

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)  
First Month, Fifth Day, 2024 (1/5/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Karen Cunnynham, Jack Lahr, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Martha Lurz, Kathleen Hudson, Mary Pratt, Martha Baer, Barb Thomas, Ben Kilgore, Jack Hogsten, Marjorie Kehoe, Jean Christianson, Nancy Jo Steetle, Fahima Gaheez, Ann Riggs, Marcia Ormsby, Margaret Holmes, Alison Barrett, Judy Brown, Patty Robinson, Dot Walizer, Minette Clarke-Swindel, Cairn Krafft, Jeanne Ward, Larry McNeely, Kim Finch, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Ani Warneka, Steven Poe, and Pat Schenck.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM's) Faith and Practice queries as to meeting for worship, as well as a review of our AFM anti-racist queries.

Our Clerk, beginning her term in the new year, thanked prior Clerks for the foundation and Friends for their centeredness and support, also reviewing best practices in relation to our OWL system for remote participation by Friends unable to be physically present. (See attached remarks.)

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee (PSC), Margaret Holmes reported that the Committee recommends Friends' approval of the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC's) Anti-Apartheid Gaza Pledge (see attached). After discussion, Friends approved this pledge. One Friend urged caution in pursuing boycott, divestiture, sanctions efforts that might possibly adversely impact Palestinians. PSC will study this issue and will bring other recommendations to MfB.

For Quaker Market Committee (QM), Cairn reported and expressed deep gratitude to all who contributed their gifts and light to AFM's 2024 Quaker Holiday Market efforts. Gifts visible and intangible played a role and were greatly appreciated by our own community. Our many outside shoppers (47% newly-arrived according to Committee's inquiry) also supported our actions with Quaker values and testimonies. Quaker Holiday Market 2024 raised \$8,410 for distribution to beneficiaries. Of these total net proceeds, \$250 will be reserved for discernment by Young Friends, and \$2,040 will be awarded to each of the four causes approved at meeting for worship with attention to business (Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF), and Operation Warm for the external 75%, plus FWCC Climate Emergency Fund for the Internal 25%. These 75/25 percentage guidelines were approved by MfB in 2005. (An excerpt from our 10/2/25 MfB minutes also is attached.) Friends are encouraged to mark their calendars for Quaker Spring Market 2025 on 05/03/2025, and to start thinking about possible beneficiaries. Friends thanked Cairn and all who participated in this semi-annual, community-building event! (See the full QM report also attached.)

One Friend urged that PSC should help Friends review the rules that have been built by Quaker Market in recent years to see if there are ways that the Market could serve Meeting still better. Another Friend noted that we are moved by continuing revelation. Friends approved the plan for PSC to review Quaker Market guidelines and to bring any recommendations back to MfB.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC), Martha Baer reported on the 2024 Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) date and plans to review the progress of our Meeting over the past year. BYM asks that local meetings return our reports by April. AFM traditionally does this by making one of our meetings for worship to a worship-sharing to respond to SSOM queries; MPC also suggested that this should be

held on 2/16/25 and that, if spirit leads us, we might permit this process to run a little later, perhaps until 12:30 p.m. Friends initially approved this concept.

One Friend requested that written queries be sent for those who are unable to attend in person or who might be uncomfortable with sharing in person. Another Friend noted a conflict on this date with Dayspring retreat. Another suggested inserting the sharing between early and late Meeting to make the process more accessible for participants in early meeting. Another expressed concern that a new attender might be confused about Quaker process and not feel engaged with prior year's concerns. MPC will consider these concerns and will return to MfB in February with a revised recommendation.

Martha also reported that AFM will hold a memorial service for Lynada Johnson on 1/11/25, at 1 p.m. She also shared a draft [Memorial Minute](#) (attached). Friends approved this beautifully-written minute with minor tweaks.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr requested approval of an extension until 2/2/25 our 2025 budget with ongoing expenditures authorized in the meantime. Preliminarily, S&F reports that "we are doing great" with donations and rentals above projections and committee expenditures below projections. Friends approved this extension for final budget approval; one Friend is recorded as standing aside.

We also heard various announcements & updates:

- Committee Clerks' Meeting will meet on January 12 at 9:15 am and other Friends are invited to participate.
- For Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee, Margaret offered more updates on Holiday Sharing (with great thanks to Friends for all our donations in support of 4 families with 18 children), Winter Relief (the spreadsheet of remaining openings will be re-posted on AFM announce), and Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) - (noting an advocacy training on 1/23/25 for two later advocacy days as to ACT's four top 2025 legislative priorities), Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM), and Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE program).
- Another Friend urged us to support next week's 1/15/25 MLK dinner at Hanover, Md. For more information, friends can contact Marcia Ormsby.

Running out of time, Friends agreed to consider as "silent announcements" other items that previously were sent by email. [Recording clerk's note: These additional announcement include the following:

- AFM will hold a Memorial Meeting for Jim Hall (life partner of Mary Dadone) on Saturday, 1/24/25, 2 pm.
- Friends also are reminded that our meetings for learning titled "Quaker Foundations: Seeker Series" will begin on 1/26/25. The complete schedule is attached to these minutes.

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

ATTACHMENT:

**Quaker Foundations: the Seekers' Series schedule**

**1. Introduction To Quaker Faith And Practice** — Jan 26 Elise Albert/Margaret Holmes  
*Discussion of the foundation of Quaker faith and spiritual practice and the Quaker concept of divinity (The Light, the Inner Teacher, the Christ within, continuing revelation).*

Query: *What brought you to Quakerism? What keeps you coming?*

**2. Quaker Faith, Testimonies, and Social Justice** - Feb. 9 Jenny Isaacs/Martha Baer

*How do our beliefs translate to our actions in the world?*

*Queries: Have you been inspired by your faith or your beliefs to be engaged in any social justice actions? If so, how does your faith sustain you? Which testimony feels most challenging in your life now?*

**3. Quaker Christianity And Quaker Universalism** - Feb. 23 Phil Caroom/Judy Brown

*Many people ask if Quakers are Christian. Quaker faith and practice arose in a Christian context, and yet many of the beliefs and practices are relevant and helpful for those who are not necessarily traditional Christians. Quaker Universalism allows for a deep and genuine appreciation of the arising of Spirit in all religions and spiritual paths.*

*Query: What was the religion or religious orientation of your childhood; how has that shaped you?*

**4. Quaker Process** - March 9 Ellen McBride/Mary Barbera

*Meetings for Business, reaching unity, committees, membership, structure of monthly meetings and yearly meetings, list of other Quaker organizations.*

*Query: How do Quaker decision-making processes reflect the principles of Quaker faith?*

**5. Seekers And Finders: The Early Quaker Movement And The Experiences That Defined Quaker Faith And Practice** - March 23 Ann Riggs/Barbara Thomas

*This session will give more context and background for the understanding of Quaker faith and practice – why no ministers (in unprogrammed meetings)? The idea that we don't just take from the teachings of others but find our own truth in the context of a community of seekers. (story of James Naylor?), Clearness Committees to search for "truth."*

*Query: Are there any things about the experience of early Friends that speak to you?*

**6. Quaker Worship And Vocal Ministry** - April 13 TBD

*What has been your experience of Quaker worship; have you had a range of experiences; do you have questions? We'll explore the intentions and experiences of Quaker worship; we will also talk about how we discern whether to speak in Meeting or not – what is the nature of vocal ministry that distinguishes it from just sharing ideas? What do we mean by Holding someone in the Light? Is that different from praying for them?*

Annapolis Friends Meeting 9:15 am January 5, 2024 Meeting for Worship  
with Attention to Business  
Clerk's notes for the introduction.

Welcome Friends!

My name is Ellen McBride. My heart is filled with Joy and love.

I'm grateful that you put your trust in me and I am grateful for the previous clerks who have laid a solid foundation. I'm excited to take on this role and I look forward to letting my life speak as I facilitate meetings.

The role of clerk, as I understand it, is to help maintain the worshipful character of the meeting, to help us seek Spirit in our discernments and decisions. I'll do my best to hold the space, to listen deeply, to connect as best I can with the Inner Guide and to frame the sense of the meeting, the sense of what Spirit is leading us to do.

Your role as a participant is to be present and centered, listening deeply, speaking from that Inner Guide. Speak the Truth as you understand it and let it go. Try not to repeat what has already been said. Stating that a Friend speaks your mind will be enough.

This is a corporate or group experience. Together we can unite with Spirit and be collaborative partners with Spirit. For me to be successful in the role of clerk requires all of us listening together. The collective and community WE - all of us is when, together we listen with all we've got to learn what Spirit, The Inner Teacher, would have us do. It will take all of us and we will experience continuing revelations. We'll experience "that of God in each of us" and we'll have opportunities to practice the Testimonies.

I'm grateful for each of you who are here to support me as clerk and to support the Meeting as we discern together what the highest and best good is for our Meeting.

Are there any thoughts or questions so far?

At this time, I'll read our Anti-Racism queries to remind each other of our commitment, as a faith-based community, to practice anti-racism. [Read the queries]

There are some **housekeeping** items that I'd like to go over as we start.

As a reminder, the 11 am MfW will follow this meeting. Out of respect for the 11 worshipers, we'll start wrapping up at 10:30 am and hold our closing silence in time to end around 10:40 am.

To help center the discussions in as broad a context as possible and to better hear Spirit, please either speak to the center of the room, to the Whole of us, or to me directly. Please avoid addressing each other and please wait for me to call on you before speaking. (avoid conversations - not have conversations) Please state your name prior to speaking, so that the online participants will know who is speaking.

The device in the middle of the room is what we call the Owl and it is where the microphones are located, so that the participants online can hear what is being said. However, the Owl also picks up other noises like chairs moving, the unwrapping of throat lozenges and small side conversations. Please help the online participants by making as little noise as possible.

Please speak loudly if you are going to speak from your seat. If you are going to present, please come to the "speaker's spot", so that you are most visible to the online participants.

Since we are here on a spiritual mission, let's rejoin our centering silence as needed and actively listen, seeking Truth and the welfare of the Meeting. Let's look for unity within us and between us.



## Apartheid-Free Community Pledge

For decades, the Palestinian people have faced Israeli occupation and systematic human rights abuses that constitute apartheid.

AFSC stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their call for full and equal rights. We invite Quaker meetings and other communities to join us in building an apartheid-free world.

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

WE DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

## **Quaker Market Committee Report**

### **1<sup>st</sup> month 2025**

The Quaker Market Committee would like to express our gratitude to all who contributed in so many ways to AFM's 2024 Quaker Holiday Market, held on 7 December. Every time someone brings a gift to the table, our Quaker Market experience is strengthened and enriched. The gifts are varied. Some are clearly visible either before the event, like sweet potato pies that have been baked for Thanksgiving, or during the event itself, like the abundance of items that have been donated, displays that are well-organized and inviting, delicious food available at the Bake Table or served by volunteers at the Café, olive oil from Bethlehem and Condiment Station sauces generously donated, jars of 13 Bean Soup Mix and bottles of herb-infused vinegar assembled during inter-generational activities, Afghan food donated to the Café and beautiful items Fahima has brought to support Afghan Women's Fund's efforts in Afghanistan, educational tri-folds that Friends have taken the time to put together. Other gifts may not be as visible during the event itself, such as storage of Quaker Market donations between events, putting time and thought into recommending possible beneficiaries, advertising on our website and beyond, selling small vintage items online, schlepping donations from offsite, boxing up unsold items for us to connect with partners, handling the accounting, writing out the checks for the beneficiaries. All contributions to our community's Quaker Market efforts and are greatly appreciated.

Our (imperfect) data on how shoppers found out about Quaker Market indicate that 44% are return customers. We do have a devoted clientele who would not miss these events. Subtracting out the 9% who were recorded at the checkout table as AFM Friends (an undercount, since many helpers pay for purchases other than at the checkout table), our records indicate that 47% were new shoppers drawn in by road signs and other advertising, friends, and neighbors. That's an awful lot of people exposed for the first time to Annapolis Friends Meeting and Quaker Markets, our pay-as-you-are-able policy for flea market type items, our environmental stewardship efforts clearly in action, our Café food prices intentionally kept low so all can eat, etc.

From the financial standpoint, Quaker Holiday Market 2024 raised \$8,410 for distribution to causes (after payment of \$899.65 for the storage pod rental and

the purchase of paperwhite bulbs and Light House Bistro granola). Of the total net proceeds, \$250 will be reserved for discernment by Young Friends, and \$2,040 will be awarded to each of the four causes approved at meeting for worship with attention to business (Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF), and Operation Warm for the external 75% and FWCC Climate Emergency Fund for the Internal 25%).

In addition to the funds raised for these four beneficiaries, the following partners also benefited from in-kind donations of items that did not sell during our brief Quaker Market shopping window:

- Orphan Grain Train (clothing, school supplies, craft supplies, blankets & towels for international & domestic distribution)
- Hope for All (small furniture/household items/bedding and towels for folks transitioning out of homelessness)
- Partners in Care (specialty for their boutique shop)
- Books for International Goodwill (all unsold adult books)
- NAACP (children's books)
- Bikes for the World (bike)
- Rosemont Community Interfaith Coalition (lap blankets for seniors)
- Light House (paper bags for food distribution)
- Good Will (items too bulky/fragile to box up for Amvets)
- Amvets (everything else)

Quaker Markets provide opportunities to let our light shine, as individuals and as a faith community. The Quaker Market Committee is deeply grateful to all who were able to contribute light and joy to this Quaker Holiday Market 2024! It is not too early to mark your calendars for Quaker Spring Market 2025 on 05.03.2025, and to start thinking about possible beneficiaries.



MINISTRY & WORSHIP: Recommendation for the "Spirit of Truth" Scouting emblem, for Young Friends in sixth through twelfth grades. Friends approve.

MARKET REPORT: Market sub-committee recommends that Market proceeds be split 75% to outside concerns, and 25% to AFM Building Fund. The Holiday Market will be December 3, 2005. In conjunction with Peace & Social Concerns, the committee recommends that 75% be given to Hurricane Relief, and 25% to the Building Fund. A Friend proposes that part of this money go toward the Suffering Fund since the fund had gotten down to \$19. While the Fund has begun to be replenished, the Meeting will not refill the fund from budget until January. Discussion followed about the process of handling committee recommendations to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Friends approve establishment of a Market funds distribution formula of 75% to outside concerns and 25% to an internal need. Friends approve the sub-committee's specific recommendation that the outside concern for this market be designated for hurricane relief, in conjunction with Peace & Social Concerns, and 25% go toward the Building Fund.

EATON BEQUEST: Stewardship & Finance committee recommends to the Meeting that the all of the \$500 Eaton Bequest be used to fund the newly established Emergent Social Concerns Fund, in accordance with our understanding of Friend Louise Eaton's life's interests. Friends approve.

**Lynada Alice Dahlsten Johnson**  
**AFM Memorial Minute**  
June 22, 1940 – December 18, 2024

We celebrate the life and spirit of our long-time member, Lynada Alice Dahlsten Johnson, who passed away on December 18, 2024 in Seattle, Washington at the age of 84. Lynada Johnson became a member of the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) in 2002. She and her husband, David, were role models for bringing faith into action within our Meeting.

Over the years, Lynada contributed her talents to many AFM committees including Ministry and Worship and Pastoral Care. She was active in the annual Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Women's Conferences and served on the planning team when AFM co-hosted the event.

An advocate for peace, Lynada was on the steering committee of Anne Arundel Peace Action, working for the end of the arms war and the elimination of nuclear weapons. In her later years, she traveled to the Quaker community of Monteverde and was fascinated to meet and hear the stories of some of the pacifist Friends who left the US in the 1950s in protest of the draft to establish a new home in the cloud forest of Costa Rica.

Nurturing and caring for others in both her personal and professional life, Lynada brought her midwestern vitality, neighborliness and forthrightness to "get stuff done" in whatever setting she was in. Many of us have fond memories of Lynada's chemo cap ministry. At lightning speed, she would transform small tidbits of yarn we donated into beautiful knitted caps to be given to those recovering from cancer treatment at a hospital in Annapolis. She would happily share the instructions with others who might wish to contribute – and even offer to teach us how to knit if needed. She quite literally produced hundreds of caps over the years.

Lynada's career in public health saw her work tirelessly in hospitals, prisons, and with visiting nurses associations, reflecting her deep commitment to healthcare, community service, and the welfare of all. This dedication included loyally visiting some AFM Friends in long-term nursing care.

After Lynada and David moved to Vantage House in Columbia Maryland, Lynada invested her natural leadership talents in many activities there. She led a Parkinson's Disease Care Partner Support Group for many years. As an avid reader herself, she held a leadership role in the Daughters of Abraham, a book discussion series that brought together women of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths, an experience that she cherished. She continuously sought ways to share her joy of music with others – playing the piano and attending local concerts. Despite being away from the Annapolis area, she would faithfully return to our AFM community to share news and insights from her new home.

Lynada's simple roots as a Kansas farm girl gave her an even greater appreciation for the vast world around her. With David, she traveled to Sweden to document family ancestry and meet some living relatives and with family to Israel and England. Together Lynada and David made it to all 50 US states, often participating in Elderhostel (now Roads Scholar) programs. In later years, Lynada embarked on adventures of her own to visit family, explore Philadelphia, renew acquaintance with Chautauqua Institution where David had been an invited speaker, and explore Costa Rica. Wherever she went, she loved to share stories with the people she would meet along the way. No one was a stranger to Lynada!

For many years, Lynada and David enjoyed being a part of Servas International, an organization which creates opportunities for individuals to host travelers in their home. Lynada found the brief homestays on international travels to be a wonderful opportunity to make friendships with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, and to her credit, she maintained some of these friendships for decades.

But Lynada's most cherished moments were the times spent with her family. She always enjoyed sharing with us the latest news of her beloved family: her son Bengt and his wife Sayuri and her son Tim and his wife Marybeth. And no one could have been prouder of her grandchildren--Noah, Maja, Ella, Mackenzie, and David--than Lynada.

As we celebrate Lynada's life, may we all appreciate and embrace her legacy of peace, neighborliness, faith in action, and human connections.

Approved by AFM  
Meeting for Business, 1.5.25