested that we act to educate ourselves as to refugee concerns and to possibly work with other organizations. (Another Friend asked whether this includes providing sanctuary and whether it includes Central American refugees; many other Friends also have expressed concerns about refugees and immigrations. Barb T suggested that, perhaps, these concerns can be advanced as part of a community dialog as AFM, via Phil F, has done in the past); and

Martha B presented Jack L’s draft for an open letter to Gov. Hogan that also could be sent to the Capital and, perhaps other area newspapers. AFM Friends were asked if we would like to have a representative of AFM be the signer. Possible amendments to the draft letter were discussed. Recognizing that time is of the essence with this issue, Friends approved Wes signing this letter on behalf of Annapolis Friends collectively with some edits (e.g., referencing AFM vs. Quakers generally, adding Sweden to the list of other nations, etc.) but deferred appropriate editing to be completed by PJC representatives in light of these comments before the letter is sent. (\*\*The signed version of this letter is attached below.)

9) Meeting House and Land Committee (MHL): For MHL and its Building for the Future (BFF) subcommittee, Bob B recounted that the subcommittee’s four representatives --designated to confer with our encroaching neighbors- heard that the owner now is amenable to a 10/1 land swap, trading 1000 sq. feet for approx 1/2 acre. The proposed exchange would redraw the boundary line, leave both properties with the same street frontage, resolve the garage encroachment, and add land to AFM that would improve our proportion of critical area property, thus reducing costs for AFM’s possible future growth. The survey, plat & engineering work to redraw the line would cost \$12,500 with some additional recording costs.

The neighbor Les Belcher has asked AFM to split the costs with AFM paying between \$8 and \$10K, which would represent \$1 per square foot. Bob noted that this is perhaps 1/2 the estimated proportional value of the land and which would come from the AFM building fund; and, it is an improvement over Mr. Belcher’s earlier proposal for AFM to pay \$25,000 for the extra land. This also would finally resolve the encroachment issue and would legally connect AFM’s property & nature trail to the Unitarian property and nature trail.

Although some Friends expressed concerns, they agreed to stand aside and we approved this proposal to permit AFM to pay \$8-10K to complete this land exchange transaction with our neighbor. We expressed their appreciation to the Friends who have spent so much time and work in exploring, negotiating and resolving this difficult situation. For MHL, Kim also reported that our cleaning person for the past 13 years, Belinda Wimbush, is retiring and leaving the country. Friends agreed to send \$500 as a parting thank you gift to Belinda that, we hope, could be arranged quickly before she leaves on 1/6/16. Wes will write a letter of thanks to go with this gift. Jeannie Wimbush, Belinda’s sister, has agreed to take over this job.

As an update on “the architect situation,” Kim recommended that we pay the additional \$1900 balance above the original \$5000 estimate for owed for Evan Lippincott’s preliminary services before moving forward. Friends approved.

10. Issues deferred until 2/7/16 MfB. We again deferred for another month possible further discussion of the “Communications Survey” arranged by Outreach Committee, as well as review of our AFM Calendars policies. Friends are referred to the preliminary presentation included in the 11/15 MfB minutes and printed in the 12/15 AFM newsletter.

Closing: Running short on time, all but the three final sections 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 Jordan, Clerk, and Phil C, Recording Clerk.

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\*\* OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR HOGAN (referenced in para 8 above)

Dear Governor Hogan:

We of Annapolis Friends Meeting (Quakers) have long stood for welcoming strangers among us in their differences and needs. We seek for our community and State to join that welcoming attitude. We appreciate the need for due process vetting of refugee candidates and respect legitimate security concerns. As Marylanders, we

likewise recognize the humanitarian need to provide asylum to Syrian refugees seeking relief from the atrocities of war and for the hope of democratic governments.

So far as we are aware, independent experts assign a very low level of concern about Syrian refugee candidates being terrorist threats, compared to a greater level of concern about foreigners entering the United States with a visa and without proper vetting. In this country of more than 300 million people, some 785,000 refugees were reportedly admitted into the United States since 9/11, with three terrorist arrests and none of which were actually threatening. (Washington Post November 19, 2014, Michelle Lee, Fact Checker). As we all know, the vetting of refugee candidates is rigorous, taking around two years. Your salutary motivation to protect us citizens of Maryland is appreciated, but current safeguards appear to be well in hand without categorically turning away Syrian refugees. The governments of Germany, Sweden and Canada have set a welcoming refugee standard for us Marylanders to aspire.

We urge you to reconsider your past announcements in this area and to express the willingness of the Maryland government to continue our tradition of welcoming refugees.

Respectfully,

Wes Jordan, Clerk  
Annapolis Friends Meeting

cc: *Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, Capital Gazette* Newspapers

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

- o Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- o Susan W and Nicole S are the editors of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to [annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com).
- o Friends also are asked to watch your email for announcements of meetings and to listen for announcements at the rise of meeting.
- o Event and activity organizers, please also post your announcements on the bulletin board for those who do not use electronic mail!
- o The AFM Announce ([announce@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto:announce@annapolis.quaker.org)) and Discuss ([discuss@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto:discuss@annapolis.quaker.org)) E-Mail Lists are described on the AFM Information Web Page at <http://annapolis.quaker.org/information>

### **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: Wes J ([wesjordan@comcast.net](mailto:wesjordan@comcast.net))

Building Use Coordinator: Carol B ([afm.meetinghouse@gmail.com](mailto:afm.meetinghouse@gmail.com) or 410-353-7400)

Newsletter Editor: Susan W and Nicole S ([annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com))