

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2018 WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF THE NEW YEAR!

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

JANUARY 2: 7-9pm Green Team;
JANUARY 3: 7-9pm Communications/Lobbying/Networking Committees Joint Meeting; 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
JANUARY 7: 9-10:45 Meeting for Business; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30pm Potluck; 6:30-8:30 William Penn House Potluck
JANUARY 8: Newsletter items due by 5pm
JANUARY 10: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
JANUARY 11: 2:30-4pm Spiritual Friendship
JANUARY 12: 7-9pm CSGA Movie: Wasted! The Story of Food Waste
JANUARY 13: 2-4pm Working Group on Deconstructing Racism
JANUARY 14: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-11am Meeting for Learning: Drinking Water for the Meeting; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2pm Poetry Group & Writers Gathering
JANUARY 17: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
JANUARY 18: 7-9pm Business Meeting
JANUARY 21: 9:15-10:45am Most Committees Meet; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30pm-2pm AFM Ad Hoc Committee; 12:30-1:30pm Committees: CREC;
JANUARY 22: 7-10:30pm FCNL Advocacy Team training
JANUARY 24: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
JANUARY 25: 7-9pm CSGA Speaker – Representative Sarbanes
JANUARY 26-28: BYM Women's Retreat
JANUARY 28: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45am Meeting for Learning: Alternatives to Violence Project; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship
JANUARY 31: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
FEBRUARY 4: 9-10:45 Meeting for Business; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30pm Potluck; 6:30-8:30 William Penn House Potluck
FEBRUARY 5: Newsletter items due by 5pm
FEBRUARY 6: 7-9pm Green Team
FEBRUARY 7: 7:30-9pm Meditation Group
FEBRUARY 8: 2:30-4pm Spiritual Friendship; 7-9pm CSGA Business Meeting
FEBRUARY 9-11: All Day Dayspring Silent Retreat
FEBRUARY 9: 7-9pm CSGA Movie Night "Tomorrow"
FEBRUARY 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 FIRST MONTH: Caring for Others

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and economic condition? In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

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

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[New Information About Room Reservations](#)

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Meetings for Learning:

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

January 14: Drinking Water For the Meeting

January 28: Introduction to Alternatives to Violence

February 11: TBA

February 25: TBA

March 11: Sacred Dance and Chant

March 25: Green Team: Eat 'Em As Long As You Can

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New Information About Room Reservations

Mary Barbera is managing **room reservation for the AFM activities** (that is, any Meeting, committee activities and/or use by us including all groups where there no expectation of remunerations such as MAJR, CSGA).

If you need to reserve space, please check the calendar on our AFM website for availability first, then contact Mary at afmeeting@yahoo.com with a request to schedule space. Be sure to **include the name, date, time and preferred building location** (e.g., classroom) for the event. It is possible to include a short description as well.

To make the calendar useful as an information source, please be sure to think about information or details that might be useful to add to the calendar to inform our AFM community. For example, although Meeting for Learning is listed on 2nd and 4th Sundays, Ministry and Worship provides the topics to Mary so that people know what the topic is on a particular week.

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Thinking About Race

Thinking About Race – (January 2018) Tears we Cannot Stop

Professor and author Michael Eric Dyson, in *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* (2017), in preaching mode, addresses the reader directly as “Beloved.” Excerpts from Chapter 5 “Our Own Worst Enemy.”

“Beloved, why is it that every time black folk talk about how poorly the cops treat us you say that we should focus instead on how we slaughter each other in the streets every day? ... You do not bring this up because you’re genuinely concerned. You want to win points in debates. You want to avoid any responsibility for how traumatized our communities are. You want to hide from the horror of cops mowing us down like we’re animals. (p. 143)

“Beloved, what you see happening among us is not best understood as black-on-black crime. Rather it is neighbor-to-neighbor crime. ... You are right, however, about those proportions. Ninety-three percent of black folk who are killed are killed by other black folk. But 84 percent of white folks who are killed are killed by other white folks. ... Where’s the white-on-white crime rhetoric? Where are the rants against white folk ruining white culture with their murderous ways?

“White folk commit the bulk of the crimes in our nation. And, beloved, it might surprise you that white folk commit the most violent crimes too. ... White folk consistently lead all other groups in aggravated assault, larceny, illegal weapons possession, arson, and vandalism. [Other statistics follow.] The white-on-white mayhem is profound, yet no one speaks of it in racial terms.” (pp. 148-149)

To get involved in community education or advocacy, contact Indian Affairs Committee Clerk Sara Horsfall (Patapsco) at [817-875-4016](tel:817-875-4016) shorsfall99@hotmail.com or Pat Powers (Sandy Spring) at [301-460-4939](tel:301-460-4939) patricia_r_powers@yahoo.com.

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 Working Group on Racism and the Indian Affairs Committee are sharing this space this month, in order to reach as many local meetings as possible, and to recognize November as National Native American Month.

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, pat.schenck3227@gmail.com.

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CSGA January Events

Please join the Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA) on January 12 to view and discuss the film Wasted!: The Story of Food Waste. An announcement is on our website: <https://www.csgannapolis.org/wasted> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/104688256989135/>

Also, on January 25 the CSGA will welcome Maryland Healthcare for All in cooperation with Representative John Sarbanes to discuss the Medicaid program. The CSGA understands climate change is one of the top public health challenges of our time. At this event, we will award Rep. Sarbanes a certificate of appreciation for his commitment to action on climate change. An announcement is on our website: <https://www.csgannapolis.org/medicaid> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1972019059739503/>

PDF flyers for these events are attached to this email, or posted separately on the website, thank you!

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Sacred Dance and Chant

Sacred Dancing, Chanting on an early Snowy Morning

At 9:15, music of acoustic guitar and African drums beckoned Friends into our warm and lovely worship room, while through its windows snow-covered trees listened and glistened in the sun.

Out of our circle of stillness and silence we gave voice and sway to Rumi's beautiful: "Come, come whoever you are, / Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving, / Ours is no caravan of despair. / Come, yet again, come!" -- Reminders to me that in this time of uncertainty, fear, bigotry, and injustice, we need always, always to hope, to know we are strong together, refusing to fall into despair . . . and to not cease singing and dancing! (Just as Dotty ceases not to share with us her exquisite photos of birds and lemurs, fish, flowers, corals, and kids!)

We chanted and drummed for Mother Earth, and I was inspired to look for her beauty in big and small places, and to love and take better care of her.

We grasped hands in our circle and spiraled in and out: "We are the weavers; we are the woven ones./ We are the dreamers; we are the dream."

With our bodies and hearts we prayed for peace, light, and love. And at the end we "whooped it up" with "We are walking in the light of God," a Zulu hymn from South Africa which we are learning in different languages.

Come join us next time, on March 11, 2018. Don't feel you have to stand a lot or dance or even sing. Simply your presence is welcome and loved. "Come, come, whoever you are."



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**Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
First Month, Seventh Day, 2018 (1/7/18)**

Present were: Wes J. (clerking), Phil C. (recording clerk), Nan, Karen C., Wade L., Ellen M., Peter M., Bob B., Jeanne, Carl & Kim B., Pat S., Jennifer D-L, Barb T., Ann R., Annie S., Sue P., Kim F., Pat E., Sky & Nan E., Cairn K., Mary B., Carol B., Ruth S., Martha L., Patty R., Bill K., Will C., Elise A., Marcia O., Diane E., Carl R., and Jack L.

Opening – We began with centering worship. Our clerk congratulated Friends on attending MfB despite the extreme cold and apologized for his cough drops in progress.

AFM calendars & short items - In recognition of recent work by Outreach on AFM's calendars, our clerk skipped an item-by-item review of last month's and the coming month's Meeting activities. However, he previewed two events: 1) AFM committee clerks will meet in Feb. on a date t/b/d—other Friends are invited to join to brainstorm plans for the coming year; and 2) BYM committee clerks will meet on a spring date t/b/d at AFM with hospitality to be provided by us.

2017 Holiday Market – Cairn reported that our Sat., 12/2/17 Holiday Market brought opportunities for community building and outreach, plus increased community awareness as to electric vehicles and other worthy causes. Proceeds totaled \$7,083, with \$250 allocated for our Young Friends' discernment process, \$3,416.50 for Orphan Grain Train's hurricane relief work in Puerto Rico, and \$1,708.25 each for Wellness House of Annapolis and Wamama Wa Sanaa, our Kenyan widows self-support group. A donation of Tent of Nations olive oil and related products also helped boost Market proceeds. Leftovers were leveraged to benefit a variety of causes, including: holiday families AFM is supporting this year, a project providing books for children of incarcerated mothers, Eastport Elementary's holiday shop, the Immigration Justice Network, Orphan Grain Train, and Good Will. Over \$600 was brought in for Fahima Gaheez's Afghan Women's Fund money to help build another school for girls both during and, through work of Ruth S., after Holiday Market. Three more pashmina shawls that did not sell on Market day still are available from Ruth. On behalf of the Market Committee, many thanks to all who helped make Quaker Holiday Market 2017 possible and special.

CY17 Pre-Final Treasurer's Report – Sue reported that, with a surge of individual donations, AFM will have a year-end surplus of approximately \$5,000. Friends are asked to email any suggestions for use of this surplus to Phil C. as clerk for S&F which will compile and report these for consideration at our February MfB.

For AFM's Green Team, Carl read the proposed 2018 Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative & urged AFM to join BYM & several monthly meetings in endorsing this measure to raise the state's energy policy mandate from 25% to 50% renewable energy by 2030 as well as related measures. After discussion, Friends approved.

AFM Building Use Coordinators (BUCs) Carol B. and Sheryl G. reported & demonstrated our new online, digital calendaring & BUC rental agreement system. This almost-free, open-source Word-Press system has been set up by Carol & Sheryl with assistance from various other Friends ("it took a village") via lots of time & energy spent over the past year & it will have a three-part phase-in.

Effective this week, phase 1 adds new webpage photos & slideshows displaying Meeting House rooms & other features, lists of available equipment, and a rental price-list. These new, interactive webpages may reduce or eliminate the need for time-consuming email & in-person tours by enabling prospective renters to view the facility & sign rental agreements online, thus greatly simplifying the administrative burdens on our BUC-persons and making a paperless-system possible with confirmed agreements promised within 48 hours. The system also generates periodic reminders for prospective renters who have not signed an agreement. And, the system permits prospective renters & Friends to check room availability on a unified calendar online; but the system also permits other BUC record-keeping to be password protected & available only within the system.

One Friend raised the question- does the system permits BUC-persons to put a room on-hold pending confirmed rental? It does permit our BUCs to do this.

Friends were completely awed & heartily thanked Carol & Sheryl for their careful & thorough preparation of the new system! Nan

reminded Friends of Careen’s “build-it and they will come” prophecy, observing that our early vision of a Meeting House continually busy & serving our community is coming to pass.

Phase 2 will involve tracking rentals, for example with filters to zero-in on particular users & links to individual documents, as well as greater online-marketing presence, reminders after agreements are signed, instructions for equipment use, bilingual Spanish content & contracts, more diverse photos of Friends & other users, etc. This is hoped for within a few months or, in any event, by the end of 2018.

Phase 3 is planned to connect these programs with AFM’s financial system, our Treasurer & S&F to enable online donations & deposits.

Relatedly, our Outreach Committee hopes to generally re-design AFM’s entire website, eventually including online inventory & checkouts of Meeting’s library, our FaceBook page, etc. Interested Friends are encouraged to contact Sheryl to volunteer for this effort – no experience is required. One Friend noted that FaceBook and other social media may be indispensable to get the attention & involvement of younger prospective attenders, recounting that a younger family member has stated, “If an organization does not have interactive social media online, she is not interested and assumes the group is stagnant with only older members.”

For AFM’s Building for the Future (BFF) Ad Hoc Committee, Kim F. noted that it was 1/6/87—30 years ago—when Meeting completed its purchase of our current land. She noted that, over the past couple of years, AFM has been a vibrant, active meeting, using and sharing our Meeting House space very well. Now, there is competition to find meeting times and spaces because we are so busy; Friends agreed, noting that we have needed to borrow space from our Unitarian neighbors repeatedly in the past year. Our BUCs pointed out that most building use is by AFM members and for our leadings. Kim invited Friends’ input as to whether we are ready to continue the concept & design plans for a possible phase 2 of the Meeting House; she also noted that Evan Lippincott will return to visit AFM next week, although he already has provided all work requested of him so far.

One Friend reported the experience of a millennial church in another state of using members’ own labor to build a series of “tiny houses” on their property; another reported that Friends’ personal work in some meetings have caused stress & that Friends’ national & international organizations, as well as disadvantaged U.S. communities are undergoing financial crisis, such that Friends should remember these need as the same time we consider local growth. Yet another Friend urged that we review whether the contemplated expanded worship room and classrooms address current needs; another recalled that AFM’s experience in construction many years ago was not so stressful. Friends are in unity that we should reinvigorate the BFF Ad Hoc Committee and convene to foster further discussion on these and related issues. We are grateful that Kim will coordinate this activity.

A closing comment: Bob B. invited Friends to look around at AFM’s property appreciating the resources we have. He also noted that, in support of an upcoming rally on the opening day of the legislative session this week for the 2018 Md.Clean Energy Jobs bill, Friends with EVs are invited to join an “EV-parade” around the State House.

- These minutes respectfully submitted – P. Caroom, Recording Clerk

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HOW TO SUBMIT

NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by end of day the Monday after Meeting for Business.
- o 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 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

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