

The Friendly Line

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

March 2018, Vol. 9



“Stillness in Friends meetings – It is a state of great attentiveness, not of abandon. It involves an awareness of one’s Being, not one’s Doing.” John Punshon

Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee Issues Invitation to Meeting Members and Attenders

You are Invited to a Special Luncheon and Discussion

All DMV Friends and attenders are invited and encouraged to participate in two related Second Hour presentations and discussions about the future financial health and well-being of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting. The Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee will provide a light lunch. The first meeting will be March 24 and the second date is being scheduled.

The Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee has been meeting to gain a better understanding of Des Moines Valley Friends' budgeting practices and history of giving as we have considered questions and concerns raised in meeting for worship for business. We have developed several draft recommendations we believe can help provide greater stability for Meeting and its future. We approach this in a spirit of shared responsibility for stewardship of our meeting community -- in the midst of changes in the financial landscape of Meeting and our society over which we have limited control.

The ad hoc committee will share information behind our recommendations and seek input as part of the “seasoning process.” After the set of two meetings, the ad hoc committee

will review your feedback and refine recommendations to bring to an upcoming meeting for worship with attention to business.

Changes that the committee is considering as recommendations, which will be the focus of March 24 discussion include:

- Changing our fiscal year to a calendar year – with associated changes in the calendar for our committees.
- Encouraging members and attenders to consider monthly donations to help Meeting better manage its budget and financial planning.
- Encouraging members to make annual commitments and to consider the process for outreach related to seeking commitments.

Second Discussion (date to be determined) Establishing a Policy for Undesignated Bequests

We recommend setting up a long-term account through Friends Fiduciary for undesignated bequests and will discuss how the interest income from that fund could be utilized each year.

We will be reviewing suggested changes in our budgeting process.

We hope you will join us on March 24 as we begin exploration concerning the future financial health and well-being of Des M Valley Friends Meeting.

In the Light,

Members of the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee
(Pam Blackburn, Claire Cumbie-Drake, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Ann Robinson, and Owen Newlin)

Midyear Meeting - Living Faithful Lives

IYM(C)'s annual Midyear Meeting is scheduled to be held 03/30 & 03/31 at Bear Creek Meetinghouse in rural Earlham, Iowa.

This year the guest presenter is Debbie Humphries of New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM). She will be speaking on the subject of *Living Faithful Lives*.

Debbie is a member of Hartford Monthly Meeting. She was raised in the Mormon faith and found her way to Friends in the early 1990s. Since that time, she has grown in her understanding of the Quaker faith and served her meeting and yearly meeting in a number of ways. She is currently clerk of the Ministry & Counsel Committee of NEYM.

Debbie has a leading to travel in the ministry, mostly in within her own yearly meeting. She co-authored with Diane Randall (current General Secretary of FCNL) Pendle Hill Pamphlet # 436, *Spreading the Fire; Challenging & Encouraging Friends that Travel in the Ministry*, and authored the book *Seeds that Change the World; Essays on Quakerism, Spirituality, Faith, and Culture*. Debbie is on the Board of the School of the Spirit Ministries and is completing a time of traveling in the ministry through the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Traveling Ministry Corp.

Her three presentations at Midyear Meeting are entitled *Practicing Our Spirituality; Quakerism & Primitive Christianity; and Living Lives of Prophetic Ministry*.

Midyear Meeting Schedule

Midyear Meeting is scheduled to begin with registration and fellowship at 9:00 AM and move

into worship at 10:30. A full schedule is located on the Yearly Meeting web site at www.iymc.org

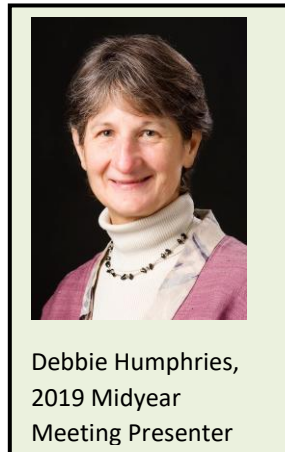
Midyear Meeting is a time to build new and old F/friendships and together grow deeper in the Spirit. Unlike time at Yearly Meeting annual sessions, there is lots of time built in for fellowship and only two groups are scheduled to meet for business over the weekend; IYM(C) Peace & Social Concerns Committee and Interim Meeting. Both are charged with only doing business of Yearly Meeting that is time sensitive and needs action before annual sessions. For example, each year IYM(C) seeks to appoint four Friends to serve as Yearly Meeting visitors to IYM(C)'s sister Conservative yearly meetings at their annual sessions. Two Friends are appointed to attend North Carolina Yearly Conservative annual sessions (scheduled for 07/10-14 at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington in Wilmington, North Carolina) and two Friends to visit Ohio Yearly Meeting (which is scheduled to meet 08/5-11 at Barnesville, Ohio.) Interim Meeting representatives look for visitors who have demonstrated a good understanding of the yearly meeting's *Faith & Practice* and can share how Yearly Meeting and its monthly meetings and worship groups are faring with the Spirit.

IYM(C) has funds budgeted to assist with the costs for travel and registration.

And of course, IYMC Peace & Social Concern Committee will discern whether there are actions needed by Yearly Meeting on specific concerns, such as a bill going before the US Congress or one of our meeting's state governments which Yearly Meeting feels called to support or oppose publicly or by writing to the President or members of Congress.

Jr. Yearly Meeting/Young Friends Committee for Midyear Meeting is in charge of activities for JYM and Young Friends (high school age). All but one person on that committee are from Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting. Carol Gilbert of Omaha MM, Ann Robinson, Mikel Johnson, Jean Sandstrom and Cindy Winchell (clerk) are all from Des Moines Valley.

(Midyear Mtg cont'd page 3)



Debbie Humphries,
2019 Midyear
Meeting Presenter

(Midyear Meeting cont'd from page 2)

Ann Robinson is coordinating programming this year. She needs volunteers willing to assist with Jr. Yearly Meeting. Friends can sign up for two-hour sessions. With more F/friends assisting, Ann hopes no one will have to miss all of the adult program because of agreeing to help in the Jr Yearly Meeting program. Contact Ann if you are able to assist at anny@mediacomb.net.

Please pre-register for Midyear to help in planning the amount of groceries needed for meals, etc. If you plan to bring children, you must pre-register by 3/18 if you will need a babysitter on location. For more information go to www.IYMC.org for the registration form and program.



Don Ogren's First Day School Class 01/ 1969 (L to R) Front Row: unknown; Don; Ogren; Lon Hutchinson Back row: Jan Newlin; Tammie Newlin; John Newlin; Chris Day *(Notice that all the guys have suits or sweaters & ties, and the girls, dresses)*

February Business Meeting Canceled Due to Weather

The February meeting for worship with attention to business was canceled due to inclement weather keeping a majority of members and attenders at home. Since the January committee reports could not be read and approved in Feb-

ruary, it was decided both January and February committee reports will be given at the March business meeting. Clerks will try to keep the meeting about the same length as most meeting. Those at the meeting for worship with attention to business will need to do their part as well for this to be accomplished.

Apply for FGC Gathering Financial Assistance Now

Ministry & Council Committee reminds F/friends that Meeting has approved a small fund for members/attenders who could use some assistance to cover costs of registration and/or transportation to attend the Friends General Conference Gathering this summer. This year the Gathering is scheduled to be held on the Grinnell College Campus in Grinnell, Iowa 06/30 to 07/06/2019. The Gathering has only been in Iowa one other time, also in Grinnell in 2011.

Please submit a letter of request to Ministry and Counsel by emailing Dorothy Lifka at dmlifka@yahoo.com by 3/22/19. Ministry and Counsel will review requests and disperse available funds before the opening of registration on 4/1/19.

The letter should include the following:

1. How much will it cost you to attend?
2. How much can you cover yourself?
3. How much are you asking for from Meeting?
4. How long do you plan to attend? Full Gathering? Half Gathering? One day?
5. If you are attending more than a day, are you planning to stay onsite?

New E-mail for Friendly Line Editors

To contact editors or to send in story ideas, reports, upcoming calendar events, and/or photos (JPEG please) for the next *Friendly Line* please use the following address:

friendlyline@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org.

Please send all submissions no later than 6:00PM on 04/05. Earlier submissions are welcome! Deborah Fisch, *Friendly Line* editor.

Advice & Queries for April

#10 Environmental Responsibility

ADVICE

All of creation is divine and interdependent: air, water, soil, and all that lives and grows. Since human beings are part of this fragile and mysterious web, whenever we pollute or neglect the earth we pollute and neglect our own well-springs. Developing a keen awareness of our role in the universe is essential if we are to live peacefully within creation.

The way we choose to live each day—as we manufacture, package, purchase and recycle goods, use resources, dispose of water, design homes, plan families and travel— affects the present and future of life on the planet. The thought and effort we give to replenishing what we receive from the earth, to keeping informed and promoting beneficial legislation on issues which affect the earth, to envisioning community with environmental conscience, are ways in which we contribute to the ongoing health of the planet we inhabit.

Preserving the quality of life on Earth calls forth all of our spiritual resources. Listening to
(*Advice & Queries cont'd on page 4*)
(*Advice & Queries cont'd from page 3*)
and heeding the leadings of the Holy Spirit can help us develop qualities which enable us to become more sensitive to all life.

QUERIES

What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world's resources?

Do we see unreasonable exploitation in our relationship with the rest of creation?

How can we nurture reverence and respect for life?

How can we become more fully aware of our interdependent relationship with the rest of creation?

To what extent are we aware of all life and the role we play?

What can we do in our own lives and communities to address environmental concerns?

FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting Near Kansas City, MO

Friends World Committee on Consultation Section of the Americas Meeting (FWCC) for 2019 will be March 21-24, near Kansas City, MO at the Lake Doniphan Camp and Conference Center. All who are interested in learning more about FWCC are cordially invited, but you must register. Go to the FWCC Section of the Americas web page for registration information.

Deborah Fisch is registered to attend. Last year she was appointed by FWCC to serve on its Traveling Ministries Project Committee. She is a member of Paullina Friends Meeting and an attender at Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting.

The yearly meeting appoints members to serve as representatives from IYMC to the FWCC Section of the Americas annual meetings during annual sessions each year. Current IYMC reps are Mary Snyder (Paullina Mtg); Nancy Jordan (Omaha Mtg); and Thomas Greenler (West Branch Mtg).

FWCC seeks to foster fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship.

Their mission is "Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world."

FWCC envisions "a thriving and integrated network of Friends from the Arctic to the Andes, woven together in transformative faith, learning to love, listen, and witness."

The *Faith & Practice, the Book of Discipline of IYMC Religious Society of Friends* (p. 130) says that FWCC was set up at the 1937 World Conference of Friends in Swarthmore, PA "to act in consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over, particularly by the encouragement of joint conferences

(*cont'd page 5*)

(cont'd from page 4)
and intervisitation, the collection and circulation of information about Quaker literature and other activities directed toward that end."

There are almost 70 affiliated yearly meetings and groups in FWCC. FWCC is divided into four sections. IYMC is a part of the Section of the Americas. The Section of the Americas is made up of meetings and churches from all branches of Friends in North, Central and South America.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

A Friend shared information about this upcoming, free event, which could be of interest to many Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting members and attenders. It's co-sponsored by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and DMACC.

"Kicking Off Sexual Assault Awareness Month - End Violence Against Women"

March 27, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

DMACC Building 5 Student Center, 1240C-1240H
 2006 S Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023

Presenters include: Jerald Monahan, Yavapai College Police Chief, Prescott, AZ; Steffani Simbric, Law Enforcement Instructor, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy; and Kimberly Gleason, Journey of Truth.

This event is for community members, students, professionals, and survivors. More information can be found here: <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net>

Senate File 3134 -Iowa Death Penalty Bill To Be Put To a Vote

In response to Senate File 3134, the following letter is being sent by clerks on behalf of Des Moines Valley Friends.

Friends are also encouraged to contact their individual representatives to share their views about this legislation. Even if you know your legislator is aligned with your views on a matter, it's helpful to call or write them so they can share with their perhaps not-so-like-minded colleagues. Find your legislator contact info at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>

Dear members of the Iowa Senate Judiciary Committee,

We at Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting, a congregation of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) are writing to state our opposition to Senate File 3134, an effort to reinstate the death penalty in Iowa. As people of faith, we believe it is morally wrong to execute offenders in the judicial process. We believe there is that of God in every person, and we believe the Biblical commandment, *Thou shalt not kill*, applies to the state as well as to each of us individually.

There are many, many other practical reasons to oppose the use of the death penalty, including:

- There is reputable research that this does not deter crimes.
- The death penalty is applied in a racially biased manner.
- The death penalty is much more expensive than a life sentence.
- The drugs for lethal injection are becoming more and more difficult to procure legally, as pharmaceutical companies and medical personnel do not wish to be associated with killing.
- The death penalty is morally and psychologically harmful to the corrections personnel who carry it out.
- There is always a risk of executing an innocent person.
- Iowa already has effective sentencing in the form of life without parole.

Capital punishment goes against the tenets of almost every religion. We urge you to oppose S.F. 3134.

Sincerely,

Jean Sandstrom and Ann Robinson
 Co-Clerks

On behalf of the members of
 Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting
 4211 Grand Avenue
 Des Moines, IA 50312

First Day/Sunday Schedule

Meeting for Worship – Each Sunday, 10 - 11 AM

Meeting for Query Responses – First Sunday of each month, 11:30 a.m.

Meeting for Worship/Business – Second Sunday/First Day of each month, 11:30 a.m.

Meeting for Music – Third Sunday/First Day of each month, 9:15 a.m.

Winter/Spring Second Hours

(Contact person in parentheses)

03/24 Business of the Meeting (Ann Robinson)

04/28 AVP (Andrea Holveck)

05/26 Climate Change (Steve Shivvers)

Meeting Hosts

3/24 & 31 – C. & D. Douglass

4/7 & 14 – B. Henderson & P. Reynolds

4/21 & 28 – E. Munro & J. Falb

5/5 & 12 – D. Lifka & P. McKee

5/19 & 26 – D. Shivvers & J. Sandstrom

6/2 & 9 – C. Spaulding-Kruse & A. Robinson

6/16 & 23 – F. & S. Nelson

6/30 & 7/7 – V. Smith & P. Blackburn

7/14 & 21 – D. Fisch & K. Jacoby

7/28 & 8/4 – C. Winchell & P. Wingert

8/11 & 18 – K. Bragg & D.J. Newlin

Hospitality Committee

If we are running low on kitchen or bathroom supplies or you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee member on duty or Ella Steinbach or Dorothy Lifka at 991-2991.

www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

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