

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – JULY 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.
- 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

JULY 2: 9-10:45 Meeting for Business; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 6:30-8:30 William Penn House Potluck

JULY 3: 9pm Newsletter Items Due

JULY 4: 7-8pm North County Mid-Week Meeting

JULY 8: 2-4pm Working Group on Deconstructing Racism

JULY 9: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45 Meeting for Learning TBA; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2pm Friends Writing Together

JULY 13: 2:30-4pm Spiritual Friendship Group; 7-9pm Organizational Meeting hosted by Climate Stewards

JULY 16: 9:15-10:45 Most Committees Meet; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30pm Committees: CREC

JULY 20: 7-9pm CSGA Outreach Committee

JULY 23: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45 Meeting for Learning: Spiritual Leadings/Practices; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30pm Potluck

JULY 30: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45 Meeting for Learning: Outreach Sharing; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2pm Committee Clerks Meeting

JULY 31-AUGUST 6: BYM Annual Session

AUGUST 1: 7-9pm Green Team Meeting; 7-8pm North County Mid-Week Meeting

AUGUST 6: Meeting for Business Cancelled; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 6:30-8:30 Wm Penn House Potluck

AUGUST 7: 5pm Newsletter Items Due

AUGUST 10: 2:30-4 Spiritual Friendship Group

AUGUST 12: 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 SEVENTH MONTH: *Personal Spiritual Life*

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn?

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

[Meetings for Learning](#)

[Thinking About Race](#)

[Meeting For Business Minutes July 2017](#)

[Additional Documents and Reports](#)

[Guidelines for Submission to this Newsletter \(Changes as of March 2017!\)](#)

Meetings for Learning:

Generally 2nd and 4th First-Days 9:15-10:45am

July 9th TBA

July 23rd Spiritual Leadings and Practices

July 30th (5th First Day) Outreach Committee Worship Sharing

We will gather in the Meeting Room at 9:15 to regard our spiritual life by considering one or two given queries and then sharing deeply, within the "sacred space" of the group. Guidelines for Worship Sharing will be passed out and reviewed prior to beginning. We hope you will join us for this opportunity to share.

Our topic will be-

What are your (developing) spiritual gifts or leadings?

What is your spiritual practice that supports you and your leading?

Questions? Call Lee

[443-676-5393](tel:443-676-5393)

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Thinking About Race

Black and Proud. Even if Strangers Can't Tell, by Rebecca Carroll, New York Times, April 3, 2017

"Being black in America has historically been determined by whether or not you look black to nonblack people. This keeps racism operational. Brown and black skin in this country can invite a broad and freewheeling range of bad

behavior — from job discrimination to a child being shot dead in the street. For my son, though, being black in America is about more than his skin color. It's about power, confidence, culture and belonging.

"When my son first started to black identify at about 5 or 6 years old, an acquaintance of ours asked my husband, in my presence, if he felt like we were 'depriving' our son of his 'white side.' My husband, a sociology professor and the author of two books on the failure of housing and school desegregation in the United States, said: 'If my parents had instilled any Italian culture in me, I might want to share that with my son. But if you're talking about general whiteness, there's nothing there to pass down.'

"This acquaintance, it seemed, was suggesting that by encouraging our son to embrace his blackness, we were depriving him of something bigger and greater than the already big and great benefit of white privilege. That my son sees more power in centering his blackness over exploiting whatever white privilege he may ultimately be afforded is a thing of glory."

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

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

Present were: Wes J. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), Peter M., Nan & Sky E., Cairn K., Phyllis S., Mary B., Wade L., Francis W., Ellen M., Will & Margaret C., Tom W., Pat E., Lee L., Elise A., Martha B., Jackie P., Ruth S., Bob B., Kim F., Cheryl G., Mary D., and Dot W.

Opening – We began with centering worship. Our clerk welcomed Friends and invited us to hold our lengthy agenda in the light.

1. Meeting activities in the past month – A visit from Julia Harlow of Friends House – Moscow, a memorial celebration for Beth Vernon, a “thank you” lunch program and skit honoring Pat Schenck as she prepares to move, a CSGA movie night, and this summer’s Dayspring Silent Retreat.

2. Upcoming calendar items and notes – Our clerk offered this list: (All locations are at Annapolis Friends Meeting House unless otherwise indicated). For more details, see our calendar on the web-site which is continually updated, the posted calendar outside the office (updated less frequently), and specifically addressed Announce List emails.)

- *Care of Meetinghouse for July: Ministry & Worship Committee*
- *2nd/4th/(5th) Sun 8am - Early Meeting for Worship (MfW)*
- *7/3Mo Deadline for Submission of Items for the July Newsletter*
- *7/3-7 AFM Hosts several Saudi Visitors along with Sam Shropshire*
- *7/4Tu(confirm?) 7pm – First Week Midweek Worship in North County*
- *7/8Sa 2pm Deconstructing Racism Discussion Group, 3pm SURJ Planning (MPR)*
- *7/9Su 9:15am Meeting for Learning (MfL), 12pm Poetry&Writer’s Group*
- *7/13Th 7pm Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA) Bus Mtg*

- 7/16Su most Committees meet this day
- 7/20Th 7pm CSGA Outreach Mtg
- 7/23Su 9:15am Worship Sharing (*Spiritual Leadings and Spiritual Practices*), 12:30pm Potluck [N.B. this is the last potluck before we resume our Potluck on First Day, 9/3/17, after MfB/MfW]
- 7/30Su 12:30pm AFM Committee Clerks Meeting (all welcome)
- 7/31 BYM Annual Sessions begin at Hood College in Frederick, Md.

3. annapolisfriends.org – Wes reported that we are experimenting with a new webpage host, in light of problems with the prior host. It should look much like the old page. If Friends see problems, please tell Wes or Sheryl.
4. Minute of Appreciation for Patience Schenck – Wes offered a minute in appreciation of Patience Schenck and a short recount of her role in AFM history (attached) as Pat prepares to move from her Annapolis home to Friends House. Friends approve this minute.
5. BYM Meeting Statistics (Diversity) Survey Status Report – Ellen reported, as a result of an AFM threshing session, proposed forms have been prepared (attached) for use by Friends and attenders to complete an optional BYM demographic survey, either online or on paper. With minor modifications to be completed, Friends approved using this survey and sending the data to BYM while keeping individuals' names confidential.
6. Committee clerks meeting – Wes reminded clerks and other Friends of a committee clerks' meeting on July 30 after MfW. Scheduling of MfB and other items will be discussed.
7. BLM banner and racial justice threshing report – Phil read a written report (attached) on our recent “Black Lives Matter” banner threshing. One Friend commented that she enjoys seeing the banner; another suggested rotating a variety of related signs. Yet another suggested that our actions need to include an ongoing meeting-wide process. that we need more specificity in our plans, such as maintaining the banner through September, then asking the ad hoc committee to bring back ongoing recommendations such as installing a new banner and other actions. *Friends agreed to create an ad hoc committee under the care of Peace & Social Concerns Committee, requesting this group to report back to MfB in September or October.* (Preliminarily, volunteers for the ad hoc committee include Phil C., Martha B., Lee L., Sheryl G., Jackie P., Margaret C., Mary B., Mary D., Wes J. and Cairn K.
8. Ministry & Worship items (partial list) – For M&W, Tom reported various items but, with short time, other items will be carried over until September. Reports included:
 - a) Ellen McBride's Clearness Committee recommended her for membership. Recalling her three years as an attender, Ellen thanked Friends for the clearness process and said she eagerly looks forward to deeper involvement with Meeting. Friends joyfully approved Ellen's membership.
 - b) Tom offered a chart of nine more applications pending for AFM membership with one Clearness Committee still to be formed. We also enjoyed discussion of familial memberships in relation to the Benson family. Friends commended M&W and the clearness committees on the challenges handling this many simultaneous requests.
 - c) Tom also distributed AFM's annual Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, compiling Friends various comments and distilling these to a single page (attached). Friends approved this report, thanked the M&W for its care and diligence in the report preparation, and confirmed we will send this report to BYM.
 - d) Tom also offered a statement of M&W's intended and actual functions. We agreed to continue discussion of this at our pending Clerks' meeting later this month.
9. Meetinghouse and Land (MHL) items (partial list) – For MHL, Kim reported the committee's recommendation for AFM to increase our building user fees, to be made effective 1/1/2018. MHL suggests

raising Meeting House outside-user fees for the first time in 2015 by about 10% in light of our expenses for installing various new amenities, before our new BUC sends out renewal contracts this fall. She noted that AFM room rental rates are significantly lower than those commonly charged for other churches' rental, but charging below-market rates is an important community service. (As a side note, we plan to translate our rental-related document into Spanish for the increasing number of Latino-group users.) After discussion, Friends approved these user fee hikes.

10. Next MfB plans – Our clerk noted that our next MfB will be held on 9/3/17. We will begin with carried-over items from M&W and MHL not reached today. In the meantime, committees may choose to send out information-only items on the AFM announce list.

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

These minutes respectfully submitted – P. Caroom, Recording Clerk

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Additional Documents and Reports:

Meetinghouse and Lands Agenda Items:

Facility/Building Use Coordinator Items

- A. **Increase of User Fees in 2018 (Proposal attached):** For the first time since January of 2015, MHL is recommending that the user fees for the meetinghouse be increased by approximately 10% beginning January 1, 2018. We have made numerous improvements to our equipment and facilities, which support a minor increase in our low user fees. The use of the meetinghouse has stabilized under the able guidance of our current BUC, and now seems a good time to implement a recommended 10% increase. The proposed rates are shown on the attached sheet. We are asking for this increase so we can notify all long-term renters about the increase when we send out notice about setting up contracts for 2018.
- B. **Scheduling Events and Meeting for 2018:** Although 2018 seems a long way off, the community is encouraged to identify their needs for building use, and ask for them to be placed on the calendar for regularly schedule meetings in the coming year. This assists our BUCs to assure priority use of the building to community use in advance of contracts to long-term renters.
- C: **Evolution of BUC duties and new “co-BUC”:** We are very grateful to Carol Brantley who has served as our Building Use Coordinator since July of 2015, and to her predecessors who have filled this role so well. Carol had previously informed us that she wanted to step away from the role in July 2017, and we have been seeking a replacement. Sheryl Grier, a newer member of our community with many valuable skills has stepped forward and offered to provide administrative and technological support to the BUC functions. Because Sheryl's residence is about 25 miles distance from Annapolis, Carol and others will continue to “show” the building as needed.

- D. **Expanding User Base for the Meetinghouse:** We have a busy schedule of use in our meeting house which is evident from our calendar, with a broad variety of activities, both internally and externally led. We continue to seek daytime-weekday user groups to fill available times, but do not actively market the building except through word-of-mouth and on our website. We have traditionally had a significant use by African-american groups, but have seen an increase in Hispanic users. It has been suggested that we have some of our standard documents translated into Spanish for expanding user group
- E. **“Meeting for Eating (Potluck)” Coordinator:** See attached Job description for discussion.
- F. **New Donations/Sharing Center:** In order to reduce a problem we have been having with clutter in the meetinghouse, we have a new donations center, which will be ready for fall school drive, jar drive, etc. The goal is to gather items which are being donated for various worthy cause keep from being “left” in the hallway, the office, or other spots. Under the two benches at the end of the hall there are six bins which can be used for this purpose. One of the bins will be labeled as “Friends Exchange.” This will be for any item that you leave at the meeting house for another individual in the Community – no more “I’ll leave it in the office.” The other bins will be labeled for a specific purposes, and monitored by the requestor. There will be two bulletin boards posted over the donation center where additional information can be requested about the specific requests. We can add smaller bins to the system to accommodate items such as stamps, or calendars as needed. In this way we hope to more quickly route generous donations to their intended user and purpose.

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Report on Black Lives Matter Banner Threshing Session:

Several Friends (Wes clerking, Ann R., Cairn K., Carol B., Marcia O., Martha B., Mary B., Mary D., Pat S., Phil C., Sky E.) met for threshing as to our “Black Lives Matter” banner and related concerns. We recalled that, with a threshing, we seek to gather and consider many ideas whether or not unity is reached.

We agreed that replacing the banner (as we already have done) is appropriate so that it will be AFM’s decision to make any change for good reasons, rather than a stranger’s action in the night for, we suspect, negative reasons.

We also shared the concern that Friends should not rest only with habitual display of mere words on any banner, but should continue discussions and discernment to see if and how Friends may be lead further as to act to counter racism generally and various dimensions of discrimination against African-Americans particularly.

This concern, ***in process***, could be pursued via renewed threshing sessions, an new ad hoc committee, a new Peace & Justice Center project, or a Peace & Social Concerns subcommittee.

This concern, ***in substance***, perhaps could progress via one or more steps, such as:

-writing a minute, specific queries, or both to bring clearer focus to our Equality Testimony in the context of specific, current race problems we recognize;

-communicating with impacted communities, individuals, and groups such as our neighbors at St.Philips Episcopal, other African-American churches and community organizations to test our leadings;

-sharing community education programs on topics such as racist micro-aggression, white privilege, economic justice, as well as de facto discrimination in areas such as criminal justice, employment, housing, environmental impacts, etc.

One Friend reminded us of AFM's affirmative action policy, adopted many years ago, of hiring with attention to affirmative action, whether it is someone to audit our accounts, to cut the grass, or to fix the plumbing.

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The Annapolis Friends Meeting: An Appreciative Minute in Honor of Patience Schenck

Let us say that however we try to express our love and appreciation for Pat Schenck we will embarrass her. Everyone who has had the privilege of knowing Pat over the years knows first how driven and committed and utterly self-effacing she is; she only wants to be known for her commitment to Quaker testimonies, as an activist for social and racial justice, and as a warrior for peace. She wants only to be known for what she does, but also doesn't want to be reminded of it. She seeks no glory, but has glorified us all by her steadfast and unwavering commitment to making our Annapolis Friends Meeting the spiritual home we love, the very real home it is to all of us. She is our Meeting mother, our closest Friend. Pat goes back to a time when this meeting was the gleam and vision in many younger eyes, many now departed from us. But in Pat's eyes and actions we see that gleam continuing to reflect and drive us to a continuing revelation of our better angels to the world.

A record of Pat's involvement in this Meeting and throughout BYM and many other Quaker institutions is so long and varied that it requires the memories of many to record even a portion of the many roles Pat has taken on for our betterment and benefit. Her more than fifty year history with Annapolis Friends has been done elsewhere and recently and is available, so we'll not belabor all here with another telling of it, although it is well worth knowing and contemplating. Therein is the story of a life spent in service to us all.

Now we celebrate Pat's hard arrived at decision to leave us in proximity to take up residence at Sandy Spring Friends Home. Nevertheless we know she is and always will be an indispensable part of this Meeting, in the deep and thriving part in each of us. This isn't a farewell. We implore her to return with us as frequently as she can. But this is a fondest send-off as she enters this next phase in her life. And while tears are perhaps unavoidable as we contemplate Annapolis Friends without her remarkable and steady and loving presence, she will always be near, among us in our minds, in our hearts, and in the Light that we all strive to share in the world. Thank you dear Friend, dearest Pat. You go with our love.

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A Short History of Patience Schenck at Annapolis Friends Meeting

Pat has Quaker ancestors, including her great grandmother for whom she was named Patience, but Pat did not become a Quaker herself until she arrived in Annapolis in the 1960s. Because of her earliest involvement with Friends Meeting in Annapolis, she has become our de facto historian whose memory tells our story. Pat believes Annapolis Friends Meeting began in our area in about 1963 although her earliest memories of her attending AFM began in a classroom at St John's College and at several early Friends' homes in early 1966. Subsequent Meeting gatherings took place at varied locations: the YWCA on State Circle, the chapel at Crownsville State Hospital, a return to the YWCA, and a number of years at the Eastport Baptist Church, before we arrived at our present DuBois Road home in 1993. Pat was Clerk of Meeting of AFM from 2000 through 2002. In 2003 she began our Outreach Committee which she clerked from 2004 through 2007, and again from 2012 through 2015. During these years she initiated many practices in order to help new attenders feel more welcomed in our community including having greeters at our doors and inviting new attenders to contribute their visitor information form enabling a more formal welcome from Outreach committee member. Pat began Visitor Sundays before Meeting for Worship, to give a short overview of Quakerism and AFM for friends and family of our community, and various luncheon programs to introduce AFM as a place welcoming of a diverse cross section of our society.

Pat served in many other capacities in Meeting: she was on the former Ministry and Oversight Committee, Pastoral Care, Ministry and Worship, Nominating Committee, and Trustees, often serving as Clerk of Committee in those roles.

Pat helped begin the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism which she continues to attend, as well as our own continuing Deconstructing Racism Discussion Group. She has been an active participant with our own Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), serving as chair of the Communications Committee, working assiduously to bring The Justice Reinvestment Act to fruition in the Maryland Legislature in April of 2016. In addition her work with AFM and BYM, many years ago, Pat taught Re-Evaluation Counseling, training many people in the Annapolis community to listen attentively to one another. She has served on the Annapolis Human Relations Council, and this year Pat was recognized by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Awards Committee in Anne Arundel County as the well-deserved recipient of their Peace Maker Award.

Racial justice has been her long time passion, and following this leading she has led workshops throughout BYM, at Annual Session and at meetings of the Friends' General Conference. She has authored 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 has also had articles published in Friends Journal through the years.

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Annapolis Friends Meeting: Spiritual State of the Meeting 2017

Meeting for Worship is our spiritual center. Friends value the opportunity to settle into silence, to listen to Spirit, to pray, and to meditate. In silent worship, we grow as individuals and as a community.

One Friend said: "Meeting for Worship is the center from which all of our activities and activism comes. Worship gives us space to remember that we are not everything and beyond us is eternity and spirit. It is a challenge to live in that idea and at least for an hour we have an opportunity try".

Activities and activism rise from the spiritual center of worship.

As one Friend put it, *"having grounding in this spiritual home is necessary for me to do the work that I am called to do".*

We find great joy in working together in meetings-for-learning, clearness committees, small "friendship meetings", and in groups for meditation and for poetry. "We are a gathering that seeks to know." We "have the greatest conversations together". Annapolis Friends Meeting is active in reaching beyond our meeting to work for the climate and our environment, for justice and for deconstructing racism. Friends appreciate the "spiritual hospitality" of the meeting, which allows us to confront both personal and social issues.

Another Friend said: "When I came through the door 2 ½ years ago, I came looking for friends and I have found them. There are so many mentors here, in so many fields. Talking with them helps to show me the way."

We face several challenges as a meeting. How can we "take on the work of the meeting without it becoming just another thing on the 'to do' list?" Are we involved in so many things that our efforts may get diluted? How do we engage and support newcomers? How can we become more racially diverse? How can we remind ourselves that differences in vocal ministry reflect the different way that Spirit speaks to different individuals? How can we encourage more young adults and families to attend: where is the next generation? It has always been a joy to work with children at AFM and we are so proud of those who grew up in our meeting. We have a wonderful First Day School program but now only a few children. We are laboring with these ongoing concerns.

We feel blessed to be part of a vibrant meeting with a deep spiritual center. As we grow together reach out from that center, we face the fundamental challenge "There is so much noise in our society, how do we make the silence louder than the noise?"

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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 is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to her at 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>

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