

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2019

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

JAN 1: 7-9pm Green Team

JAN 6: 9-10:45am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:15-1:30pm Potluck; 12:50-1:10 pm Quaker United Nations Office Presentation; 6:30-8:30pm William Penn House Potluck

JAN 7: Newsletter Items Due by 5pm

JAN 9: 7-9:30pm MAJR Front Door Working Group

JAN 10: 2:30-4pm Spiritual Friendship; 7-9pm CSGA Business Meeting; 7-9pm MAJR Logistics Committee in Library

JAN 13: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45am Meeting for Learning – Our Life is Love (Pt. 1 of 4); 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2pm Quaker Marketing Committee Meeting

JAN 17: 7-9pm Climate Stewards – Introduction to Drawdown

JAN 20: 9:15-10:45am Most Committees Meet; 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-1:30pm Committees: CREC; 12:30-2pm Pastoral Care Committee Meeting

JAN 27: 8-9am Early Worship; 9:15-10:45 Meeting for Learning – Our Life is Love (Pt. 2 of 4); 11am-12pm Meeting for Worship; 12:30-2pm Friends Writing Together

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 TWELFTH 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?

SUPPORT FROM PASTORAL CARE: Conflict Transformation in Community

If you have experienced what you feel is an inappropriate behavior, we encourage you to speak to a member of *Pastoral Care.

*Patty R., Minette, Nancy Jo, Kit, Minette

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

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Meetings for Learning:

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

1/13 As the planned Meeting for Learning for next Sunday had to be cancelled, Ministry & Worship Committee has now scheduled in "A Taste of Creation Spirituality" for Meeting for Learning next Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 9:15 A.M. Sylvia O. will show a 20-minute DVD about Original Blessing, followed by discussion / sharing / Q&A. There will be handouts on Sylvia's understanding of this spirituality and what it means for her.

1/27 Sunday 9:15am: Tom Wolfe: Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey

Part Two of Four- An exploration of ten steps of the spiritual journey as experienced by early Friends and as experienced by modern Friends.

2/10 Sunday 9:15am: Patience Schenck: Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey

Part Three of Four- An exploration of ten steps of the spiritual journey as experienced by early Friends and as experienced by modern Friends.

2/24 Sunday 9:15am: No MfL to honor Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting

3/10 Sunday 9:15am: Patience Schenck: Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey

Part Four of Four- An exploration of ten steps of the spiritual journey as experienced by early Friends and as experienced by modern Friends.

Upcoming Meetings for Learning (Dates TBA)

2019 Quakerism 101 Series

Ann Riggs- **Quaker Organizations** as part of Quakerism 101

Tom Wolfe: as part of Quakerism 101

History of Recorded Ministry in Unprogrammed Meetings

Other Upcoming Meetings for Learning

Susan Wolfe on the **Culture of the Early Christians**

Tim Mullady and Rizwan Jaka

Boy Scouts and the Quakers as an InterFaith Learning

With Rizwan Jaka from All Dulles Area Muslim Society

Beloved Heretic: A three act musical on the Life of Lucretia Mott

Lisa Sarro: **Maryland Legal Aid:** spoke at GAIN... legal aid available to lower income citizens in AACO

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Thinking About Race

Thinking About Race (January 2019) – Parker Palmer, **On the Brink of Everything**

Parker Palmer's 2018 book, **On the Brink of Everything**, is a collection of essays through which he "explores what he's learning about self and world." Chapter VI is entitled "Keep Reaching In: Staying Engaged with Your Soul."

"Confessing My Complicity" [an essay in the chapter] is focused on being white in a society rooted in white supremacy. I'm not on a guilt trip here, just acknowledging the inner roots of a social pathology that, if it goes unconfessed and unaddressed, will make people who are like me a continuing part of the problem. No disease in the United States is more in need of a cure than racism—which breeds irrational fears that, in turn, breed the worst of political evils. As long as I draw breath, I want to be part of the solution. That requires a close examination of my own heart and dealing with whatever pathogens I find there. If I want to help heal the world, I must heal myself."

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each local 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.

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Getting Clear with a Clearness Committee

It has been said that if you give Quakers a task, their first action is to establish a Committee. Though no doubt said in jest, one can appreciate that within the Quaker Meeting the Committee is where important matters are considered. An Individual Member (or regular Attendee) can set up his/her own Committee – a Clearance Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to offer a safe and confidential space where one can air matters of serious personal significance, both large and small. Parker Palmer, a Quaker expert on interpersonal communication, has written -- "Behind the Clearness Committee is a simple but crucial conviction: each of us has an inner teacher, a truth voice, that offers the guidance and peace we need to deal with our problems. He went on to explain that..." because that inner voice can be obscured by both inward and outward interference, the function of the Clearness Committee is to help remove that interference so one can better discover one's own wisdom...".

After meeting with one's Clearance Committee, once or even several times, one soon realizes that the intent of the Clearance Process is not to "fix" an individual but rather to provide a supportive and confidential environment in which she/he will be respectfully and compassionately heard.

If you are facing a major life event; trying to resolve a conflict; or simply seeking a safe space in which to examine an important personal, professional or spiritual decision, consider bringing it privately to the attention of a Pastoral Care Committee member. You will then be able to determine if a Clearness Committee is the right alternative for you.

Current Pastoral Care Committee Members:
Patty R. (Clerk); Nancy Jo S.; Kit H.; Minette C-S.

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Annapolis Friends Meeting E-mail Lists (Announce/Discuss)

Annapolis Friends Meeting maintains two e-mail lists, Announce and Discuss, both for different uses by members and interested attenders who choose to join them. If you are not a member or a regular attender of Annapolis Friends

Meeting, then these lists probably have little interest for you. Conversely, if you are a member/attender and have interest in one list, then it is quite likely you have an interest in the other, so feel welcome to join both if you wish. Most do. Joining (Subscribing) requires a review by the list manager or vetting by the Outreach Committee; but leaving (Unsubscribing) can be performed at your discretion in the manner prescribed below.

The **Announce List** is for announcing events of concern directly relating to AFM and is meant to be used more restrictively. Announce List members are invited to use

afm-announce@googlegroups.com

in order to:

- * request to hold members of the community in the Light.
- * announce births, marriages, ceremonies of commitment, illnesses, deaths, or memorial services.
- * announce AFM and committee/subcommittee meetings or changes to previously announced meetings.
- * announce specific Annapolis Friends, Baltimore Yearly Meeting or Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting business.

To subscribe to the AFM Announce List, send an e-mail request with your desired address for inclusion to

douglasmcc2344@gmail.com

or

jenndelorge@yahoo.com

To automatically unsubscribe from the Announce List and thus stop receiving emails from it, send an email from the address to be dropped from the service to

afm-announce+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

The **Discuss List** is for other more general concerns and more open discussion of issues or items that the list user believes of interest to the AFM community, e.g., items relating to peace or other Quaker testimonies, and for announcements of Quaker organizations and other groups with which Friends are affiliated. Another way of looking at the AFM Discuss List is to consider it an AFM blog for your posting items of interest for discussion among the Meeting community. More leeway is granted in the use of the Discuss list, but always use discretion and consider whether the prospective post is actually warranted for wide dissemination on either list.

To subscribe to the AFM Discuss List, follow the same method above by sending a request for inclusion in the e-mail list to either

douglasmcc2344@gmail.com

or

jenndelorge@yahoo.com

To automatically unsubscribe from the AFM Discuss List and thus stop receiving emails from it, send an email from the address to be dropped from the service to

afm-discuss+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

In all cases, posts on both lists reflect list users' personal opinions and should clearly be understood to NOT reflect the consensus of Annapolis Friends Meeting.

If you have any questions or misgivings about using either Announce or Discuss to address e-mails to those wider audiences, be clear about posting to AFM Announce, consider deferring to Discuss, or perhaps address e-mails to a more restrictive and specifically targeted audience (many fewer addressees). Additionally, when responding to e-mails sent out via Announce and Discuss, be very clear in your mind about your intention to respond to the entire

list. Alternatively consider sending a reply to the sender with a specific e-mail addressed to that person alone, thus obeying common e-mail courtesy.

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Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
First Month, Sixth Day, 2019 (1/6/19)

Present were: Martha B. (clerk), Phil C. & Ellen M. (recording clerks), Amy N., Jeanne W., Tom B., Jack L., Bill K., Karen C., Mary B., Peter M., Jennifer D-L, Nan & Sky E., Sheryl G., Kit H., Francis W., Sue P., Cairn K., Patty R., Wes J., Mary B., Elise A., Will C., Ruth S., Julie R., Mary D., Kim F., Margaret H., Jean C., Marcia O., Lee L., Phyllis S., and Bob B.

Out of the silence, our new clerk Martha B. welcomed Friends to MfB and wished everyone a happy new year. She admitted being humbled by the opportunity to serve as our new clerk and thanked everyone for their support so far – especially, our outgoing clerk Wes and the over 60 Friends who have signed up to work on our committees in the coming year.

Explaining her viewpoint as she begins her time as clerk, Martha noted that she comes from a Philadelphia Quaker family in which her mom & dad chose went to two separate meetings, one large and one small, giving the children a taste of Quaker diversity; finding work as an adult in Maryland, Martha also attended Stony Run & then briefly Adelphi meeting, but found herself at home in Annapolis and never left. Now, as Clerk, Martha is aware that AFM now may be near a time of transition with needs both to preserve our rich history and to consider to new opportunities.

(As one example of appreciating Friends' long-term contributions, many other Friends joined Martha to especially thank our departing clerk Wes for his pervasive and warm presence at innumerable committee hearings, annual events, and special occasions growing into the Clerk job over the years – not to mention Wes's baking of cheesecakes for our Quaker markets. Responding to these "almost posthumous" praise, Wes protested that he is not leaving and looks forward to Friends' ongoing support for his new roles as clerking Nominating Committee and Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis.)

Martha also noted her observation that our Meeting may benefit from taking steps to keep open communications between Friends at our early worship and those at our 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship (MfW); other Friends agreed & suggested passing notices via regular early participants.

Our clerk also invited Friends to share her appreciation of AFM's many holiday and winter activities including Thanksgiving dinner, Holiday Gift Giving, Caroling, the children's Christmas program (initiated by one child Penelope S. with support and active participation by other kids, parents and Friends), Christmas eve gathering and GAIN New Years' gathering.

Finally, our clerk also noted that her support committee suggested that, for her first MfB, she might invite Friends' suggestions: E.g., How to make MfB more welcoming for participants? Are there unspoken norms, developed over the years, that we could make more explicit? In response, Friends offered many comments; these included: 1) that committee clerks could relay specific invitations to individuals that they know might have particular concerns, thus, permitting some information-sharing and questions to come out in advance; 2A) that Friends should let attenders know that "MfB should not be considered optional" and that, perhaps, an explanation of MfB could be conveyed via conversation, handouts, Meeting for Learning or worship-sharing; 2B) another Friend, alternately, suggested that MfB should not be pushed on every attender as they may not be ready, but Meeting for Worship still may be important to them and; 3) that our explanations to new attenders should emphasize that MfB actually should be considered Meeting For Worship with attention business so our comments should be spiritually-centered comments. (This may be why Quakers make decisions so slowly but also so effectively.) Otherwise, new participants might imagine that MfB only relates to budgets and calendars. 4) Another Friend noted that such "outreach" to new attenders also requires more "in-reach" to be in touch with our own concerns and priorities. 5) Another noted that MfB may be the time when we become more aware of and plan for our functioning and work as a community, rather than just as individuals, recalling as George Fox said "rather than the way business is done by the people in the town." 6) Very brief pamphlets on the table in our lobby, another Friend noted, in the past were a key to informing new attenders about the various aspects of Meeting and, after his first visit, encouraged him to return to Meeting. Another Friend explained these pamphlets have disappeared while more up-to-date information is printed. 7) Friends

properly should entrust our work to committees as much as possible, another suggested, and not “pick apart” committees’ recommendations. Someone once suggested that we should think of MfB as though Jesus was sitting beside us. She noted that Jesus might be quiet, even though listening carefully. 8) Anyone should be permitted to ask for silence during MfB to bring us back to our roots. 9) “Our process is central” to MfB, our new clerk noted. So we should ask ourselves, when we are doing our best process, what is happening? 10) We also hope that newcomers will attend and find MfB is an enjoyable and welcoming experience with Friendly-laughter as happened today in remembering Wes’s cheesecake. Our clerk thanked Friends for all these comments and noted that we will continue this conversation.

For Market Committee, Cairn reported as to our AFM’s Quaker Holiday Market on 12/1/18, that net proceeds from the main event and related sales totaled \$10,824.00, providing \$250 for our Young Friends to award through their own discernment process, \$3,965.25 each for QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) and Springbrook High School’s Free Store, and \$2,643.50 for AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project)—Uganda. Proceeds from the sale of handcrafted Afghan items went directly to Afghan Women’s Fund. Items not sold by the end of the day were leveraged through in-kind donations to a variety of causes. She offered many thanks to all who contributed to the success of Quaker Holiday Market 2018, in so many ways! And a special thank you to our dear member, Carol Brantley, and her sister, Fran, who saw to it that even with Carol’s passing, she was able to support the Quaker Markets she loved through an abundance of fine donations. Cairn also urged Friends to mark our calendars now for Spring Quaker Market to be held on Saturday, 5/4/19.

For Stewardship and Finance Committee (S&F), Sue P. offered a Treasurer’s report, reporting that Friends’ 2018 donations met our goals, as did income from renters; committees’ spending generally was under budget. But, with some unanticipated, special expenses, we used several thousand dollars from our committee contingency funds. The net result is that we expect a 2018 year-end surplus of approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000. (The number is not precise because some year-end checks and bills still are arriving by mail.) At our December MfB, Friends agreed that we should apply the first \$4,100 of any surplus to raise our annual building fund contribution to the traditional \$10,000 level. So, we still will have a surplus of approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000. Our S&F committee invites Friends to email suggestions to Phil C., as S&F clerk, for possible uses of this additional surplus. S&F will review all these suggestions, reporting them and a recommendation for decision by MfB in February.

For Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W), Ellen M. reported on new membership requests from Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar on 11/10/18 and, more recently, from Tom Baker.

A Clearness Committee met with Bethanne, who grew up in the Meeting, and with great joy recommends her adult membership. Friends joyfully approved. Other Friends noted that Bethanne’s daughter Isabelle would be considered a “familial Friend” on Meeting records. Another Friend suggested that we should offer to send Twin Cities’ Friends Meeting a sojourner’s letter on Bethanne’s behalf.

Ellen also noted that a Clearness Committee will be established for Tom in the near future.

Our clerk noted that the Chesapeake Children’s Museum has requested a rent-waiver to hold a National Education Association (NEA) - “Big Read” event on 2/3/19 between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House. The book which is the focus of the program relates to Jack Johnson, who was the first black heavyweight boxing world champion in the early 1900s. Friends also expressed concerns about the dissonance between actions by Jack Johnson (including domestic violence and other violations of law) with Friends values; we noted that the group has invited Friends’ participation in the discussion of this book. MH&L recommended offering a no-cost rental for this event, consistent with our Meeting House use guidelines as purposes of the event are consistent with Quaker testimonies but the event isn’t cosponsored by Meeting. Friends approved a rent-free lease of the Meeting House, although we will not cosponsor it.

Our Clerk thanked everyone for their participation with the understanding that our Clerk and Recording Co-Clerks would finalize these minutes.

-These minutes respectfully submitted – P. Caroom & Ellen McBride , Recording Clerks

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HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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 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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