

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — October 2012

CALENDAR

- 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 calendar below

OCTOBER 7: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

OCTOBER 14: 9 a.m. [Newcomers brunch](#); 11 a.m. Meeting for worship

OCTOBER 21: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; Newsletter items deadline: please email!

OCTOBER 28: 9:15 a.m. [Meeting for Learning: John Woolman's Journal](#); 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Peace and Social Concerns

QUERIES FOR TENTH MONTH: THE PEACE TESTIMONY

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international? (Faith & Practice, p. 41)

NEWCOMER WELCOMING BRUNCH

With a special welcome to newcomers to Annapolis Friends Meeting, all members of our community are invited to a newcomer welcoming brunch on October 14 at 9 a.m. at the meetinghouse.

As soon as we get our food, we will hear representatives of each of our committees explain what they do for the meeting. We will also have an introduction to the Peace and Justice Center, and our clerk, Elise Albert, will talk about the monthly "Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business," our monthly business meeting. The Friends business process is unlike any outside of Quakerism.

Attending the brunch will help you decide if you would like to join a committee, and if so, which one. Nominating Committee will be putting together committee slates this fall, to take effect in January. Most Friends agree that if you are new to the meeting, joining a committee is the best way to get to know people and understand more about how the meeting operates.

Children are welcome and child care will be available. If you let us know you are coming, it will help us plan. We will send out an e-mail reminder the week before the brunch, and you can reply to that to let us know you are coming.

Pat S., Clerk, Outreach Committee

GAIN'S "COMMUNITIES IN CONCERT"

The Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network invites you to "Communities in Concert" on Sunday, October 14, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 DuBois Rd. Tickets are available now for \$15 online at www.annapolistickets.com (plus a \$1.60 processing fee) or for \$20 at the door. They can also be purchased from members of the GAIN board.

Performers include the Rob Levit Jazz Trio, Moshe Weisblum and Shouvik Mondle (show tunes), Max Ochs and Anita Burkam (folk), and the Annapolis Drum and Bugle Corps (100 youth).

Your ticket purchases will benefit these Annapolis service organizations--Creating Communities, Drum and Bugle Corps, Food Link, and the Center of Help (El Centro de Ayuda)--who will be represented with tables at the event (visit www.gainonline.org for descriptions of the wonderful work these groups do for our community). If you cannot attend but wish to donate, please send a contribution marked "Benefit Concert" to GAIN, c/o Jim MacGregor (treasurer), 201 Nomini Dr., Arnold, MD 21012.

Please purchase your tickets soon! We will have a rollicking time and raise funds for important initiatives.

With appreciation for your partnership,
Barbara Thomas, chairperson, Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (bthomas60@comcast.net)

DISCUSSION ON JOHN WOOLMAN'S JOURNAL

By Pat Schenck

The adult education program for October will be a study of John Woolman's "Journal." We will meet on October 28 at 9:15 a.m. The reading assignment is chapters 9-12.

John Woolman (1720-1772) was an American Quaker from Mount Holly, New Jersey, who is best known for speaking out against slavery. But it isn't the cause as much as the way he approached slaveholders with love and respect that offers us instruction in the skill so needed today of speaking our beliefs civilly and effectively to people who don't agree with us. He coined the phrase, "Love was the first motion." Woolman writes candidly of his spiritual struggles, such as how hard and embarrassing it was for him to show disagreement with elders of the meeting who owned slaves and how hard he was on himself after admitting to himself that his vocal ministry during meeting for worship was not from the Spirit.

LIGHT HOUSE "PUMPKIN PATCH" FUNDRAISER

The Pumpkin Patch will be held through October 31 at its usual location, St. Martin's Lutheran Church at the corner of Spa Road and Hilltop. Our Meeting will staff the patch on Wednesday, October 17.

The organizers are asking local congregations to donate handmade crafts to be sold at the Pumpkin Patch. Some examples are knitted items, jewelry, fall-themed decorative items, and painted photo boxes.

If you are interested in donating items to be sold at the Pumpkin Patch, or if you have questions, please contact the organizer Christy Sample, at christy.sample@gmail.com or 410-897-2478.

Thank you,
Peter

FRIENDS OF COLOR TO MEET IN PENNSYLVANIA

The annual gathering of Friends of Color and their families will occur from Friday, November 2, to Sunday, November 4, at Providence Meeting House in Media, PA. The gathering is sponsored by FGC's Ministry on Racism Program. Overnight accommodations will be at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA. For more information, visit <http://www.fgcquaker.org/events/gifts-and-challenges> or call Vanessa July at 215-561-1700, ext 3006.

SERVING OUR AFM COMMUNITY

Tis the season to locate Friends who wish to serve Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) in the important committee work that is our life blood. Do you like to reach out and tell newcomers about our way of worship and activities? (Consider serving on the Outreach Committee). Would you like to develop

Adult Education programs? (Consider Ministry and Worship). Are you interested in our children's development and integration with our Meeting? (Children's Religious Education). Do you wish to ensure we have the materials in our library that we need to nurture us? (Library Committee). Are you a gardener or fix-it person? (Meeting House and Lands). Do you wish to support and nurture individuals in our AFM community? (Pastoral Care). Are you eager to work with issues of peace and social concerns in our broader community? (Peace and Social Concerns). Do you have a talent for finances and budgeting? (Stewardship and Finance). Do you have skills in technology (website) or data gathering (directory)? Might you wish to liaison with regional and national Friends organizations as our representative? (BYM, FGC, FCNL, AFSC).

Would you like to know what those acronyms mean? On October 14, the Outreach Committee is treating us to a brunch to learn more about the work of our committees. Please join us. Also, expect a call from one of our Nominating Committee members to learn how your interests and leadings may match AFM committee needs. Or, better yet, proactively contact one of our Nominating Committee members and let them know what you are interested in. Here are the contacts:

- Nancy Jo S., Pastoral Care and Library
- Cairn K., CREC and Meeting House and Lands
- Phil F., Stewardship and Finance + Nominating + Officers
- Margaret H., Outreach + Peace and Social Concerns
- Barbara T., Trustees + Ministry and Worship

We look forward to working with you to find the best place for you to engage in our Meeting's work. Read more about our committees on our website: <http://annapolis.quaker.org/committee.html>.

With love, as we strive to nurture our "Blessed Community,"
AFM Nominating Committee

HOLIDAY MARKET PROCEEDS

Happy Fall to everyone!

Please begin thinking about where you feel we should direct the 75% of market proceeds outside of the Annapolis Friends Meeting and where to direct the 25% that will stay within our meeting.

Please pass your thoughts on to anyone on the Market subcommittee: Careen Mayer, Kit Hanley, Cairn Krafft, or Margaret Holmes, or by email. We welcome all of your ideas and will meet to consider all ideas given.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the needs of our community, both local and global.

Margaret H.

MEETING HOUSE QUIZ

Can you identify other Quaker Meeting Houses in our area? See https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/?ui=2&ik=3f8217da5c&view=att&th=139acc84417f1c6&attid=0.1&disp=inline&safe=1&zw&saduie=AG9B_P_B1BnAp3DHOJBpW6cN_iFc&sadet=1347764357393&sads=20Bc4YeAXhIDJo6aRf90AmHq0bQ

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

SECOND DAY OF THE NINTH MONTH, 2012

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 21 other friends and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

CREC update (Joanna T. and Kimberly B. reporting): First Day School will reconvene for the 2012/2013 school year on Sunday, September 9th, after the summer hiatus. This year CREC will work with a group of primarily elementary-aged children. At present, we do not have regular attendees of

middle school or high school age. The theme for the coming year is Community. This includes our expanded AFM community in Kenya; nature and the animals who surround us; the meaning of being an individual and a part of a community; and Bible stories, Quaker history, and teachings related to the idea of community.

CREC is particularly eager for Friends to share the work of the different committees of the Meeting to give the children an understanding of the work of their AFM community. As always, CREC welcomes all members of the AFM community to spend time with the children and offer any lessons or books that they think would be of interest. The theme for each year is not meant to be exclusive.

The children will continue to participate in the Christmas market and the Spring market. After much discussion, the children determined that they would use their money to sponsor a child through Save the Children and to support programs at Friends Theological College in Kenya. Their donations will provide infrastructure to support the College's laying hen project and provide 5 water filters to communities that lack access to safe drinking water. Additional funds from the Benson's summer lemonade sale and an envelope of coins from a shelf in the classroom will be contributed to provide 3 more water filters in Kenya. Thanks are due to Molly Finch for letting us know of some of the needs at FTC. AFM sponsored two children at BYM camp this summer. In addition to the markets, the children will also participate in the following events this year:

- Stone Soup celebration the First Day before Thanksgiving
- Christmas Program
- Earth, Water, and Faith Festival on April 28, 2013

CREC looks forward to another wonderful year with a terrific group of children who are a joy to work with. They thank the larger AFM community for its love and support of the children. The interaction between all generations of the Meeting continues to build a richer community for all of us.

Home Schooling Annual Status Report: The Annapolis Friends Meeting ad hoc Home Schooling Committee successfully provided oversight for the educational experiences of two families and three students during the 2011/2012 academic year. The AFM program recently expanded to cover three families with a total of six children. The ad hoc Committee for the 2012/2013 academic year will consist of Sarah B., Mardy B., Cairn K., Joanna T., and Denise F., with Kimberly B. and Eleni E. co-chairing. The AFM insurance policy covers up to 25 children under the Home Schooling umbrella. The Committee looks forward to the upcoming academic year and continues to strive to provide appropriate support to promote the success of each student, their families, and the overall program.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting report (Pat S. reporting): Karen C., Kit H., Lee L., Pat S., and Barbara T. attended BYM annual sessions this year. The theme was Spirit-Led Social Action. The new Faith and Practice is near completion after ten years of work. Mattaponi MM in Virginia and Shepherdstown MM in West Virginia were welcomed into the Yearly Meeting. The YM passed a minute brought by the Indian Affairs Committee repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, which gave 15th century explorers permission to rob and enslave non-Christian natives. American law that allowed settlers to take over Indian lands was based on this legal precedent.

In the next year, Peace and Social Concerns committee will focus on Israel and Palestine and divestment from companies profiting from the occupation of the West Bank. They ask that monthly meetings join them in dialogue.

Diane Randall, the new general secretary of FCNL, gave the Carey Memorial Lecture. She reminded us that we are to love God and love our neighbors. She said that the neighbors of FCNL are the members of Congress. She asked us to hold FCNL in the Light as they attempt to influence Congress toward more peaceful and compassionate legislation. Two other plenary sessions were a panel discussing on spirit-led social action and a session led by Linda Garrettson, recently retired director of Catoctin Quaker Camp, on the BYM camping program.

Friends were again encouraged to include BYM among the organizations to which they make monetary contributions.

Nominating Committee (announcement by Barbara T.): Nominating Committee will begin its annual search to match willing Friends with AFM committee service needs. The committee will have its first meeting on 9/11 and, following that, one of its members (Phil F., Cairn Krafft, Margaret H., Barbara T., Nancy Jo S.) will contact committee clerks to learn committee needs for 2013. Throughout October, Nominating will work with Friends in their discernment and will bring a draft slate to the November Meeting for Business. With that input, they hope to have a final slate at the December Meeting for Business. Trustees will affirm the slate for 2013.

Treasurer' Report (by Karen C. for Joel R.): Contributions are looking good--not low at a worrisome level. The Treasurer is concerned that committees are not spending their budgeted funds. Stewardship and Finance is grateful to the committees that have submitted their budget requests for 2013. S&F will hold a meeting for learning, following worship on October 28, around the budget.

ACTION: In the next two to three months committees will present summaries of what they have done this year and what they plan to do next year. This will help for nominating and budget. We will plan to continue these reports on a more routine basis next year.

Ministry and Worship (Tricia R. and Marcia O. presenting an update on Ann Riggs' work with Friends Theological College (FTC) and her need for support): The text of the complete report appears in the Newsletter and as an attachment in the book of MbB minutes. Ann Riggs was approved as an Embraced Friend by BYM at the June 18, 2011, Interim Meeting for a three year period. This approval has rendered spiritual support through her BYM Support Group. The amounts pledged and received from BYM and BYM individuals will not relieve her financial shortfall, which presently exists and increases annually. FTC is a ministry of FUM, and FUM is Ann Riggs' employer. This year FUM has been unable to pay her salary, benefits, and pension plan. Instead, FUM expects Ann, and all their other worldwide ministers, to raise funds for their own support. Half of the FTC funding, itself an NGO, must come from Kenyan sources. FTC is totally unable to meet its own needs and cannot contribute anything to Ann's salary. She is called to do this work and we have released her to do it. We have some obligation to ensure that she has all the support that we can muster.

In less than three years, Ann has turned FTC into the highest level of Quaker education attainable in Kenya. She is well under way towards full accreditation for all the course work offered at the college. The graduates of FTC are released to their homes and villages as educated ministers to serve as cultural and social leaders. They are required to intervene against corruption, tribal violence, rape, disease, and bribery--bringing "God's Good News" that "there is that of God in each of us." Consider, for a moment, how spirit leads us in Africa. Are we led to support the one individual with whom we have a connection, who is doing God's work for peace? We discussed the difference between Released and Embraced Friends.

ACTION: Discussion of these issues and funding will continue next month.

Closing: 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

LIBRARY CORNER

"Sweet Fruit From The Bitter Tree: 61 Stories of Creative and Compassionate Ways out of Conflict"
Compiled by Mark Andreas

Reviewed by Nan E.

Nine new books have arrived in our library. Subjects range from long marriage to Quaker Psalms to healing conversations to fiction. We also have acquired a CD, "Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong." It was difficult to choose a book to review as I wanted to read them all. I opted for an upbeat one on conflict resolution as the query for October is Peace. The title is "Sweet Fruit From The Bitter Tree."

This book is a collection of how "real people have dealt with conflict situations by responding in unusual and creative ways." The stories vary but violence is averted. In one item, two policemen try

diversion instead of the usual aggression when approaching a home situation with success. Others from robbers to family members with inferior feelings demonstrate how violence can be discouraged.

This book is uplifting as to ways with which everyday situations are dealt. In most cases, it shows how we may see that of God in other humans. It can be read in small segments when one wants reminding that there is good in the world.

QUAKER QUOTES FOR OCTOBER

Let your lives and conversation preach, that with a measure of the spirit of God you may reach to that of God in all. (George Fox, 1675)

And all friends everywhere this I charge you...live in peace...and therein seek the peace of all men and no man's hurt....And so...it is love that overcomes and not hatred with hatred, nor strife with strife. Therefore live in the peaceable life, doing good to all men, and seeking the good and welfare of men. (George Fox, 1659)

A good end cannot sanctify evil means, nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it. Let us try what love will do. (William Penn)

If each of us, individually, simply decided not to fight, not to let anger take over our hearts, to act always out of love and not out of fear or hate, then the world would be at peace. Isn't this all Jesus asked? This is my prayer. (John Andrew Gallery, Reflections From A Prayer Vigil For Peace, p. 22.)

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. ... The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world. (From the November 21, 1660, declaration made to Charles II by George Fox and other Friends)

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by October 21.
- 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

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