

MARCH 2020

FRIENDLY LINE



QUERY #10
for discussion on April 5th
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 wellsprings. 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 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 and heeding the leadings of the Holy Spirit can help us develop qualities which enable us to become more sensitive to all life.

QUERY

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?

Climate Crisis Parade

The Climate Crisis Parade held February 1st in downtown Des Moines was a huge success with 70 organization-sponsors including Des Moines Valley Friends participating in this non-partisan event. This was a record number of sponsors for any Iowa action, at least since Iowans marched in solidarity with Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement more than 50 years ago! Our best estimate from drone video analysis is that 1,300 Iowans participated. Thanks to all who were able to march or in other ways supported the parade. Find a collection of photos on line, at <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AOEXi%2DahRxLBGXY&id=4F9ACD5E586CFDF6%21163973&cid=4F9ACD5E586CFDF6>

-- Steve Shivers, Co-leader, Des Moines Chapter Citizens Climate Lobby and DMV Friend, Steering Committee Member, Climate Crisis Parade Coalition.

Our Relationship With Native People

Peace and Social Concerns committee has scheduled a Second Hour on June 28th for our community to gather to share our perspectives and understanding of how we are connected to the Native People who lived in central Iowa long before those of us of European

Family Fun Night

Des Moines Valley
Friends Meeting House
Saturday - March 14th
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

All are invited to an evening of fun and games and fellowship and food.

Please bring finger foods or appetizers

Drink provided

origins arrived here. Many monthly and yearly Quaker meetings across North America have begun this work and some of them have approved formal Minutes that acknowledge the history of the land where they gather. Some have also approved including a “Land Acknowledgement” into their regular practice, such as before commencing meeting for worship with attention to business or adding an acknowledgement to their website. Some meetings, such as Berkeley Friends meeting, have even put a plaque on the outside of their meetinghouses (<https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>)

[news-and-events/land-acknowledgement-in-berkeley-ca/](https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/news-and-events/land-acknowledgement-in-berkeley-ca/)).

Our community includes a number of us who have a growing leading to examine this concern. A few of us on Peace and Social Concerns committee will be gathering occasionally prior to the June 28th Second Hour to share our thoughts and what we are learning. All members and attenders of Des Moines Valley Friends meeting are invited and encouraged to join us. Please contact Peter Clay if you are interested. Members and attenders of Bear Creek meeting are also invited to join us. Bear Creek has already begun this work as well and together we may find the best way forward. Friends are especially encouraged to spend time on "Decolonizing Quakers" (<https://www.decolonizingquakers.org>) and to read Paula Palmer's article in this month's "Friends Journal," "The Land Remembers: Connecting With Native People through the Land." (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/the-land-remembers-connecting-with-native-people-through-the-land/>).

Submitted by Peter Clay

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business February 9, 2020

Present: Deborah Fisch, Dorothy Lifka, Owen Newlin, Pam Blackburn, DJ Newlin, Mikel Johnson, Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck, Virginia Smith, Cindy Winchell, Claire Cumbie-Drake, Peter Clay, Dick Douglass, David Drake, Charlie Day

Clerk: Deborah Fisch
Recording Clerk: Dorothy Lifka.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business began with a period of silence and a paraphrase from John Woolman about his visit with the Lenape Indians:

The first motion was love. The second was to listen and what I might learn of the Spirit from the

Lenape people and if led, to share ...

Minutes: In the M & C report, it was stated that Jim Dietz-Kilen has asked to be "replaced" as convener of that committee while in the nominating report, the term "interim" was used. It was suggested that "interim" be used in both places for consistency. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Nominating Committee Report (Claire Cumbie-Drake): The nominating committee made the following recommendations: that Dorothy Lifka assume the position of interim co-clerk and that Deborah Fisch take on the "Sherry Hutchinson position" of writing up 4th Sunday second hour reports. Gratitude was expressed to the committee for their work.

Treasurer's Report (Pam Blackburn): The treasurer distributed a summary of the budgeted receipts for the months of November, December, and January. She noted that there was only a small increase in donations at the end of the year due to more Friends contributing to the meeting on a monthly basis.

As of January 31st, the Meeting was 58 % through the fiscal year. Revenues were at 53% and expenses were at 54%. It was noted that lawn care and snow removal is at 75% of the yearly budgeted amount. The treasurer noted that the meeting is \$7 in the red; we are one month behind in paying Iowa Yearly Meeting (IYM) and we owe the property management account \$1900.

The general fund made its monthly contribution to the sharing fund. \$3,573 was donated in memory of Jean Sandstrom with an additional \$50 donated to children's programming in her name. \$115 was donated to the peace and social concerns committee through soup lunches and individual contributions. \$800 in donations was received for the property management fund. \$50 was donated to the Quaker education and enrichment fund. Children's

programs were expensed for a trip to Living History Farms in the fall. The treasurer clarified the purpose of the Property Management Fund. She also reminded Friends that we are not on a calendar year. The treasurer's report was approved with thanks for the treasurer's work.

Library: (Virginia Smith): New books and pamphlets: Simply Quakers (comic book for adults); On Vocal Ministry Nurturing the Community through Listening and Faithfulness by Barry Crossno and J. Brent Bill. Dick Douglass donated On the Brink of Everything by Parker Palmer. The yearly book sale is the 4th Sunday in February, February 23rd. Donated books can be placed in boxes outside the meeting room or downstairs in the marked cupboard in the child care room.

Ministry & Counsel (M&C)(DJ Newlin): We continue to spend time considering ways in which to help individuals and families in the Meeting who have illnesses or challenges in their lives.

Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) (Andrea Holveck): The AVP Support Group met at Cheryl and Stan's home, February 4, 2020. Present were Stan, Cheryl, Gordon, Peter, Andrea, Jordan and Lynne. Kent joined us by phone. Lynne Howard, treasurer, reported that an account for our group had been opened at the Earlham Bank with the help of Cindy Winchell. An amount of \$200 was deposited. Money from another account will be transferred to the Earlham Bank. This is a checking account with an accommodator for non-profits. Lynne will be sending a report of the training sessions at the Newton Facility to AVP National by February 28th.

A Basic AVP Training is scheduled for March 27-29. The Newton Facility has limited these training sessions to one a quarter. We are continuing to evaluate whether or not this is enough to be valuable to the men there. Kent will be sending information to the warden and staff

Gordon Bivens & Friend submitted by Cindy Winchell



that might help them to see the value in AVP training.

We discussed other options to broaden AVP exposure: training for correctional officers, housing in the community for newly released offenders and elsewhere. Jordan has connections with community groups where this could be possible. We might have to modify the 3-day session to shorten the time. We will meet again March 11, 2020.

Religious Education (*Patty Reynolds*):

There is a need for more child care volunteers, even short term or as substitutes. We also need to have child care available for second hours. It was suggested that child care for second hours be provided at the back of the meeting with quiet activities.

Building & Grounds (*Dick Douglass*):

On January 23rd Fred,

Claire and Dick met. We had a general discussion about potential needs.

We expect to schedule a work-day in March or April.

In the spring Fred will have Eric Hedberg check the metal roof to evaluate its condition and longevity.

Dick will call Pella Windows to see what they would charge to evaluate the condition of our windows and check the cost of replacing a small broken storm window.

Property Management: No report.

Peace & Social Concerns

(*Deborah Fisch*): Several Friends helped organize and participated in the Climate Chaos Parade on February 1st. The meeting minutes appreciation of Steve Shivers' idea for the parade which was implemented with great success.

Thanks also to Peter Clay for purchasing the banner that was used in the march and to Katie Jacoby for her work on the banner.

Hospitality (*Cindy Winchell*): No report.

Old Business:

Finance Committee (*Cindy Winchell*): The Finance Committee met on First Day, 2/2/2020, with Ann Robinson, Pam Blackburn, Kelsea Gillespie, Bob Henderson, Cindy Winchell and Owen Newlin present.

The Committee met to consider the request from the 1/12/2020 Business Meeting to consider the following ideas for the Jean Sandstrom memorial funds:

1. Contribution to the outdoor space for children and adults
2. Purchase of Quaker song books
3. Fund to support tuning the piano
4. Contribution to IYMC John McCutcheon concert
5. Contribution to B&G for a building maintenance project
6. Scholarship to help support a Scattergood student in Jean's name

Donations in memory of Jean total approximately \$3,723. The memorial funds were gifts from multiple individuals without a specific designated purpose. The committee considered Jean's love of music and for the children in the Meeting. Jean's son, Neal, suggested a building maintenance project, considering Jean's years on the Building & Grounds committee. A friend remembered Jean's interest in bench-type seating in the Meeting room.

The Meeting will present four ideas to the family for their input. The Meeting will give serious consideration to the family's wishes and will appoint an Ad Hoc committee to research and present a plan to the Business Meeting for approval. The Ad Hoc committee will see the selected plan

implemented and completed in a reasonable time frame.

The Meeting has asked Ann Robinson to present the family with the following four options from the Finance Committee for use of the memorial funds

1. A Building & Grounds project deemed necessary by the Meeting - possibly bench-type seating in the Meeting room.
2. Music - purchase of Quaker song books; a fund to support tuning the piano; a contribution to John McCutcheon concert at July, 2020 IYMC.
3. An outdoor space for children and adults – play area/meditation garden on west side of the Meeting House.
4. A scholarship to help support a Scattergood student in Jean's name

Jean's family is expecting to hear from DMVF about how the memorial funds will be distributed. Minute: We ask Ann as the representative of the finance committee to communicate with Jean's family the meeting's ideas about use of the memorial funds and ask for their input into their top two preferences. This information will be brought back to the March business meeting. An ad hoc committee for distributing Jean's memorial funds will be appointed at that time.

The treasurer expressed appreciation for the finance committee's help with financial policies for the meeting, specifically their current charge of Jean's memorial funds.

New Business: The Immigrant Rights Program at AFSC is devolving and combining with JFON (Justice for Our Neighbors) to create a new entity; AFSC will fund the program for the next three years. Peter asked that in the future we consider an affiliated contribution to the Immigrant Rights Program, once AFSC funding ceases, as well as to AFSC.

It was suggested that DMVF representatives to Friends House

report to the meeting on a regular basis.

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

NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS

Fred and Sandie Nelson visited granddaughter, Emily, and her husband, Jordan, who live in Houston, Texas. Their visit was a long weekend from February 7 - 11. A relaxing time was spent enjoying them in this big city. They drove and were back in Des Moines to enjoy the cold weather!

FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER MIDWEST DIGEST OF February 2020



At least these Iowans were ready for the caucus.

The AFSC Iowa Immigrant Rights Program joined with other groups in hosting a pre-caucus Organizing for Social Change Training for immigrant and refugee leaders. Erica Johnson of AFSC shared this Caucus Resolution Toolkit and photos of the training, which was mentioned in the New York Times. One week later, Jody Mashek and Berenice Nava with AFSC's Legal Services Program joined with other groups to host a DACA Renewal Clinic for 35 people. Jody encourages people to contribute to help people pay their \$495 DACA renewal fee. The US Supreme Court will rule between now and June on President Trump's order to end DACA.

Iowans advocate for immigrant rights at the statehouse

AFSC's second annual Immigrant Advocacy Day at the Iowa Capitol included information about pending legislation and role-playing – followed by real – lobbying of legislators.

The next day, Jody Mashek, who directs AFSC Iowa's Legal Services Program, met with 30 lawmakers and staff during a "lunch and learn." Erica Johnson, who directs AFSC's work in Iowa, said she was "grateful for this opportunity to inform policymakers on such a complex, mess of a system – and that we're hopeful that we can work together for significant systemic changes!"

This coming weekend, Erica will lead a workshop on The State of Immigrants Rights and Advocacy in Iowa at a Theologian in Residence program in Ames. The next weekend, she'll be sharing about AFSC's work in Iowa at the West Branch Friends Church.

Bits and Peaces

Rabbi Brant Rosen, Regional Director of AFSC's Midwest Region, blogs about Shabbat and Gaza and the politics of BDS....**Congrats to Eloise Cranke, who retired in 2001 as Regional Director of AFSC's Central Region. She was recently honored by WILPF Des Moines as a "Strong Feisty Woman Powering Change".**

Your support matters

Your gifts of time and money make a real difference. Please support AFSC by donating now and sharing this subscription link for the Midwest Digest. Please like AFSC Midwest on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Thanks!

Iowans look back at 2019, look forward to 2020

Numbers tell part of the story of dynamic and expanding work for immigrant rights.

Erica Johnson, Jan 2, 2020



A collage of photos of AFSC Iowa work in 2019

Photo: AFSC

We end 2019 looking forward to all that the new year has in store for us while also taking a minute to slow down and reflect on all we've accomplished over the last year. We are so proud of all we've been able to build and the services we've been able to provide. We also know that there is much more to be done. We're excited for what is in store as we continue to work on uniting our work with Iowa JFON. We know that together we will build a strong organization dedicated to immigrants' rights work in our state! Will you resolve to invest in our work in the new year? We ask that your 2020 New Years' resolution be to invest in us and commit to continuing to fight for justice and build a powerful movement for immigrants and refugees in Iowa. Will you stand with us? Onward!

-Erica

- 1,203 people learned new information and skills during public education events and know your rights trainings
- 341 individuals' cases were served through our legal services program
- 16 communities of faith make up the Iowa Sanctuary Movement, a project of AFSC Iowa
- 15 asylum seekers were assisted with over \$44,000 raised by the Iowa Sanctuary Movement in 14 months
- 15 DACA renewals were paid for from \$7,425 worth of generous contributions
- 13 new organizers were trained during the first ever Immigrant & Refugee Organizing Academy

- 11 Know Your Rights presentations were given to people being detained at Polk County Jail
- 10 community response teams are now in operation around the state to defend against ICE
- 8 meetings were held with members of Congress and candidates
- 7 volunteers now work with staff to run the statewide ICE reporting hotline
- 3 of Iowa's members of congress signed as co-sponsors of the American Dream and Promise Act
- 5 focus groups were held to begin work on a local organizing campaign
- 3 mini labor clinics were held to uncover workers' rights abuses in central Iowa
- 2 tours of the Polk County jail were conducted in order to hold ICE accountable
- 2 messaging and bird-dogging trainings were coordinated to help elevate our pro-immigrant messages to the public
- 1st ever state resolution in support of DACA and TPS was introduced at the statehouse

Defending Immigrant Rights

All people deserve to be safe from harm and treated with fairness and dignity. As armed conflicts, poor economic conditions, environmental disasters, and weak governance drive record numbers of people to seek refuge, many face human rights violations, discrimination, and exploitation. We work both to address the economic and political drivers of migration in multiple countries and to support migrant and refugee communities. Our immigration programs include legal services, training, human rights monitoring, humanitarian relief, immigrant-led organizing, and advocacy for humane immigration policies.

A Midwest Quaker on Life and Service with AFSC

May 2, 2014



Abbey Pratt-Harrington, right, talks with AFSC staff Jennifer Bing and Executive Committee member Paul Ricketts. Photo: Jon Krieg / AFSC

Abbey Pratt-Harrington serves on AFSC's Midwest Regional Executive Committee and the regional Friends Relations Committee. In this interview, she describes her life and the values that motivate her. Below is a portion. What motivates me to be involved in peace and justice work? I've never come up with a specific answer other than it's just such a part of who I am. And maybe it's because I grew up in Quakerism, in a very liberal place that's always believed there has to be another way.

That's been ingrained in my DNA to a certain degree. Studying wars, and what makes wars, why is there inequality, why is there injustice? I have to believe there's a way we can all be equal and all live well together.

And there's not necessarily an easy path or road, but you have to work towards it because if you're not working for it, you're perpetuating the system to a certain degree. I don't know if I'm as much of an activist as I used to be, and maybe it's just the time in my life, but it's always been some part of myself. I've found that if I'm not doing something, then it feels like something is missing – there's some part of my life that is lacking and needs to be there.

So I think overall it's my Quakerism, it's who I am as a person, and this belief that we can all live in the world well together and there has to be a better way.

Meeting Hosts:

3/1 - D Fisch & K Jacoby
3/8 & 15 - K & M Gillespie
3/22 & 3/29 - B Henderson & P Reynolds
4/5 & 4/12 - A & J Holveck

Child Care:

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

3/8 - Catherine & Jim
3/15 - Patty & Bob
3/22 - Dorothy & Cindy
3/29 - Virginia & Fred
4/5 - Deborah & Andrea
4/12 - Catherine & Jim

Second Hours:

March 22 - Remembrance (Jim Dietz-Kilen)
March 29 - FCNL Legislative Outlook (Claire Cumbie-Drake)
April 27 - Quaker process on decision-making (?)

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 Committee Co-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 February 28, 2020, last Friday of month, at sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com

Find us online at: 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

The Friendly Line
Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting
4211 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312