

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2017

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 (November 1) 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 Please include the word "Newsletter" in your subject line. (All committees and their reps, and all F/friends with leadings are welcome to submit items for inclusion).

MEETING CALENDAR

JANUARY 8: 8-9AM Early Worship; 9-10:45AM Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11AM-12PM Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2PM Poetry and Writers Gathering

JANUARY 10: 7-8PM North County Mid-Week Meeting 7627 Locust Grove Road, Glen Burnie

JANUARY 11: 7:30-9PM Meditation Group

JANUARY 12: 7-9PM Climate Steward of Greater Annapolis Business Meeting

JANUARY 15: 9:15-10:45AM Committee Meetings; 10:30-10:55AM Hymn Singing; 11AM-12PM Meeting for Worship

JANUARY 18: 7-9PM MAJR Working Group Meeting; 7:30-9PM Meditation Group

JANUARY 19: 7-9PM Climate Coalition Speakers Series

JANUARY 20: 11AM-4PM First 100 Hour Vigil, Sign Making for the Women's March on 1/21

JANUARY 22: 8-9AM Early Worship; 11AM-12PM Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30PM Potluck

JANUARY 25: 7:30-9PM Meditation Group

JANUARY 29: 9-10:45AM Meeting For Learning (Note earlier start time!); 11AM-12PM 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 THE FIRST MONTH: THE PEACE TESTIMONY

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

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

[Thinking About Race](#)

[BYM Immigration Network](#)

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Thinking About Race

Thinking About Race (January 2017) - Whiteness as an Identity

"If whiteness is no longer the default and is to be treated as an identity — even, soon, a “minority” — then perhaps it is time white people considered the disadvantages of being a race. The next time a white man bombs an abortion clinic or goes on a shooting rampage on a college campus, white people might have to be lectured on religious tolerance and called upon to denounce the violent extremists in their midst. The opioid epidemic in today’s white communities could be treated the way we once treated the crack epidemic in black ones — not as a failure of the government to take care of its people but as a failure of the race. The fact that this has not happened, nor is it likely to, only serves as evidence that white Americans can still escape race.”

From “The Identity Politics of Whiteness,” by Laila Lalami, author of **The Moor's Account**, in The New York Times Magazine, November 27, 2017.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting. The BYM 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 at pat.schenck3227@gmail.com or [410-263-4529](tel:410-263-4529). NOTE: The Working Group will be meeting at AFM on February 18.

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BYM IMMIGRATION NETWORK

Annapolis P&JC researched refugee/immigration needs throughout 2016. We learned a lot with help of Linda Rabben and First Presbyterian (which sponsors an Iraqi family) along with research George Casey did. We held a training for Detention Center visits (Nan Elsbree and others are involved in that). Raised income through Holiday Market for Centro de Ayuda’s work and have an ongoing relationship. Three of us took orientation from World Relief to be on list to help with welcome kits, home furnishing, etc. And we reached out to FCNL to support their initiatives and to Human Rights First on interfaith work in the greater DC area.

We determined that we did not have the resources to sponsor a family ourselves, but tried to connect individuals with opportunities.

Since then, a BYM network has grown with 5-6 Meetings and Annapolis is keeping an ear to the conference calls to see how we can support. Those Meetings and leaders are:

- Sandy Spring—Erinn Mansour & Bette Hoover
- Langley Hill—Najla Drooby, resource person and coordinator
- Stony Run—Maria Brown
- Patapsco—Deb Hurley
- Annapolis—Martha Baer and Barbara Thomas

Najla is a Muslim/Quaker from Langley Hill. As a fluent Arabic speaker, she has become a resource for many refugee families, especially from Syria, to connect with Friends who can help with integrating into American life. She is providing families to partner with and guiding us in developing relationships and addressing needs.

Three Meetings now have several families each in Baltimore & Catonsville areas with which they are working. We conference call every 2-3 weeks to share concerns and find how best to support the families and each other. The needs include:

Learning English	Connect with programs; conversation; play games with kids; read the official notices to help them understand what to do
Finding employment	Essential as they are cut off after 6 months of transition. IRC finds factory jobs. Some are trying to start supplementary work like cutting hair, tailoring, yard work.
Transportation	Getting to English classes, to work, to grocery store; getting driver's license.
Child care	So mom's can go to class, to appointments, shop, etc.
Connecting w/ social services	Food stamps, medical care, welfare supplements
Helping to learn ropes	grocery shopping/sales
Bring together	3 Sandy Spring families and 2 Patapsco families cooked & lunched together at home of SS Friend. To meet each other and network.

P&JC is trying to see if there is ongoing interest in our Meeting to continue to find the right fit for Annapolis Friends on supporting refugees and immigrants in our area. Some activities Friends could partake in include:

- Taking part in the conference calls to learn what area Friends are doing;
- Raising \$\$ at Spring Market to help with emergency needs (rent in particular) for the BYM immigration network;
- Donating older cars (Vehicles for Change);
- Being back-up support for families serviced by other Meetings in the Baltimore area or to our north west.

Beyond BYM networks, Annapolis City Council is introducing legislation to make Annapolis a Welcoming City. If passed, this would prohibit discrimination based on immigration status or English language ability and limit collaboration between local police and ICE.

If you have interest in helping, ideas to impart, or resources to provide, please contact Barbara Thomas (410-867-2473, bthomas60@comcast.net) or Martha Baer (301-592-7153, mbar25@gmail.com)

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Meetings for Learning:

January 29th:

We will be showing the film **Before the Flood**, produced by Leonardo DiCaprio. To maximize our time for discussion, we want to begin the meeting at 9:00 AM, and to maximize participation, we want to show the film in the multipurpose room, prior to Meeting for Worship at 11 AM.

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Spiritual Friends' Group

Spiritual Friends' Group (our name for BYM's *Spiritual Formation Group)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting started *SFGs about 30 years ago for the purpose of having yet another way to support and nurture individual F/friends' spirituality and practices at their home meetings.

Our first group has formed and the 10 of us have designed a simple format—just a question we individually ponder. We share and listen, hear different perspectives and ideas, and if chosen, ask for accountability around a practice that may be a continuing challenge.

Do you feel stuck in your spirituality? Want another path to deepen your spiritual life? See benefit from building community around the topic of spirituality?

Contact Kit H. We have one group and are ready to form another; the format, group size and gathering time will be set by the group. If you feel you could benefit from such an opportunity, express your interest and see where it leads you.

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Standing Rock

With no warning, all hell breaks loose. In the 23 degree cold, a police officer atop an armored vehicle unleashes a water cannon on the assembled protectors. The first wave of tear gas sweeps over the crowd.

"Keep calm," reassure medics as hacking coughs fill the air. "Help each other. It's going to be ok."

I struggle off the bridge and collapse onto the ground, blinded, hacking. Those who avoided the gas rush to wash chemicals out of their neighbors' crying eyes. As my lungs burn, I feel hatred towards the police; they are thugs, hired hands for a private oil company seeking to wreak havoc on the river and the climate. 21st century Pinkertons out to destroy my future.

As the symptoms recede, though, I remind myself that hatred has no place here. The Indigenous leadership offers a vision of solidarity, not just among protectors, but everyone: police and protector alike realizing the commonality of our shared environment. I move back to the bridge trying to find peace in my heart as the next barrage of tear gas rips through the crowd. The police expand their targets to include dry grass on both sides of the bridge, sparking fires with embers from exploding tear gas canisters. They bring out additional water cannons and train them on individuals for over ten seconds at a time in the 23 degree cold. One protector stands making two peace signs in the spray, defiant. Others laugh, whoop, dance, hysterical in the freezing cold.

"I've got to stay," shivers a young woman when a medic tries to lead her to safety. Her skin has a bluish tinge to it. "They're spraying elders!"

The protectors do not back down. They set up fires on the mud flats to keep warm, using tarps as shields against the unending water barrage from the police. I drag log after log from the woods to keep the fires burning. The fires sputter, then are fanned back to life accompanied by cheers from the protectors. My coat has frozen into a block of ice. I am exhausted but cannot leave. Each load will be my last, but seeing the determination of those holding the tarps, I go back for yet one more trip.

The police take aim, fire rubber bullets from their arsenal, hitting those around me. They shoot one woman directly between her eyes. James, the security guard, is teargassed 15 times and shot in the leg with a rubber bullet. Medics rush to the front to transport a stream of victims back to the camp, then on to the hospital for many. And after I have gone to bed, a woman's arm will be blown to shreds by an exploding concussion grenade.

"The whole world is watching," ripples through the crowd. But what are they being told? The Norton County Sheriff's Office first claims that they used the water cannon to put out car fires started by the protesters, that an "ongoing riot" was underway. They claim that the woman's arm was eviscerated while trying to gerry rig an explosive device, that

they even heard a propane explosion and were not in fact using concussion grenades. CNN and other news outlets repeat these claims unchecked until videos surface of police spraying peaceful water protectors, even after the burn wounds showed no sign of a propane explosion.

The next day, the camp gets back to work preparing for winter.

The rest of the essay, as well as images, can be found at: <http://www.martinkrafft.com/writing-2/#/standingrock/>

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A Note of Gratitude

December 31, 2016

Dear Friends,

It took all this time to sort out just what I could give this year. Prayer, meditation, silence, counsell, spiritual friendship, and reflection, we're all a part of the process of computing this humble gift. I am called to serve and I am very conscious to do at least one kind deed every single day. I know that this practice sounds small but I do my best to make this world better and to reduce my carbon footprint to the very smallest size.

So Friends, please accept this gift from my heart to you in the most generous of ways that I am able. From the bottom of my heart I send gratitude for this most special of all spiritual communities; for without you, I am alone.

Gratefully,
Marcia O.

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Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM) Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB) First Month, Eighth Day, 2017

Present: Wes J. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), Lynada J., Margaret H., Jennifer D.-L., Jeanne W., Nan & Sky E., Francis W., Mary B., Jean C., Peter M., Phil F., Tom W., Larry M., Carol B., Karen C., Sue P., Jack L., Cairn K., Martha B. Elise A., Bob B., Barb T., George & Ruth C., Patty R., Kim F., Jackie P., Carl & Kim B., Marcia O., Doug M., Kim R. and Mardy B.

Opening: We began with centering worship. Our Clerk welcomed Friends to our first and snowiest and coldest Meeting of the year, so far. Happy New Year to All!

1) Miscellaneous Calendar Items: (all at Meeting House, unless otherwise indicated):

- a. Friends Poets & Writers meeting today after meeting;
- b. Martin Luther King Jr Awards Dinner including Peacemaker Award to Pat Schenck - 1/13/17, 6 p.m. at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie – tickets still available;
- c. Meditation Group - Weds 7:30pm;
- d. 1/12 & 19 7pm Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis - see csgannapolis.org for program details;

- e. 1/20 - Inauguration Day Vigil & sign-making with coordination by Annapolis Friends Green Team, in Support of Women's March participants (as the March will take place on 1/21), followed by worship-sharing as to our future intentions. NOTE: This Meeting is open to other faith groups and the community generally;
- f. Peter Meredith announced that AFM's week for the north county Winter Relief homeless shelter program this year, again with Magothy United Methodist Church in Pasadena will be Monday March 6 through Monday March 13. Those interested in chaperoning or Sunday night dinner volunteering should Peter.

2) AFM Trustees: Sky noted that, to make it official, Trustees should meet to approve our 2017 slate of officers and committees and budget for the new year. Two Trustees, present at MfB, agreed that this will be pursued shortly so that last year's slate does not feel obliged to continue in their old positions.

3) 2016 Holiday Market – Final Report: For Market Committee, Cairn offered many thanks to all who supported our 2016 Holiday Market efforts, joining together to simplify our lives and to raise money and educational awareness for our selected causes - Afghan Women's Fund, Centro de Ayuda, Light House, and Catocin Quaker Camp Green Bath House Project. (A full report is attached to these Minutes.)

Net proceeds totaled \$6,100, so the four charities each will receive \$1,500, in addition to the first \$100 channeled to our Young Friends for their discernment. Unsold items also were sent to help children at Eastport Elementary, Light House alumni, B.I.G. (Books for International Goodwill), Goodwill and Amvets.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming Market events: a) a benefit concert by our own Katrine Anderson on April 8, and b) Spring Market itself on May 6. We now can accept Quaker Market donations all year round, so please let Cairn know (cairnkrafft@comcast.net) if you have antique or other special items to sell online, or general donations that you need to move along prior to Market.

4) Announce and Discuss Lists: For group emails via both our Announce List and, in the future, our (currently inactive) Discuss List, our Clerk asked Friends no longer to use the annapolis.quaker.org list and, instead, only to use the Google Groups & Google+ list (afm-announce@googlegroups.com). Using both creates online delivery problems that prevent many from receiving announcements. **Friends also agreed to ask Outreach (Doug M) to assist in reviving our Discuss List.**

5) Stewardship and Finance Committee (S&F): Sue P. and Karen C. reported that, despite being almost \$7,000 from our annual goal with anticipated contributions in December, an outpouring of year end contributions and rental payments has created a surplus of approximately \$17,000 – perhaps our largest surplus ever. (A supplemental S&F budget report is attached to these minutes.)

Sue suggested that AFM might wish to use some surplus to make an additional contribution to the soon-to-open Lighthouse Bistro. A social enterprise program, the Bistro will give jobs to Lighthouse culinary program graduates who otherwise might have difficulties getting started in this business. Friends approved the proposal to allocate \$2,500 contribution to the Lighthouse Bistro for a commemorative quote and to “top off” our adult scholarship & another fund* (\$2,200 is the total anticipated).

Our Clerk and S&F representatives invited Friends to make other suggestions via their committee to S&F Committee as to how best to make use of the remaining surplus—an issue that will be considered and brought back to MfB for action next month.

6) Ministry & Worship (M&W) Committee: Tom Wolfe reported the recommendation of an AFM clearness committee that Friends approve the mission of Francis Wayne to support a Kenyan widows' program and other

Quaker programs in Kenya, as way opens, with a traveling minute as well as financial support of \$2,000 from AFM's embraced ministry fund. (*We note that that promptly will be replaced from this year's AFM surplus.) **Friends approved this minute, the contribution from AFM's Embraced Ministry fund, and the reimbursement of that fund from the 2016 surplus.**

Tom also noted that Friends are delighted and look forward to membership Clearness Committee reports for Francis, Julie Rouhi & Brennan Ball who have all requested to join Annapolis Friends Meeting. (See attached report, minute, and budget.) Tom also thanked Friends from their support in connection with his mother's recent passing.

7) Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee: For PSC, Barb reported that AFM's Peace & Justice Center may lay down our local Refugee initiative in the absence of a Friend to lead it, but some Annapolis Friends have joined with Friends from other Meetings—Langley Hill, Patapsco, Sandy Spring and Stony Run, so far--to form a BYM Immigration Network & perhaps an annual session "interest group" or workshop. Barb suggested that future participation by other Annapolis Friends possibly might include: raising funds via our Quaker Markets to help with refugees' emergency needs (such as rent shortfalls), donating older cars via the Vehicles for Change organization, pinch-hitting for others providing more active support for families in the Baltimore and Washington beltway areas, and taking part in BYM Refugee Network conference calls to learn more about what can be done. We are fortunate that a Muslim-American Quaker at Langley Hill, who speaks Arabic, is coordinating efforts to support Syrian families.

8) Meeting House and Land (MHL) Committee: Kim F presented two budget related requests:

a. MHL requested approval of up to \$5000 in Capital Improvement funds for the expansion of the solar array in its existing location by substitution of high-efficiency solar panels on the existing structure replacing temporary panels. This will further reduce our annual utility expenses, and to demonstrate our commitment to stewardship and sustainable energy. Specifically, this will boost our production by 40% at half the cost for commercial installation due to use of AFM members' skill and work. The projected costs are: \$1500 for 13 solar panels, \$2000 for an additional inverter, \$500 for shipping, and \$500 for miscellaneous wire and supports. This comes in at about 80 cents a watt which is far below the current contractor estimates of about \$2.50 per watt. **Friends approved this request.**

b. MHL also requested approval to enter into a "Scope of Services" agreement for up to \$2400 from our Building Fund with Near Shore Engineering, LLC. to provide a Feasibility Study Concept and Feasibility Report. Kim explained that, as our prior engineer has move away from this area, we will need a new civil engineer to support our ongoing developing a conceptual design for possible Meeting House expansion; in particular, we need to evaluate the requirements of the CBCA regulations and the 2010 State SWM code to confirm the extent of expansion feasibly available. Near Coast Engineering was recommended to us as a single-practitioner firm that specializes in Critical Areas issues, and that has strong contacts with AA County staff. Evan and Kim met with Carl Corse, owner of the firm, and recommend him as a "good fit" for our project; he is thoughtful, experienced, is a good communicator, is well respected by County staff, and has special expertise in Critical Area variance processes. **Friends approved this request** so we may move forward to consider possible future plans, consistent with our concerns for the environment.

c. Clarification of Disbursement Authority of MHL Restricted Funds. In response to a request from S&F, MHL also recently reviewed AFM guidelines regarding restricted funds disbursement:

1. *Capital Replacement guidelines* indicate that disbursement authority is with MHL, with "MAJOR" expenses to be REPORTED to Meeting for Business. There does not seem to be a conflict with how the

committee has been handling these funds, except in possibly determining what a "major" expense would be. MHL now recommends that a MAJOR expense should be defined as expense more than \$1000 under this fund.

2. *Capital Improvements guidelines* are more restricted with regards to disbursement authority, and state that authority is MfB upon advice of MHL. This has slowed the ability of MHL to move forward on needed improvements, such as our AV system. The screen was brought to Meeting for Business for discussion, even though the price was only about \$250, resulting in very slow implementation. The projector was not brought forward to MfB, although we felt that MfB was informed of the overall "project" of AV upgrades.

MHL now recommends that Capital Improvements expenditures' approval up to \$1000 be delegated to MHL then be reported to MfB and that those over \$1000 be deemed "major" and require prior approval from MfB.

Friends agreed to defer discussion of these possible fund guideline changes until our next MfB. Friends were assured that MHL is capable of paying for emergencies in the next month from its regular budget should such needs arise, subject to later reallocation from funds.

Finally, Kim noted that AFM (via MH&L auspices) is still is looking for an Assistant Building Use Coordinator (BUC) to assist Carol (our current and long standing BUC) with an expectation leading to her replacement come this July 2017. We urgently need a volunteer to step forward as way opens.

Closing: Due to shortness of time, the form of the MHL segment of these minutes was deferred to discretion of the Clerk and Recording Clerk. MfB closed with silent worship transitioning into MfW.

Respectfully submitted, Wes Jordan, Clerk, and Phil C., Recording Clerk

Attachments:

- 1) **Market Cmte - Holiday Market 2016 Final Report**
- 2) **S&F Cmte - 2016 Year End Financial Report detailing Surplus**
- 3) **M&W Cmte - Travelling Clearness Committee Report & Budget for Francis Wayne**
- 4) **AFM Traveling Minute for Francis Wayne**

Our apologies, due to some formatting issues, the attachments are not included here. They are in the pdf version of the Minutes available to download at annapolis.quaker.org You may also request a pdf version emailed directly to you by contacting the Newsletter Editor (Susan W.) at herbalsusan@gmail.com

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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 20th 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. Please include the word "Newsletter" in the subject heading of your email
- 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) and Discuss (discuss@annapolis.quaker.org) E-Mail~~

- ~~Lists are described on the AFM Information Web Page at <http://annapolis.quaker.org/information>~~
- The Announce and Discuss Email Lists have been replaced with AFMAnnounce at GoogleGroups. If you need to be added to the GoogleGroup, please email Doug at afmeeting34@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

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