

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – MAY 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 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 end of day the Monday after Meeting for Business. 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

MAY 7: 9am Meeting for Business; 11am Meeting for Worship; 6:30-8:30pm William Penn House Potluck
MAY 10: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
MAY 11: 2:30-4pm Spiritual Formation Group
MAY 13: 2-4pm Working Group on Deconstructing Racism
MAY 14: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45am Meeting for Learning; 11am Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2pm Poets and Writers Gathering;
MAY 16: 1-2:30pm Conversational Intelligence: Book Discussion; 7-9pm Peace & Justice Center Meeting
MAY 17: 7:30-9 Meditation Group
MAY 18: 7-9pm CSGA/MCC Speakers Series: Mass Extinction
MAY 20 10am-1pm BYM Working Group on Racism
MAY 21: 9:15-10:45am Most Committees Meet; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30 Committees: CREC
MAY 23: 7-9pm Threshing Session: AFM BYM Community Statistics Survey
MAY 24: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
MAY 25: 7-9pm Climate Stewards Business Meeting
MAY 28: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10-45am Meeting For Learning; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30 Potluck
MAY 30: 2-3:30pm Conversational Intelligence: Book Discussion
MAY 31: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
JUNE 1: 7-9pm Threshing Session: AFM BLM and associated Race Relations
JUNE 2: 6-9pm Russia Update - Friends House Moscow
JUNE 4: 9:15am Meeting for Business; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 6:30-8:30pm William Penn House Potluck
JUNE 6: 7-8pm North County Mid-Week Meeting
JUNE 7: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
JUNE 9: 12-1:30pm Quarterly Meeting Quaker Burial Ground Trustees
JUNE 10: 2-4pm Working Group on Deconstructing Racism

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 FIFTH MONTH: Meetings for Business

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not

only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?

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

Meetings for Learning

Climate Stewards Events in May

Thinking About Race

Dayspring Silent Retreat Coming up June 30th!

Meeting For Business Minutes May 2017

Guidelines for Submission to this Newsletter (Changes as of March 2017!)

Attachments

Meetings for Learning:

Generally 2nd and 4th First-Days

May 14th Reflections on Kenya Trip with Francis W.

May 28th Quaker Business Meetings presented by Ann R.

June 11th Sacred Dance and Chant "Playshop" Sylvia O. with special guest Michael Mansfield

Meeting for Learning will be a workshop (or "playshop") to learn Sacred Circle Dance & Chant. We are very fortunate to have a gifted professional, Michael Mansfield, who teaches in Berkeley, California to lead us. Note that this event will begin at 9:00 am in the multipurpose room. All are most welcome! Bring your children. Bring your friends who might be interested. It will be an enjoyable and enriching spiritual practice. Sponsored by Sylvia O. and free of charge. *also see attached flyer*

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Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis Events in May

Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis - Movie Night

"Merchants of Doubt"

Please join the CSGA at the Meetinghouse on Friday, May 12, from 7 - 9:30 pm to watch and discuss the film

"Merchants of Doubt." The film is not about the science of climate change, second-hand smoke, or risks of flame-retardants. It is about the tactics used (repeatedly) to mislead the public about that science. All are welcome, light refreshments served.

Speakers Series - Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis / Maryland Climate Coalition

"Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity"

On Thursday, May 18 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at the Meetinghouse, please come hear Sara Via, PhD, University of Maryland Department of Entomology & University of Maryland Extension discuss the "Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity."

The impacts of climate change are challenging the adaptation limits of plants and animals. Many are changing their geographic range, disappearing from areas in which they have lived for millennia and moving into new communities. Species interactions, which are responsible for much of Earth's biodiversity, are becoming uncoupled as species respond to climate change in different ways. Few natural plant and animal communities will be unaffected, and many species will go extinct. The impacts of humans on the natural world have led many scientists to call the current era The Anthropocene, and during this era we are likely to witness the Earth's sixth great mass extinction—caused entirely by human activity. In previous mass extinctions, 50 – 90% of species have disappeared, leaving an entirely reshaped Earth. This one is likely to be no different.

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Thinking About Race

Thinking About Race – (May 2017) Mychal Denzel Smith

In his recent (2016) book, **Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching: A Young Black Man's Education**, writer Mychal Denzel Smith includes a chapter about his personal struggles with depression. He goes deeply into how difficult it is for black men, whose persona is generally supposed to be macho, to acknowledge mental health problems and any need for – or access to -- mental health treatment.

"What would happen if we reframed the way we understand black male life in a way that took mental health seriously? If we looked outside and didn't see ruthless gangbangers but teenage boys left hopeless and giving themselves suicide missions. If instead of chastising young men for fighting over sneakers we asked why they feel worthless and unseen without them. If we didn't label them junkies but rather recognized their need for affirmation. If we held our boys close when they cried instead of turning them away to face the frustration, pain, and sadness 'like a man.' If we believed black boys were worthy of second chances that didn't involve prison cells. What if?"

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.

AND ALL AFM FOLKS WILL BE MOST WELCOME AT OUR MAY 20 MEETING AT AFM AT 10:00.

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DAYSPRING SILENT RETREAT: June 30 – July 2, 2017

True silence ... is to the spirit what sleep is to the body: nourishment and refreshment. (William Penn, 1699)

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Dayspring Silent Retreat for **Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends**. We will keep the silence from Friday evening through worship on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

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**Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Fifth Month, Seventh Day, 2017**

Present were: Wes J. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), Will C., Mary D., Pat S., Nan & Sky E., Jennifer D-L., Mary B., Francis W., Jeanne W., Peter M., Sue P., Phil F., Barb T., Amy n., Wade L., Bill K., Jean C., Cairn K., Margaret H., Elise A., Sheryl G., Ruth S., Doug M., Dot W., Karen C., Jackie P., Kim F., Larry M., Marcia O., and Mardy B.

Opening: We began with centering worship. Our clerk invited Friends to share his marvel at the small miracles in the transformation of our Meeting House to Spring Market venue and back in an amazingly short time and with an inspiring community effort.

Our clerk also noted the many important events Friends gathered for over the past month- Caren's memorial, Katrine Anderson's benefit concert, participation in 3 marches (taxes, science and climate), a meeting for learning on vocal ministry-- and more.

1. Misc. calendar items and notes: (All locations are at Annapolis Friends Meeting House unless otherwise indicated.)

- 2nd/4th/(5th) Sun 8 am - early Meeting for Worship (MfW);
- Each Weds 7:30pm Meditation Group;
- 5/7, 2pm - Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) general meeting at Stony Run in Baltimore
- 5/9, 7pm - AFM Green Team
- Each Wed., 7:30pm - Meditation Group
- 5/12, Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA) Movie Night ("Merchants of Doubt")
- 5/13, 2 pm Deconstructing Racism
- 5/14, Meeting for Learning (MfL), Francis Wayne's Kenya Reflections; also, Poetry & Writers
- 5/16, 1pm Conversational Intelligence; also 7pm Peace and Justice Center (PJC) on immigration
- 5/18, 7pm CSGA, speaker on mass extinction
- 5/20, 10am BYM, Working Group on Racism
- 5/25, 7pm CSGA Bus Mtg
- 5/28, MfL as to MfB (Ann Riggs)
- 6/2, 7 p.m., Friends House Moscow – Julia Harlow leads discussion of U.S. relations with Russia

Related scheduling issues: Looking farther into the future, our Clerk asked Friends to confirm that we agree to host members from several other monthly meetings for Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) on Sep 23, 2018 Friends approved.

Although the next meeting has not yet been set, Mary D. noted local arrival of another group that Friends may wish to support, known as the "Industrial Areas Foundation" (IAF), named for an interfaith-based community organizing / advocacy effort with good African-America participation that evolved from redevelopment of

manufacturing areas in Chicago. (Mary & some others have represented AFM at this ministerial-level program. This group is distinguished from GAIN which primarily is a community-education effort.)

2. Spring Market Committee: Cairn K. offered a preliminary report on yesterday's Spring Market, noting we earned over \$4,000 and still have money coming in, as well as over \$1,500 from our Market Related benefit concern. This was our first Market without Careen and, despite a cold rain, it went well. We found the opportunity to make connections with two school book donation programs and with the Lutheran "Orphan Grain Train" program in addition to Good Will, Second Chance, and our selected causes.

3. Treasurer's Report: Sue P. reported that, one-third through the year, our income is ahead on both rentals and individual contributions. Committees have been underspending, so AFM is in good financial condition. She also noted that we have used summer camp partial scholarship to send two children to Quaker camps. Other Friends encouraged us to use adult scholarship funds for various programs. Friends thanked Sue for her work.

4. AFM's Black Lives Matter (BLM) banner. Our Clerk reported theft of our BLM banner again in the past week. He noted that Unitarian friends have offered another replacement banner. Effective 9/17, it will be two years since we first installed the banner. Annapolis police have been helpful in monitoring the banner. Our clerk also noted that this has been an open-ended commitment and invited Friends to discuss, "What should be our continuing commitment regarding racial issues outreach into the community?"

One Friend commented a) that it is unusual for banners in general to be maintained for more than 6 months and that we may wish to set a prospective timeline, and b) that as our Meeting House is on a small side street there is little exposure to passersby. Another Friend suggested that we should follow the lead of African-American churches, such as St. Philips Episcopal, that have switched to differently worded banners, e.g., "Dismantle Racism." Other Friends noted that some minority friends have expressed appreciation for our banner being up and suggested that we should progress in antiracism efforts and include concerns for immigrants and Latinos. Another commented that xenophobia is not the same as racism and that Friends may not have a shared understanding of racism. Another alternative suggested was a smaller, more permanent installation.

Concluding this MfB discussion, a Friend urged that we reinstall the BLM banner for a set time, perhaps until September, so that it will be our decision when to take it down and that we use that interim to decide on how progress. Friends approved with one standing aside. Our Clerk suggested that we should continue this discussion at a Threshing Session to assist Friends to reaching unity before September.

5. BYM Diversity survey. Pat Schenck reminded Friends that BYM has made a commitment to greater age and racial diversity in our Meetings' membership and, therefore, has initiated a grant-funded program for this purpose. As part of the program, BYM has asked Meetings to survey members and attenders as to their ages, racial identities, and welcoming qualities of Meeting. She suggested that we might accomplish the survey in a Friendly manner, perhaps, with candy bars as a participation incentive. A recent AFM Committee Clerks meeting expressed questions about how and why the data is needed: Could the survey be anonymous and confidential to avoid some Friends' anticipated declining participation? Would it be useful with less than 100% participation? Our Recorder noted that the BYM survey period soon will end and that "before" statistics are needed to see if our future diversity efforts are successful.

In comments, one Friend noted that the U.S. Census Bureau keeps reliable and anonymous data by assigning control numbers; another Friend suggested that a more spiritual alternative to statistics might be found and offered to the grant-funders. Another Friend suggested that desegregation is not integration and that it also is quite important how welcome Friends feel. Yet another wondered if statistics aren't important also, noting that the NRA has enjoyed the benefits of suppressing public health statistics as to gun deaths.

Our Clerk concluded that we need more silence and suggested a threshing session on this issue also. Friends

approved this ongoing effort.

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

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HOW TO SUBMIT

NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Items in RED are new information as of March 2017

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by end of day the Monday after Meeting for Business.
- 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>~~
- The Announce and Discuss Email Lists have been replaced with AFMAnnounce at GoogleGroups. Please email announcements to afm-announce@googlegroups.com. If you need to be added to the GoogleGroup, please email Doug at afmeeting34@gmail.com or send a request to join by visiting <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/afm-announce>

CONTACT INFORMATION

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

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Telephone: 410-573-0364

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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)

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Attachments:

Sacred Chant & Dance Workshop

Sunday, June 11, 2017

Annapolis Friends Meeting, 351 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD

9:00 –10:45 am in Multipurpose Room



Michael Mansfield, who teaches in Berkeley, California, is a gifted professional in theater and dance. He will lead us in a “playshop” to introduce us to body prayer, sacred circle dance and chant. It will be an excellent opportunity for both beginners and more experienced dancers

to better understand and enjoy this enriching and wholesome spiritual practice. A master teacher, Michael will guide us step by step as well as provide us with beautiful accompaniment on his guitar.

Michael holds a BA in Philosophy, English and Theater, Master of Divinity in Ritual and the Arts, MFA in Acting, and Doctor of Ministry in Social Justice and the Arts.



Free of charge. Children are especially welcome. Please RSVP to Sylvia:
saoliva44@comcast.net or **410-224-6708**

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