

The Green Group of Annapolis Friends Meeting invites you to an

IPC Pledge Signing Celebration and Ceremony on May 12th

There will be a Hybrid Meeting for Learning at 9:15 in the classroom

**Frances Palmeri will share her thoughts and queries in a hybrid MfL ~
“Making Peace with Mother Earth”**

“How our Peace Testimony can guide us towards a better relationship with Mother Earth.”



Photo by Frances Palmeri

The Green Group is commemorating the AFM’s new alliance with the Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake whose mission is “to inspire and equip people of faith to honor, protect, and restore our shared watershed”. The recently formed AFM Green Group came about largely as a result of involvement with the IPC programs. We invite you to join us in celebrating this new partnership, and the opportunities ahead to improve the environment for all, taking steps to build the Beloved Community.

Following Frances’ MfL presentation, Friends are invited to step outside to celebrate Nature by planting a ceremonial tree, signing the AFM- IPC Congregant Pledge (a stewardship pledge adopted by AFM in 2024), and to participate in a sacred chant and dance.

The species of native tree for our Pledge Day planting is being selected by **Kim Finch**, clerk of Meetinghouse & Lands, with the input of the Green Group. It’s identity is still UNKNOWN. Join us in the act of discovery - when Kim whisks away its cover – to reveal its identity. We hope you can also join us in sprinkling a handful of soil on the tree’s roots, and saying a blessing, on this Sacred Tree and others actions to follow with a Sacred Chant led by **Sylvia Oliva** inspired by, and in gratitude to the Native Americans who once inhabited these lands.

In the event of rain on May 12 - do bring your umbrella maybe boots, too! We’ll continue with the tree planting, and Sacred Chant but move the Pledge-signing inside. All activities to conclude by the rise of 11am Meeting. If you miss the early Meeting, we hope you will sign the pledge on your exit and drop a handful or shovel full of dirt on the AFM’s newest sacred tree.

We hope to see you!

*And don’t miss Fran’s Environmental Do’s and Don’ts on the back!

Caring for Mother Earth

– Do's and Don'ts from Fran P.

1. Don't chop a tree down unless it is dangerous to home or human.
2. Educate yourself, your family, your friends, your community.
3. Lose the lawn. Start converting small areas to native plantings which will house and feed birds, butterflies and other pollinators.
4. Plant for shade. Even a mid-sized tree can cool and clean the air.
5. Conserve water. Take out irrigation and plant native plants which after watering in will sustain themselves.
6. NEVER use pesticides in your yard, your home, your office.
7. Take care of your body, mind and spirit.
8. Conserve preserve protect land and water.
9. Honor the wishes of voters who set environmental regulations years ago to protect land.
10. Vote the planet after researching environmental positions of all candidates.
11. Don't bulldoze clean a plot when building. Leave as many native plants as possible to reap the benefits of natural landscaping i.e. heat and pollution reduction.
12. Don't ever give up on the planet. It's our HOME.
13. Cherish all plants and animals. We are not top dog. We are just ONE of 8 BILLION species.
14. Ignorance is not bliss. It can mean extinction of our fellow species, loss of habitat.
15. Don't listen to doomsayers. It is NOT too late to save the planet.
16. Join with others of like mind. Volunteer with groups like Elder Climate Care, Sierra Club, Center for Biodiversity, League of Conservation Voters,
17. Support public lands.
18. Appreciate what is working i.e. gravity, sunrise, sunset, sun, rain, wind.
19. Take advantage of nature's bounty by installing solar panels.
20. Revel in the beauty of nature. Get outdoors as much as possible.
21. Let Mother Earth inspire you to new heights of creativity.
22. Inform yourself. And then act. Take part in condo associations, town halls, planning commission meetings.
23. Letters to the editor, blogs, articles for periodicals, books.
24. Work for an environmental organization You can find jobs listings on TerraDo.
25. Celebrate Earth Day every day.