

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – JULY 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 2nd, 4th, and 5th First Days
- North County mid-week meeting: First Tuesday (July 5) 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 20th of the month (All committees and their reps, and all F/friends with leadings are welcome to submit items for inclusion).

MEETING CALENDAR

JULY 3: 9 a.m. Meeting For Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 6:30 p.m. William Penn House Potluck

JULY 9: 2 p.m. Deconstructing Racism

JULY 10: 8 a.m. Early Worship; 9:15a.m. Meeting for Learning; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship;

JULY 12: 12 p.m. MAJR Meeting; 7 p.m. Peace & Justice Center

JULY 17: 9:15 a.m. Committee Meetings; 10:30 a.m. Hymn Singing; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m.

Committees: CREC; 12:30 p.m. Poetry Group; 9 p.m. Newsletter Items Due

JULY 24: 8 a.m. Early Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. MPRm Potluck

JULY 31: 8 a.m. Early Worship; 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 SEVENTH 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? Do 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?

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

[Deconstructing Racism](#)

[Meeting for Learning: Quaker Burial Ground](#)

[Peace and Justice Center](#)

[AFSC & FCNL](#)

[Quaker Causes: Interfaith Action for Human Rights](#)

[Thinking About Race](#)

[2016 Spiritual State of the Meeting](#)

[Meeting for Business Minutes June 2016](#)

[DC Detention Training](#)

[Guidelines for Submission to this Newsletter](#)

Deconstructing Racism – Saturday, July 9 from 2-4 p.m.

Dear Friends,

The next deconstructing racism discussion will be Saturday, 7/9, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in the meetinghouse library. The group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee.

Friends gather every one or two months to talk about our recent experiences related to race and diversity. We open in silent worship, update each other on events in our lives, examine our own unaware racism, discern our individual and collective leadings for furthering equality and justice, and close in silent worship.

We support each other as we seek and learn. We always welcome newcomers.

In peace, Jean

[Back to Top](#)

Meeting for Learning: Sunday July 10, 9:15 a.m.

Meeting for Learning as to the West River Quaker Burial Ground ("WRQBG"-est. 1672)

The first Quaker in Maryland reportedly was Englishwoman Elizabeth Harris in 1655. With colonial Maryland's promise of religious freedom, the next 50 years welcomed approximately 3,000 Quakers and six meetings to reside Anne Arundel County.

In 1672, Friend John Burnyeat called for what may have been the earliest American "general" or annual meeting at West River—we now call Galesville about 10 miles south of Annapolis. By coincidence, George Fox had sailed to the colonies and arrived just in time to join the "glorious" assembly, as described in his journal. Grounds soon were donated by West River Quakers for the first Maryland meeting house and burying ground.

Later West River yearly meetings brought prominent Friends from both sides of the Bay, around the State, from Virginia and, in time, send Friends as pioneers across the Allegheny Mountains. Eventually, most Quakers moved towards Baltimore, so in 1785, Yearly Meeting moved to Baltimore and the Burial Ground began to accept non-Quaker burials. The West River Meeting House fell into disrepair, but the Burying Ground has continued in use for more than 350 years through the present.

Legally, the Burying Ground has operated been managed by Trustees since 1867 with approval by the Maryland General Assembly. There currently are no obligations to or from Annapolis Friends or Baltimore Yearly Meeting for its control or upkeep.

Please join us on First Day, 7/10/16, at 9:15 a.m. for a Meeting for Learning to learn more about the WRQBG and to talk about its possible future connections with AFM & BYM!

[Back to Top](#)

Peace & Justice Center, Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 7-9

We continue to learn about issues around immigration and to discern what steps await us. We have been exploring how cities approach gaining sanctuary status, how to create welcoming communities, what the needs are for services, and explore the connections to dialogue with and learning about "other".

All are welcome to join us.

~Martha B. & Barbara T., Co-clerks

[Back to Top](#)

AFSC & FCNL

AFSC (American Friend's Service Committee) and FCNL (Friend's Committee on National Legislation) are the way American Friends "allow their lives to speak". The two organizations are very different. FCNL is strictly focused on Washington and influencing legislation; its offices are within two blocks of Congress. AFSC on the other hand has regional office in most states and about ten countries/regions overseas; its main office is in Philadelphia thus significantly avoiding Washington.

Both organizations have excellent web sites. AFSC started in 1917 to assist particularly civilian victims of military activity, and has subsequently expanded to numerous activities where Friends have felt a leading to assist. The result is a portfolio of activities built from the ground up; that could never have been designed from the top down. My favorite is the support of about 200 orphans, housed in a Christian monastic schools in Burma (officially Myanmar). The children were orphaned by cyclone Nargis. ... You cannot do this thing from the top down.

FCNL, organized in 1942, is very different and explicitly designed to lobby Congress and give us improved legislation. Every two years, FCNL asks Monthly Meetings to submit a statement of legislative priorities for the next Congress. Thus priorities are set from the ground up, but the legislative campaign is clearly managed top-down. If you go to their web site, you will probably find your major political concerns are being actively pursued. Thanks to Pat Schenk's urging I have met several times with Jose Aguto who leads the FCNL lobbying to limit global warming. I have found FCNL to be a very open organization, grateful to be reminded from time to time of Meeting level perspectives.

Peace,
Will C. 10/6

[Back to Top](#)

Quaker Causes: Interfaith Action for Human Rights An Annapolis Friends' Meeting "Quaker Cause"

Friends have asked to learn more about the Quaker Causes to which Annapolis Friends Meeting donates 10% of its unrestricted donations annually. Your Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be highlighting one of our causes each month.

This month's Quaker Cause is relatively new to our list: Interfaith Action for Human Rights. This group grew out of and replaced our earlier cause, National Religious Coalition Against Torture. Friend Jack Lahr's concern brought both to the attention of Peace and Social Concerns. IAHR is a mid-Atlantic organization whose purpose is to seek change in the culture, policy or practices that cause torture or violate human dignity. They bring attention to these practices and advocate to achieve changes. Their current focus is on solitary confinement, criminal justice reform, closing Guantanamo and anti-Muslim sentiment in America. IAHR is an active supporter of MAJR. Their excellent website is at www.interfaithactionhr.org/

At our last committee meeting Jack discussed the possibility of AFM displaying a banner which states "We stand with our Muslim neighbors". The committee decided to do preparatory work first, by contacting both the Annapolis Muslim community about what kind of support they feel the need and the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network about having a panel discussion.

Margaret C. for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

[Back to Top](#)

THINKING ABOUT RACE (Summer 2016) – A “Scholarship of Belonging.”

“For far too long, society has treated minority groups from a deficit analysis, focusing on what they lack rather than what they add. Institutions have reacted to racial tensions instead of proactively creating inclusive spaces. We have taught people how to adjust to an unacceptable status quo instead of sharing the legitimate means to challenge injustice. By not taking the time to listen to people, we have let efficiency trump listening and allowed limited diversity to supplant real equity at the table, at the lectern, and in the boardroom....

“We all have good will, but we must move beyond good will. Universities can help improve a sense of belonging by setting clear goals, fostering inclusive environments, and challenging negative stereotypes about certain groups. We have to create structures that ensure participation of minority groups in decisions. We need to model and teach the competencies of deep listening and respectful dialogue across differences. We must also determine how to work cooperatively to transform deeply embedded practices that have created barriers to belonging.”

Excerpts from an article by Julio Frenk, “Why We Need a ‘Scholarship of Belonging,’” published in the May 20, 2016, **Chronicle of Higher Education**. Julio Frank is president of the University of Miami and former dean of Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

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. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net or Pat Schenck, 410-263-4529 or pat.schenck3227@gmail.com.

[Back to Top](#)

Final Draft Annapolis Friends Meeting 2016 Spiritual State of the Meeting

Introduction

At Annapolis Friends Meeting, we remind ourselves that we are “first and foremost a worshipping community,” coming together to worship, and then to act, in the Spirit. We have felt Spirit move amongst us in many ways this year: in the deep rich silence of Meeting, in the growth of our children, in community-building activities, and in our work for justice, deconstructing racism, and for the environment. Finally, Annapolis Friends Meeting was very fortunate to have several newcomers become regular attenders this past year. We encouraged the newcomers to participate in the Spiritual State of the Meeting since we always learn much from their thoughts and this helps the Meeting to be more welcoming to newcomers and address their immediate concerns.

On February 14, 2016, the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) joyfully discussed the following queries.

What unexpected blessings or challenges arose for you this year?

One Friend noted that his challenge would have to be the upsurge in racial confrontation and injustice between minority communities (mostly African American, but the problem extends well into other minority communities as well) and the police. It should be noted the AFM displayed a “Black Lives Matter” banner in front of the Meetinghouse and it was vandalized twice and replaced each time.

Two Friends mentioned that an unexpected joy was attending the Friendly Eights dinners. The Friendly Eights is a group of Friends who meet on a monthly basis at Friends’ homes to learn more about each other and build community among Friends.

Another Friend stated that an unexpected blessing is, as a retired person, having the opportunity for more involvement in Quaker Committees, and find that the more time he gives, the more they are experienced as a resource and a blessing

What are your greatest joys as a Meeting?

One Friend mentioned that she was celebrating 50 years with Annapolis Friends. She indicated that her joys continue to be worshipping God without a creed, yet finding a spiritual connection. Also she stated that AFM was a place where she has been able to grow and take leadership in a safe and loving place; she is grateful for the role that meeting has played in her life.

We believe that AFM is a very socially active meeting with numerous initiatives. These include our work for justice, deconstructing racism, and for the environment. In addition, AFM is still very involved with the Lighthouse Shelter in Annapolis. Several Friends commented on the joys of our work on social concerns. The following is a sample of these comments:

"Our spirit led activism in all our endeavors." "I am impressed by the social and political activity of the community and also impressed by the range of leadings from a small group." "Focus on service brings me back to the Meeting and the community."

Another Friend indicated that the Wednesday evening Meditation Group is part of her spiritual growth and supports the spiritual work of the Meeting as well.

Finally, one Friend noted that she finds joy in making contact with the deepest part of people as they share in meeting and in other activities.

What leadings does your Meeting feel most strongly about?

As mentioned above, AFM is currently involved with several social concerns. These include the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), the Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA), the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN), Peace and Justice Center, and our work with racial concerns, which we call Deconstructing Racism. A small group of Friends continue to meet once a week for a meditation study group. Several Friends mentioned this is a very powerful and spiritual activity.

What challenges and troubles are you facing?

Currently, AFM is faced with several challenges. Presently, there are some Friends who do not receive e-mail announcements from the AFM Announce List, which has caused some frustration among some Friends. In spite of the effort of many Friends who are savvy with the Internet technologies, we are still experiencing difficulties sending the AFM Announce List to each address on the mailing list. We are continuing our efforts to reach all server addresses.

A second challenge is AFM's Building for the Future initiative. The AFM Building for the Future initiative was addressed in last year's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. We continue to have meetings and discussions about our future needs for space to fulfill our spiritual growth.

A third challenge is to the preservation of silence for Meeting for Worship. Friends are arriving tardy to Meeting and/or are forgetting to silence our cell phones. The Ministry and Worship Committee will continue to stand by the door to monitor and usher late arrivals at 11:05 and 11:15. They will purchase a small stand that will include the message: "Please silence all electronic devices."

Finally, we continue to experience Friends entering Meeting for Worship at various times after the 11:00 start of Meeting. Ministry and Worship Committee has agreed to explore the idea that once Silent Worship has begun, Friends may enter Meeting at 11:05 and 11:15.

In what ways is the Meeting less than you might wish it to be?

Only one Friend commented on this by stating:

"For me it is a long standing uneasiness with the largely white and older face of our Meeting. By no means do I say this is due to any unwelcoming aspects of our Meeting; on the contrary I truly believe we are welcoming in ways that are manifest and we can almost take for certain, and we hear this genuinely from many newcomers. Nevertheless, there is something about Quakers, and AFM in particular (mainly perceived from my perspective), that doesn't seem to draw minorities." It should be noted that this issue of having larger number of minorities attending AFM was an issue raised during last year's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report.

How does your Meeting nurture the spiritual life of members and attenders?

A recent newcomer stated: A major blessing this past year has been the love and support she has felt, it feels very powerful, like having a warm blanket around her during her daughter's illness. I am drawn by the lack of creed and dogma and I have found a spiritual home. Other Friends mentioned the social and political activity of the community. Another Friend mentioned he was impressed by range of leadings from a small group

Also, Friends agreed that the Pastoral Care Committee provides a great deal of support and caring to Friends in need of spiritual guidance or in times of sickness and bereavement. Also, AFM conducts a virtual Fifth Night Light Meeting for Worship that includes holding those who are sick or needing prayer support in God's healing Light. Finally, in addition to the 11:00 Meeting for Worship, twice a month the Meeting has an early morning Meeting for Worship at 8:00 a.m. Several Friends find this is an important and rich, mostly silent, worship.

How well do you attend to the needs of newcomers?

As mentioned above, AFM is fortunate that we have had several newcomers who have become regular attenders at our Meeting for Worship. AFM strives to make all newcomers feel welcome. When an individual attends Meeting for Worship for the first time, a Greeter meets them at the front door and provides the newcomer with a one-page fact sheet on Quakerism and silent worship. In addition, at the Rise of Meeting, a member of the Outreach Committee welcomes newcomers to have a cup of coffee so that any questions can be answered or concerns attended to.

During the Spiritual State of the Meeting discussion a newcomer remarked: "A Newcomer feels a welcoming and gentle acceptance, feels encouraged to be more open, creative and involved, and even challenged, when he has been considered more of an instigator in previous faith communities."

Another newcomer stated: "As a newcomer coming from a faith-based tradition where I felt the worshipping was becoming rote, I was looking for a mindful approach. Sitting quietly in worship, and in meetings for learning.

Do Friends of all ages feel fully a part of the Meeting community?

Annapolis Friends Meeting considers Young Friends an essential part of the Meeting. Children are welcomed as full participants. They are loved, encouraged, and embraced. In addition to First Day School, young Friends join the Meeting for Worship at 11:45 so they have a chance to experience silent worship.

[Back to Top](#)

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING (AFM) MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS (MFB) FIFTH DAY OF THE SIXTH MONTH, 2016

Present were: Wes J. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), Phil F., George & Ruth C., Pat E., Jeanne W., Jack L., Sky & Nan E., Francis W., Mary B., Jennifer D.-M., Jennifer D.-M., Tom W., Mardy B., Bill K., Lee L., Jean C., Will & Margaret C., Martha B., Pat S., Karen C., Sue P., Dot W., Margaret H., Phyllis S., Karen ???, Carol B., Kim F., and Lynada J .

Opening: We began with centering worship. Our clerk thanked Friends for attending, then began with:

A review of June events and calendar items.

- Yesterday, our semi-monthly AFM's Deconstructing Racism Group discussed the climate of race relations in our country and discussed strategies to approach particular problems.
- Today after our worship, we will have a quick celebration honoring Pat Schenck's contributions to AFM.
- Also, this afternoon, nationally-known speaker Robin DiAngelo will offer a presentation, at our Unitarian neighbors' church, as to "What does it mean to be White?"
- Penn House will hold a potluck at 6:30 this evening.
- On Tues., 6/7, our Peace & Justice Center meets, discussing possible initiatives in support of refugees.
- Our Wednesday meditation group will take the summer off.
- On Fri., 6/10, the West River Quaker Burial Ground Trustees will gather here.
- Next First Day, 6/12, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting will be held at Patapsco FM;
- Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis will meet, offering public programs on 6/16 & 23.
- Day Spring Retreat will be held the weekend of 6/17-19.
- On 6/20, Quaker Dudes at Wes' house will discuss how to follow-up BLM banner efforts.
- On 6/20, Newsletter items are due.
- AFM's poetry meets on 6/26, at 12:30.

Friends are encouraged to provide timely updates & changes to the AFM calendar & newsletter!

Ministry & Worship (M&W): George C. reported that AFM has received letters formally requesting membership transfer for Martha Baer (from Stony Run & previously from Gwynedd in Pa.) and Tom Wolfe (from Adelphi), each of whom have active roles in our Meeting. Friends gleefully approved.

Our clerk noted that M&W's clerk will be unavailable for some time due to illness & noted that M&W is dealing with a number of significant issues including our pursuit of civility, eldering and other current concerns of Meeting. Friends suggested that M&W committee members should select their own acting clerk. George reported that M&W has discussed the committee's current plan to offer adult education programs on Quaker process due our significant number of new attenders. On the topic of eldering, a Friend noted that an earlier M&W committee had prepared materials that might be revisited. Another Friend asked M&W to help clarify Meeting's view of our early Meeting for Worship (MfW) sessions—which sometimes are treated less respectfully with Friends' noisy arrivals & interruptions.

The M&W monthly committee meeting to be held on 6/19 will consider these and other pertinent issues. Friends are welcome to participate if so led.

Light House (LH) financial report: Sue reported that LH's fiscal year ends on 6/30/16 and its Board, in coming months, will focus primarily on this October's opening LH's casual 50-seat restaurant; the restaurant will operate as part of the BEST (Building Employment Success Training) catering / training program and, hopefully, also may earn enough profits to support other LH operations. Above the restaurant, there will be 4 new men's transitional, rented apartments (there already are such units for women). Friends are encouraged to patronize the new restaurant.

LH, expanding its operations, has hired a new Assoc. Director in charge of counseling with more space for counseling services. A new "Social Enterprise Committee" examines possible new operations to expand the BEST training program (which now has more participants from community-- including local detention center inmates on work release-- than participants who are LH residents); the LH board and staff make ongoing efforts to refine eligibility criteria for participants. Another exciting opportunity is that Anne Arundel Community College also has provided \$10K grants for LH residents to attend certification programs. Best catering now has a contract to supply lunches at St. Anne's School cafeteria & food for Maryland Hall events.

LH's annual budget now is approximately \$2.295M; of this amount, 95% is received from private contributions; according to estimates, each LH resident may save taxpayers approximately \$15K. Despite all this good news, LY's current fiscal year budget currently includes a deficit of \$230K for this year; at the same time, the County has cut its prior LH support in half; the deficit also arises because, of 15 partner congregations pledges to contribute approximately \$10K each in FY2016 contributions, only about half that amount has been received so far. One Friend noted that the LH is an amazing success story, having blossomed & grown to this point from mere daydreams of folks from 2 or 3 congregations in the 1980s.

Outreach- Committee members joined to offer flowers, cards, a "**Thank you, Pat!**" banner, and an eloquent minute of appreciation ([attached to these minutes](#)) for outgoing Outreach Clerk Pat Schenck for her many years "Being a Quaker has meant everything in my life. I came as a shy 28-year old who could not imagine herself ever leading anything."

Communications Survey – Lee reviewed with us our late 2015 Outreach communications survey (initiated by Pat S. in 2015 with Hershey candies as rewards for those who completed the surveys.) Of 47 responders, 78% reported reading the newsletter (with 4% printing these on paper to read it). Of readers, 40% read "pretty much all" of the newsletter and read the website "once or twice per month." Only 19% use AFM's Facebook page, 83% are on the announce list, and 55% are on the discuss list. As to Friends' reasons for attending programs, 60% are most likely to attend due to email, 51% because they hear it announced after worship, and much smaller numbers attend due to FB, the webpage or newsletter. The Outreach Committee will follow up on these issues to look for changes or enhancements to our internal and external communications strategies that will be of universal benefit.

Wes acknowledged that we have an ongoing problem, related to our use of Quaker.org, in getting email

announcements to Friends who use Comcast & certain other email providers. A stopgap solution may be direct cc's or direct emails to individual Friends with those providers. Perhaps, Friends may be encouraged to adopt a practice of replying only to the sender –not reply all—to confirm their receipt or plans to attend a program; otherwise, it is difficult to “prove a negative” if Friends do not receive list-emails. Another Friend suggested AFM may need to hire someone to provide professional help with this concern; discussion of this issue will continue. Yet another Friend suggested, perhaps the newsletter could be used more for Friends' essays & thoughts, rather than “news” and calendar items for which it is less popular & less timely, given inherent delays due to the newsletter's monthly publication schedule.

The Outreach monthly committee meeting on 6/19 will also consider these long-standing e-mail lists questions, other communications improvements, and other issues. Friends with Announce and Discuss concerns are welcome-- even urged, to attend or forward comments to Mardy and Lee for their committee deliberations.

Closing: MfB closed with silent worship transitioning into MfW. Respectfully submitted, Wes Jordan, Clerk, and Phil C., Recording Clerk.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION FOR PAT SCHENCK, June 7, 2016

Now that Pat Schenck has left our Outreach Committee, we on the committee have become particularly mindful and full of gratitude for what Pat has done for Outreach and the whole Annapolis Friends Meeting. We are writing a Minute of Appreciation for her, mindful that Minutes like this have, on occasion, been done in the past.

Thoughts from an Outreach Friend start us off, combined with Pat's own responses to our questions.

“Pat was on committee after committee at AFM, clerking many of them, as she is so talented in that area. She just fell in love with Quaker process and Quakers in general. She went from an agnostic to a deeply religious person as her love affair with Quakerism blossomed.”

Pat has Quaker ancestors, ones with gumption. Her own great-grandmother, for whom she was named, was ‘read out’ of Meeting for ‘marrying out.’ It was Pat's college-age sister and her Quaker boyfriend, who first suggested that Pat and her husband try a Quaker Meeting. They visited one while living in Chicago but did not get involved with Quakers until they moved to Annapolis.

Pat is part of AFM history. She believes that AFM started about 1963. She started attending in February, 1966. Meeting was held in a classroom in the Science Building at St. John's College.

Pat was clerk of AFM from 2000 through 2002. In 2003, she proposed that we have an Outreach committee. She served on Outreach as the clerk, from 2004 through 2007, and then again as clerk from 2012 through 2015. She initiated many practices in order to help new attenders feel welcome. Included in these practices are having Outreach “Greeters” at the front door and inviting new attenders to complete a Visitor Information Form which generates an AFM “Welcome Note” from an Outreach member. In years past, Pat held Visitor Sunday before Meeting for Worship, to give a short overview of Quakerism and AFM, for friends and family of our AFM community. There was also a lunch for all of Meeting, to recognize new members and attenders, and give them insight into the duties of various committees' work, prior to the work of Nominating Committee's. Most recently, the “Whole Foods” lunch, after Meeting for Worship, gives new and old friends alike the opportunity to continue conversations over lunch. Throughout her Outreach work, Pat was always diligent in making AFM a place where a diversity of people would feel comfortable.

Pat also served in other capacities in AFM. She was on the former Ministry and Oversight Committee, Pastoral Care, Ministry and Worship, Nominating Committee, and Trustees. Pat was an early pioneer, starting the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism, during the earliest years of Quakers' attention to the issue of racism. She continues to go to the regular meetings of the Working Group on Racism, as well as our AFM sessions on Deconstructing Racism. More recently, Pat has worked devotedly, with AFM Friends, on MAJR (Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform). She has worked hard over the last three years to bring The Justice Reinvestment Act to pass in the Maryland legislature this past April, 2016. Pat was chair of the MAJR Communications Committee for this 204-page bill. Besides her AFM and BYM work, many years ago, Pat taught Re-Evaluation Counseling, training many people in the Annapolis community at large, helping people to listen attentively to one another.

Pat tells us of her Leadings. First, a leading to help people figure out how they are called to work for a better world. She led a workshop at BYM, FGC (Friends General Conference), in various Monthly Meetings within BYM, and at AFM,

on determining our gifts, realizing what was on our hearts – her understanding of what it meant to be 'called'. Second, Racial Justice has been her passion and she has led workshops throughout BYM – annual session and at FGC. These two leadings led to two Pendle Hill Pamphlets: Answering the Call to Heal the World (2006) and Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience (2011). She also had several articles published in Friends Journal through the years.

Friends continue their comments. Pat is the glue for Friends Meeting. She lets new clerks know about relevant Pendle Hill workshops. She helps us understand and bring alive support groups and clearness processes, especially clearness for ministry and leadings, something very dear to her. She guides the business of the Meeting in a quiet and gentle way.

When she says she will do something, it gets done, in a timely and thorough way, with kindness and clarity to boot! She engages, encourages and involves others, bringing out their gifts. She has so much history at AFM and with Outreach. She has the knowledge and the willingness to help whenever asked. She has modeled and inspired us to know what "Spirit-led" is. We love working with her! She is a wonderful listener who has shown us how to simplify and work from the Center.

"And she has a smile that feels like the sunshine coming out."

[Back to Top](#)

DC Detention Visitation Network Training

Friends

There may be an opportunity to have Erin from DC Detention Visitation Network do a training session at AFM for visiting refugees being detained in MD. Training is 1 1/2 hours.

What is DC Detention Visitation Network?

It is an organization that recruits and schedules visitations of refugees who are being held in either Jessup(Tues or Sat nights) or Snow hill(Last Friday of the month) prisons.

What does a visitor do?

They visit as a friend. They do not attempt to do anything about the refugee's situation. they give a break to the day listening to whatever the person needs to talk about. Anything that is discussed of course is confidential.

How do you get there?

Transportation is provided. When I went to Snow Hill I met them at the shopping center just before the bay bridge.

I have only had one visit. I talked with 3 different men for 1/2 hour each. I plan to continue this for a while. It seems a small thing to do but I think it helps these folks who feel forgotten. They have no idea when they will get out or when they might have a hearing.

If you feel this is something you might like to do contact me and we will try to arrange a training in the fall.

Nan

[Back to Top](#)

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the 20th of the month.
- 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. Please include the word "Newsletter" in the subject heading of your email
- 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!
- The AFM Announce (announce@annapolis.quaker.org) and Discuss (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

Clerk: Wes J (wesjordan@comcast.net)

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

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

[Back to Top](#)