

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — MARCH 2011

MARCH 2011 CALENDAR

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m.
- 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 calendar below
- Care of the Meeting House for Third Month: Meeting House and Lands

MARCH 6: 9 a.m. Meeting for worship with attention to business; 11 a.m. Meeting for worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

MARCH 13: 9:15 a.m. Meeting for learning - Peace testimony & America's longest war; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

MARCH 20: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

MARCH 27: 9:15 a.m. Meeting for learning - Friends Responses to Global Change: FWCC queries; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

QUERIES FOR THIRD MONTH: THE MEETING COMMUNITY

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs? (Faith and Practice, p. 38)

QUAKER QUOTES FOR MARCH

This is the reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you ... for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." (John 12:44-4)

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracle, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (Corinthians 12: 8-11)

Remember, O my soul that the Prince of Peace is thy Lord, that he communicates his unmixed wisdom to his family, that they, living in perfect simplicity, may give no just cause of offense to any creature, but may walk as he walked. (John Woolman, 1720-1772)

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

Sixth day of Second Month, 2011

Elise A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 26 members and attenders present. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Ministry and Worship - Kim F. reporting: M&W has initiated preparation of the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. Individual committee reports have been requested, with a submittal due date of March 13, 2011. The Committee proposes to hold a worship sharing at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth First Day in February (February 27) to consider the queries proposed by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, as edited by the Ministry and Worship Committee. CREC has been contacted about involving the children in this worship sharing. The queries are:

- How does the Spirit prosper among you? How does your Meeting ensure that ministry is nurtured and that members and attenders feel valued and cared for?
- What supports the life of the Spirit in your meeting community? What challenges and troubles are you facing? What could the Meeting do to better serve your hopes and expectations?
- How is the presence of Spirit manifested in your lives individually and as a meeting community?

In preparation for the worship sharing, a meeting for learning will be held on the second First Day (February 13) at 9:15 a.m. to present the Spiritual State of the Meeting Process at the monthly meeting and yearly meeting level, review the product of last year's effort, and to explore the queries presented for reflection.

MfB approved the Fourth First Day of Second Month 2011 (February 27) for this worship sharing.

Treasurer's Report - Joel R. reporting: The treasurer will be presenting the final 2010 budget numbers at MfB in March. Generous contributions from members and attenders allowed us to virtually meet the budgeted amount for unrestricted contributions. There will be a surplus from 2010. There was a discussion about changing the AFM budget year and other ways to lessen the angst about meeting the budget. This will be referred to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Ministry and Worship/Pastoral Care - Jean C. reporting: There is a request to review process for closing circle at end of First Day worship. A Friend requested that this be considered by Pastoral Care and M&W. The concern focused on the content and detail of Friends' requests for holding in the Light. M&W and PC have reviewed this issue and are opening the concern for comment and discussion.

The circle at the end of Worship has been a wonderful AFM tradition, which brings us together and makes us happy to be in our community. Holding people in the Light is another wonderful tradition. The concern is that when people share the illness of the person they are concerned about, the process changes.

One alternative is to invite people to just share the name and suggest that they also talk with PC, where they can receive support and tender care. Another suggestion is to announce names from the silence during a period of Holding in the Light. Yet another is to write names on sheets of paper for later ministry. PC also suggests having a member of PC to be available as a listening ear at the close of meeting.

M&W and PC will hold these suggestions under advisement. Friends can send suggestions and concerns on this issue to the clerks of M&W (Tricia Robinson) and PC (Leo Pickens). Friends are reminded that the Announce List is another venue for requesting Holding in the Light and providing further details.

There is also a concern about how to provide the "unwritten traditions" to newcomers.

Other Friends' Concerns - Light House Shelter: There is a change of leadership at the LHS. Board members are meeting with their ministers and volunteers to let them know and to deal with rumor control.

Brick Walkway: Concern was expressed about the safety of the current bricks and that the problems are expected to worsen. Because of rentals, AFM is legally liable if renters or others are hurt. Although we appreciate the efforts and hard work of the many people who installed the walkway, the time has come to replace the bricks. MH&L reached unity on removing all the existing brick and concrete and replacing it with commercially installed paving bricks. The same paving bricks will also be used for the diagonal path in the new garden. The garden and brick subcommittee (Cairn K., Careen M., Ruth S., Victoria J.) will contact builders for estimates. MH&L will review the definitions of the various accounts to see which fund would be appropriate to provide the money for the project.

Marriage Equality in MD: Contact Sylvia O. for more information about the following two actions.

1. MARRIAGE BILL HEARING: Feb. 8, 2011 at noon
Location: Maryland Statehouse, Miller Bldg.

There will be a public hearing of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on the marriage bill. It is important to show by our presence there that Marylanders overwhelmingly agree that now is the time to end the exclusion of gay and lesbian couples from marriage. (Wear red at the hearing to identify with Equality MD.)

This hearing will be the most important day yet for winning marriage equality in Maryland.

2. EQUALITY MARYLAND LOBBY DAY: Feb. 14, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.
Location: Maryland Statehouse

With this legislative session, we are closer than ever to securing marriage for gay and lesbian couples and to passing an anti-discrimination bill that includes gender identity and expression. But your legislators need to hear from you!

We'll meet at the statehouse at 4:30 p.m. for training and a rally at 5 p.m. Then from 6-8 p.m., we'll meet in groups with legislators to tell why marriage equality matters to us.

PC will be asked to consider marriage equality and the procedures for marriage under the care of the meeting in the light of AFM's previous minute supporting the state and federally sanctioned union of two loving, committed individuals regardless of gender.

These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elise A., Clerk, and Phyllis S., Recording Clerk

FIRST DAY SCHOOL PLANS FOR THE SPRING SEASON!

So far this year, we have spent time looking at the Quaker testimonies. Our next several weeks -- through March 13 -- will be focused on Equality.

The children already have spent time talking about some of the history of the idea of equality, figures like Martin Luther King, Jr. who fought for greater equality, and equality between family members.

In the second half of March, we will turn to Stewardship, and the children will begin starting seeds and making other crafts to sell at the Spring Market as they talk and think about all the different ways we can understand what stewardship means.

After the Spring Market we will turn to the testimony of Community and continue with that until we break up for the summer.

While we have volunteers through mid-March, Friends are invited to contact Joanna T., Kimberly B., or other members of Children's Religious Educ. Com. (CREC) at Meeting.

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR QUAKER CAUSES

Peace and Social Concerns Committee of AFM is responsible, annually, for recommending budget allocations to Quaker causes that are supported by our Meeting.

Deciding what the committee should recommend is inherently challenging. All of the causes are good and our funds are limited. There is a natural tension between concentrating donations into fewer causes, thereby having more impact, versus signaling to more recipients that "We support you, even if our contribution is small."

The Committee invites Friends' and attenders comments as to the tentative list below. A final decision should be made at the next AFM meeting for business. (NOTE: Currently, AFM donations to Quaker causes for 2011 are as follows, with each one percent totaling about \$40.00.)

Lighthouse Shelter	28%
Anne Arundel Conflict Res Ctr	8%
Am Friends Service Committee	12%
Friends Committee on Nat Leg	5%
Friends Int. Ctr in Ramallah	3%
Friends Peace Teams	3%
Pendle Hill	3%
Quaker House of Fayetteville	3%
Right Sharing of World Res.	3%
Save Darfur Coalition	3%
Washington Work Camps, D.C.	3%
William Penn House	3%
Women for Afghan Women	3%
Emergent Social Concerns	<u>20%</u>
(as they arise during 2011)	
	100%

KEEPING LOVE ALIVE: RELATIONSHIP IN-DEPTH

Saturday, March 12, 2011
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Annapolis Friends Meeting
351 Dubois Road, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401
410-573-0364

Relationships need support and nurture to stay vibrant and grow. This Couple Enrichment workshop will apply our Quaker faith and practices to:

- Help couples assess their relationship,
- Learn and practice relationship skills that deepen intimacy and facilitate creative use of conflict, and
- Commit to continued relationship growth in the Spirit.

We will help couples affirm common values and priorities and, using Divine Assistance, effectively handle differences and stresses that we experience in our day-to-day lives. Participants will worship together and work as a couple and in small groups, using Couple dialogue, the centerpiece of Couple Enrichment.

Leader couple: Joan and Rich Liversidge

Joan and Rich are members of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and a Recognized Leader Couple of the Friends General Conference Couple Enrichment Program. They have led Couple Enrichment events for over 25 years among Friends. Their ministry started at FMW in the mid 80's.

Please register early by contacting Leo Pickens (leo.pickens@sjca.edu; 410-280-0939).

Breakfast: 9:30 a.m. Coffee and bagels while we gather

Lunch: Please bring a bag lunch

Cost: \$10 per couple to support FGC Couples Enrichment program

Note: If childcare is an issue, please let us know and we will work with you to try to come up with some arrangements.

THINKING ABOUT RACE

February was Black History Month. As we reflect on what that means to both white people and black people, a segment from the article Pat Schenck circulated to the "discuss" list last month seems relevant. Lisa Heldke proposes that "persistently white colleges" become places where it is possible "to make whites' location in the system of privilege and oppression visible to whites." Following is one of her examples.

There is the problem, she writes, "of presuming that 'white' culture equals culture-in-general. This is the familiar presumption that white American history is 'history,' whereas African American history is 'special interest history.'

"In short, challenging the centrality, the presumed primacy, of white culture is an activity that can be engaged in by whites inhabiting a predominantly white institution. But wouldn't such efforts be enhanced by drawing from the insights and perspectives of racialized Others? Without doubt, I do not mean to suggest that it is better to challenge white centrality from an all-white or predominantly-white location. But... it is not at all impossible to effect such a challenge from such a location...."

Mostly white Quaker meetings, as well as "persistently white colleges," can take on this challenge.

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, either on a regular or a drop-in basis, please contact clerk Elizabeth DuVerlie at eduverlie@jhu.edu or Pat Schenck at pat.schenck@verizon.net.

NOTE: Friends who wish to comment on this or any other "Thinking About Race" items may do so at this website: <http://racism.bym-rsf.net>. The BYM Web Manager has set this up as a kind of blog. You will first need to register by emailing webmanager@bym-rsf.net.

Advance Announcement:

ALISON DUNCAN TO LEAD DISCUSSION ON "FIT FOR FREEDOM, NOT FOR FRIENDSHIP"

Mark your calendars now: On April 10 after worship, Friends will hear a presentation on the book "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship," the history of white Quakers and their relationship with African Americans.

Pat Schenck is willing to order books for anyone who wants one. The cost is \$25.20 plus postage and handling. Contact her by March 20. Alternately, the AFM Library has one or two copies which may be borrowed.

Friends have much to be proud of: we were the first religious body to outlaw slave-holding among our members; we took leadership in the abolition movement in the 19th century; and many Friends were active in the civil rights movement. There is also some less rosy history. For example, Friends schools generally did not integrate before other schools. All this history gives us a perspective to look at who we are today.

Friends are invited to read chapter 11 of the book in preparation, with the epilogue as "extra credit." However, no reading is required to hear the presentation.

Our presenter will be Alison Duncan, youth secretary for BYM, who went through the training offered by the book authors for doing these presentations.

If there is sufficient interest, Alison will offer an ongoing discussion group that would go through the book, chapter by chapter. This would be held on a Thursday evening, as she lives in Philadelphia but works at the BYM office on Thursdays and Fridays.

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on March 20.
- Phil Caroom is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to him at annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com
- 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!
- Announce List: announce@annapolis.quaker.org; Discuss List: discuss@annapolis.quaker.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Meeting telephone: 410-573-0364

Address: 351 DuBois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Annapolis Friends Meeting website: www.quaker.org/annapolis

Clerk: Elise Albert

Building Use Coordinator (BUC): Sky Elsbree - 410-647-3591

Newsletter Editor: Phil Caroom – contact at annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com