

# FRIENDLY LINE

## **Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), July 23-28,**

was blessed with lovely weather as for its 142<sup>nd</sup> annual session on the beautiful campus of Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa. Nearly 100 Friends from Iowa, Minnesota Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin and beyond came for a day, the weekend or the week to gain inspiration, conduct Quaker business and celebrate community.

This year's theme was "Accompaniment and Giving Voice," and featured presenters included Deb Fisch, a Des Moines Valley and Paullina Meeting Friend. Deb spoke with Decorah Friend Bill Deutsch about "holding meeting for worship in a holy place" through clerking. Their thoughtful comments set a meaningful, spirit-led tone for the week. Other presentations included "Standing in solidarity with people of color," "Holding sacred space," "Being accompanied by the spirit through life's hard and fearful times," and "Accompaniment and giving voice."

Jon Krieg of AFSC, another Des Moines Valley Friend,

spoke about the work of the American Friends Service Committee in Iowa and the Midwest along with a volunteer from Nebraska. Quakers involved with the Friends Committee on National Legislation spoke about their experiences as FCNL volunteers in Washington D.C. and in Iowa.

In addition to presentations and spirit-led messages, there was daily worship and Bible study, Quaker business and committees to participate in, tours of the Scattergood prairie and organic farm, music at night, wonderful food, shared work in the kitchen and dining room, and conversations everywhere. Young Friends played and learned and wrote a moving epistle directed to all monthly meetings, which will be shared soon with Des Moines Valley Friends. In addition to inspiring us to tears, these multi-talented young Friends emceed the Saturday night talent show, a popular annual tradition.

Next year, Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting will be one of the four meetings charged with planning IYM(C), scheduled for July 22-26, 2020. Mark your calendars now and consider attending. Every IYM(C) is special, and this



## **Commemoration of the Nuclear Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.**

7:00 pm Friday,

August 9, 2019

This year's theme is "Choosing a Future of Peace" with Dr. Maureen McCue from Physicians for Social Responsibility as o.ur speaker.

It will be Friday, August 9 at 7 pm at the Japanese Bell south of the State Capitol.

Parking is available in the parking lot east of the Iowa Supreme Court Building on Court Ave.

Please bring a blanket or lawn chairs for seating and flowers for laying at the bell.

In case of rain, we will meet at Wesley United Methodist Church, 800 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines

annual regional gathering represents a precious tradition that helps bind us together in spirit, service and action.

-- contributed by Ann Robinson, DMVF co-clerk

## JULY BUSINESS MEETING

for Worship with Attention to Business, July 14, 2019 Meeting

Present: Jack Holveck, Andrea Holveck, Mikel Johnson, Pam Blackburn, Virginia Smith, Dick Douglas, Charlie Day, Claire Cumbie-Drake, David Drake, Cindy Winchell, Wesley Winchell, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Sandie Nelson, Fred Nelson, Charlie Brown, Peter Clay

Clerk: Ann Robinson.

Recording Clerk: Dorothy Lifka.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business began with a period of silence followed by the reading of a quote by Abraham Lincoln. We acknowledged that the land on which our meeting house is built was the home of the Ioway tribe and other indigenous peoples.

### Correction to the June 2019

**Minutes:** Christine Nobiss' name was misspelled. She attended and presented to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Seeding Sovereignty was misspelled.

### Treasurer's Report

(preliminary written report; a final year-end budget will be presented at the August meeting for business): (Pam Blackburn)

- Those who have spent money on behalf of the meeting should get expenses to the treasurer as soon as possible for reimbursement.
- We are 100% of the way through our fiscal year, with expenses at 93% of annual budget and income at 100% of budget. Apportionment to IYM has been paid.
- Fund activity: The General Fund made its monthly contribution to the Sharing Fund; the General Fund transferred \$500.00 to the Property Management Fund. The Meeting granted \$970 to cover FGC expenses to four attenders. An additional \$889.39 in unused funds from the repair budget was transferred to the Property Management Fund. Peace & Social Concerns paid \$152.80 towards the travel costs of Paula Palmer, speaker.
- There is one outstanding bill to Hedberg & Sons

Roofing which was just received.

- Four items went over budget for the year: insurance, lawn care/snow removal, telephone, and utilities; the treasurer asked for approval to increase funds for these expenses.
  - There is not yet a proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Pam requested that we start the new fiscal year with last year's budget numbers until the budget committee can meet.
  - The treasurer's report was approved.
- Library:** (Virginia Smith): No report. Ann donated the book, Great Eagle and the Small One, to the meeting in memory of her son, Lars.

### Ministry & Counsel: (Jim Dietz-Kilen)

- DMVF Ministry & Counsel committee met 7 July. We were mindful of the fact that many of our Friends have been struggling with health issues, losses of close family or friends and with other serious concerns. We feel moved to remind ourselves (the Meeting writ large) to be especially tender

with each other and to look for opportunities to help ease each other's burdens.

- There are two Friends the committee wishes to ask members and attenders to especially hold in the Light at this time--Jean Sandstrom and Cheryl Sutton. Many know that Jean and her family are dealing with Jean's cancer. M&C scheduled and held a prayer circle for her following Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on 14 July.
- Cheryl Sutton has also been dealing with some health concerns. Cards, emails and phone calls from friends would be welcomed by Cheryl.
- AVP – no report.
- The clerk thanked M & C for supporting members' attendance at FGC Gathering.

**Religious Ed** (Dorothy & Andrea): First Day School and child care are being provided together during the summer. There is a need for child care during second hour.

**Building & Grounds** (Dick Douglass): Hedberg & Sons Roofing completed repairs. The ceiling over stoop outside back door in need of repair. Other work that has been completed: fallen limb removed; Steve Timmons

trimmed concrete steps; Bob Henderson weather-treated the benches (donated in memory of Sherry Hutchison).

It was suggested that a ten-year plan anticipating future maintenance and repairs be developed.

The meeting approved the committee's proposal to accept a bid for painting the windows and soffit with a ceiling of \$4000. This will come out of the property management fund. A question was raised about how a possible playground for children would be paid for. Adding a playground would need to be discussed with Friends House. The question was referred to the religious education committee for further discussion. The treasurer will share insurance information on this topic with the committee.

**Property Management:** No report.

**Peace & Social Concerns** (Jack Holveck): DMVF paid for Paula Palmer's plane ticket. She facilitated a Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change workshop co-sponsored by DMVF.

Peter encouraged Friends to let Governor Reynolds know that Indigenous People's Day should be an annual event.

**Iowa Sanctuary Movement** (Andrea Holveck): Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is sponsoring a three-part film series entitled "Changing the Immigration Narrative". All

films will be shown in Waveland Hall at Plymouth Congregational Church at 7:00 pm. The first film, "Santuario" was shown July 12<sup>th</sup>. Over \$1500 was donated to the Iowa Sanctuary Movement. The second film will be shown on August 9<sup>th</sup> with the donations going to AFSC. The third film will be shown September 13<sup>th</sup>, with donations going to JFON, Justice for our Neighbors. A different film will be shown each time.

**Hospitality:** No report.

**Nominating Committee:** New committees began July 1<sup>st</sup>. The list is on the bulletin board outside of the meeting room and has been shared in an email.

**Old business:** No second hour on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

The preliminary recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee Fundraising were distributed. These will also be emailed with a draft of the fundraising letter and a request for any questions. The recommendations will be discussed at the August business meeting.

The recommendations include requesting a change in our IYMC apportionment; the business meeting conveyed to Andrea Holveck, our representative to IYMC, that the meeting would appreciate a reduction in our apportionment due but is willing to pay the current apportionment for the

coming year if that is not possible.

**New business:** Lynne and Claire will be rotating off the Friends House Board. Dick and Bob are currently on the board. The board meets quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>. Deborah Fisch and Pam Blackburn volunteered and were approved. Claire will let Jon Krieg know.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with a period of Silence.

**Query #1:  
Meeting for  
Worship on 7/7/19**  
Susan Myers

*Are our Meetings for Worship held in a spirit of expectant waiting and communion with the Holy Spirit?*

Many of us prepare for meeting during the week by practicing centering and devotional reading. We read poetry and writings of ‘weighty’ Quakers such as Parker Palmer in order to orient ourselves back to the essential, to our true self. Music and appreciation of nature also bring us into contact with the divine.

*How do we refer to that which is divine? How does ascribing gender to the Holy Spirit affect our worship?*

We have been intentional in looking at how gender affects our worship and the life of our meeting. In our tradition, we have had many names for God – the Creator, the Light, the Life. We note that ascribing gender to the divine may risk framing our relationship with God through the lens of our relationship with our own parent of that gender – for good or ill. Perhaps our First Day youth could query friends with ‘what do you do to prepare for Meeting?’ Another recommended Friends’ Journal’s “Quaker Speak,” a video that is distributed every Thursday. It is helpful to have these resources, as our faith tradition seems often to be communicated through osmosis – these can make our traditions more overt.

Assigning gender to our spiritual experience just doesn’t make sense to us.

*How does the vocal ministry of the meeting contribute to its spiritual life? In what ways do we recognize and nurture vocal ministry and other spiritual gifts?*

We welcome messages as tremendous gifts. The gifts come from the heart and speak of compassion. Often our messages move beyond the duality of good and evil. We recognize the gift in vocal ministry by individuals approaching the speaker and

offering thanks for the message given. Perhaps we could do better in helping children and members to recognize when the spirit is prompting a message. We reflected on the challenge of nurturing members who may offer messages that may be less consonant with the Meeting tone. Perhaps the lesson is for our members to learn patience and loving care. This meeting also nurtures the spirit in our members by providing scholarship support to attend Friends General Conference. We could improve our practice of letting members know that we will provide financial support to people who would like to experience more of the wider Quaker community and bring the learnings back to meeting. Finally, we appreciate the practice of having the Query and Advice read during Meeting for Worship, to allow our worship to be influenced by the Query.

We wrestled with the concept of eldering related to vocal ministry during Meeting. We don’t want a person to engage in “drive-by eldering,” in which one person, after Meeting, speaks to a person about what they did not like about sharing in a negative way. True eldering loving correction, is the work of Ministry and Counsel. We noted experience with our M&C committee very lovingly



and gently providing direction during Meeting for a person who had been providing lengthy, repetitive messages. We would like to provide nurture for our vocal ministry in a way that encourages people to bring even more meaning to the messages offered.

## NEWS OF OUR NEIGHBORS

**DJ Newlin**

Very sad news from Peter Clay, on location in northeast Wisconsin, where 100 mile per hour winds on July 19 destroyed all (about 3500) of the remaining Red Pine trees on his family's land. Peter was not injured, nor was the cabin damaged, due to earlier harvesting of trees close to the buildings. All power lines were down, and fallen trees and poles block the drive from the main road. His brother drove from Hew Hampshire and brought a generator to allow them to have electricity for part of each day.

A quote from his email :  
“Nothing in my life will ever be the same again. My challenge now is how to continue to be a good steward in relationship with this land despite the utter devastation all around me.” He ends by expressing gratitude for the

sixty years he has loved this land, where he helped his father plant the trees that are now all gone. Messages of support and concern would be welcome. Peter's email address is [peterclay1@me.com](mailto:peterclay1@me.com).

Jan Mitchell will be inducted into the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame this October, when she will be honored with the 2019 Robert D. Ray Award for Equity and Justice. She is being recognized as a teacher who paved a path for lifelong success in her students, and as the founder of Al Exito, a program whose mission is empower Latinos for success through education, leadership, and community engagement.

## Friends Book Discussion

**Ann Robinson**

DMVF will read and discuss *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit* by Parker Palmer for a monthly book discussion beginning August 15. After the first session, the get-togethers will take place each second Thursday evening, from 7:00-8:00, until we are done with the book. Read through Chapter 2 for our August meeting (you are welcome even if you haven't

read the book). You can order a copy or read about the book at <https://quakerbooks.org/>.

PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTION TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS':

Chris Douglass' email is [4khodo@gmail.com](mailto:4khodo@gmail.com)

Jan Mitchell's email is [jan.mitchell42@outlook.com](mailto:jan.mitchell42@outlook.com)

Fred Nelson's email is [fredjaynelson@gmail.com](mailto:fredjaynelson@gmail.com)

Neal Shaffer's scattergood email no longer works. Please remove and do not use.

Meeting Directory is attached separately to this email, if you receive the newsletter via email. If you do not receive the Friendly Line via email please ask Sandie Nelson at [sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com](mailto:sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com). THANK YOU.

Please note that this is a new format for the Friendly Line with some new Friendly Line team members. Comments? Please contact Sandie Nelson at [sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com](mailto:sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com) with any and all comments.

## AUGUST 2019 FRIENDLY LINE

### Meeting Hosts

8/11&18 - K Bragg & DJ Newlin  
8/25 & 9/1 - C & D Douglass  
9/8 & 9/15 - B Henderson & P Reynolds  
9/22 & 29 - E Monroe & J Falb  
10/6 & 13 - D Lifka & P McKee  
10/20 & 27 - D Shivers & J Sandstrom

### Child Care

Adult Volunteers will provide child care during Meeting for Worship and second hours (as needed)

Aug. 11 - Catherine & Jim  
Aug. 18 - Patty & Bob  
Aug. 25 - Dorothy & Cindy  
Sept. 1 - Fred & Virginia  
Sept. 8 - Deborah & Andrea  
Sept. 15 - Catherine & Jim  
Sept. 22 - Patty & Bob  
Sept. 29 - Dorothy & Cindy

### Second Hours

Aug. 25 - Highlights IYM, FGC  
Sept 15-Soup Lunch & Committee Mtgs  
Sept. 22 - Friends Peace Teams  
Sept. 29-Fundraising/Long-Term Giving Discussion

### Building & Grounds

Any question about the building or grounds of the Meeting-house can be directed to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, **Dick Douglass, 515/864-1119.**

### Hospitality Committee

If we are running low on kitchen or bathroom supplies or if you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Co-Committee Conveners, **Cindy Winchell, 515/720-5516 & Charlie Brown, 515/689-6470**

**Meeting for Worship**, 10 a.m. First Day

**Meeting for Worship/Business**, 11:30 a.m. second First Day each month

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

### Friendly Line

Please send info for next Friendly Line to Sandie Nelson no later than Aug 30, 2019, last Friday of month, at [sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com](mailto:sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com)

## September Query #3

How can we hold our meetings for business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time?

How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue?

How do we respond to a dissenting minority?

How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting?

How do we serve our meetings

Find us online at:

[www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org](http://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org)

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. If you'd like to be added, email Jan Falb, at [jfalb0326@yahoo.com](mailto:jfalb0326@yahoo.com)