

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### November 2021



#### Leo Shares Perspectives on Afghanistan for Second Hour, October 24

Thank you to Hussain (Leo) Kooshan for the informative and well-organized online second hour he presented October 24th on his country, Afghanistan, and recent events there.

Topics he covered included effects of 9/11, U.S. troops first coming to Afghanistan, some of Afghans' experiences during the decades of war, peace talks with the Taliban and their results, what happened during the withdrawal of U.S. troops and some of what he knows is happening to Afghans since the withdrawal.

He also shared a little of his personal journey, pictures of his home in Afghanistan, and the status of family members who are still there. Leo and his younger brother Hassan are currently living in Ottawa, Canada, where he hopes to be able to attend college. He is also doing volunteer work to help other refugees.

Our thoughts are with Leo and his brother and so many people from his country who are facing dire challenges and displacement at this time. Leo has expressed greetings and appreciation for support he has received from Des Moines Valley Friends, from



Hassan (left) and Hussain (Leo) Kooshan

Penn Valley Meeting and from the Ottawa Friends Meeting.

#### Here are some ways to support Leo and other Afghan refugees at this time of crisis:

Donate to the Ottawa Friends Meeting - Refugee Fund, by check, sent c/o Judith Brown, Assistant Treasurer, OMM; 29 Borduas Crt., Kanata, ON, K2K 1K9. OMM; 29 Borduas Crt.; Kanata, ON; K2K 1K9.

Or by E-transfer. From your online banking account send your donation amount to the email address [assistant.treasurer.ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:assistant.treasurer.ottawa@gmail.com). In the message box indicate the amount you are sending is for the Ottawa Friends Meeting - Refugee Fund.

**Iowa groups** helping lead resettlement efforts include:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Des Moines is one of the Iowa-based groups leading resettlement of Afghans in our state. Their website has a number of ways people can help, via donations or volunteering.

Lutheran Services in Iowa are also involved in resettlement efforts.

**National groups** helping lead resettlement efforts include:

No One Left Behind is a key organization helping to evacuate and resettle at-risk Afghans in the Special Immigration Visa (SIV) process.

International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) is providing legal resources for displaced Afghans, including support for the SIV process and Afghan P-2 refugee program, plus resources for persons not eligible for visas.

#### **Peaceways**

Check out the November issue of the Friends Peace Teams newsletter at <https://friendspeaceteams.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PeaceWays-2021-web.pdf>  
-- shared by IYMC Clerk Carol Gilbert and IYMC Friends Peace Teams Representative Peter Clay

**DMVF Meeting for Worship  
with Attention to Business  
October 10, 2021**

**Present:** David Drake, Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck, Dorothy Lifka, Ann Robinson, Fred Nelson, DJ Newlin, Virginia Smith, Billie Wade  
Clerk: Dorothy Lifka; Recording Clerk, Deborah Fisch

The clerk opened meeting for business after a time of worship and near the appointed hour by sharing an excerpt from an article printed in a recent edition of "Friends Journal."

*Through the pandemic, I have encountered generous hosts, keenly aware of our need for safety, care, hospice, and mental health. What would it mean for our neighbors if the meetinghouse were also a place with generous hosts, known for our energetic warmth, self-awareness, and intentional care for the local community? In what circumstances might the meeting be called to action by our neighbors: As a community, what would these actions look like? It may be easy to drop into a routine, however when we are poised for community transformation, our charge is to constantly assess and address ourselves in a changing environment.*

*My dearest hope is that we move outside of our habits and routines, reevaluate our practices and begin to envision our Quaker communities as transformative spaces for all.*

- Keira Wilson

Review of Ninth Month 2021 Minutes - The 09/2021 Minutes were printed in the October *Friendly Line*. If anyone finds a

typo or a correction important to their content, please email the recording clerk before the end of this coming week. All corrections will be made in the *Minutes* before they are placed in the three-ring binder holding the past and current *Approved Minutes for the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting*. Any correction of substance will also be published in the next *Friendly Line*.

## **Reports**

**Treasurer's & Finance Committee Reports** – Finance Committee did not meet this month so has no report. The Treasurer's Report is first reviewed and approved by Finance Committee before being submitted to the next business meeting. Therefore, there was also no Treasurer's Report this month. Next month there will be two reports from the treasurer.

**Ministry & Counsel** – M&C met on 09/26 in a called meeting and at their monthly meeting on 10/03, but at this time the clerk has not yet received a report.

The clerk reminded Friends that an anonymous donor has given funds that can be used to assist DMVF members/attenders who need technology upgrades to be able to fully participate in Meeting activities from home. To apply for funding, please contact Gordon Bivens, convener of the Ministry & Counsel Committee at [gorbiv@gmail.com](mailto:gorbiv@gmail.com).

**Peace & Social Concerns Committee (P&SC)** (submitted by Patty Wengert, convener, read by Dorothy Lifka)  
09/07/2021

Attending – Patty Wengert, Jack Holveck, Andrea Holveck, Peter Clay, Billie Wade, and Jeff Kisling. Patti McKee continues to follow our committee work and also the news.

Patty Wengert will follow up with Steve Shivers regarding PSC Committee work and Zoom meetings.

Our committee had hoped to hold a fund-raising soup lunch on 09/19/2021 but instead we met via Zoom due to the ongoing concern of Delta COVID-19. Our next Zoom meeting will be at 1 pm on 10/05. Thank you to Andrea for setting up our Zoom connections.

Jeff Kisling attended our meeting to share news of Hussain (Leo) Kooshan and his family and his concern for their safety. Jeff reported that Bear Creek Meeting's Peace and Social Concern Committee is also taking up this concern. We hope to cooperate with our two meetings. Jeff also advised that Leo's younger brother arrived in the US. Leo has seven family members still in Afghanistan. We will be updated with contact info for Leo from Dorothy Lifka. Penn Valley Friends may also be extending assistance for Leo. Peter Clay has forwarded a draft letter to Dorothy for members to send to our individual elected officials to press for leaders to assist people in Afghanistan.

The convener is in the process of detailing the P&SC Committee's annual financial obligations for contributions, as well as a list of activist events by local peace groups for this current year in the event we cannot return to offering monthly

soup lunches for a donation as means of raising funds to help P&SC finance its annual donations,

The next multi-religious group peace event is *The International Day Of Peace* that has been organized annually since 2002. It is scheduled for 09/21/2021 at Cowles Commons in downtown Des Moines. A \$50 check should be sent by Meeting as a co-sponsor of this event.

Other annual events include:

- Feast of the Holy Innocents, a popular ecumenical event.
- Alternative Gift Sale, the annual Iowa Peace Network's event. (Their website and event calendar are a huge benefit to our committee.)
- The Palm Sunday Procession for Peace.
- Tax Day Protest.
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Event in August.

Through the P&SC Committee, the Meeting continues to give \$100 annually to: Iowa Peace Network, DMARC, and the local Food Bank. In addition, our committee also donates to DMARC and to their diaper fund.

Our committee will continue to reach out to local Black Lives Matter groups and events including the Monday through Friday vigils from noon to 1 pm at the police station here in Des Moines. Various pastors and religious leaders have made this commitment and seek volunteers to keep the injustice and racial profiling awareness issues moving forward.

Thank you to everyone in our meeting. Be well.

**Minute:** Friends appreciate the work of P&SC Committee and the information they bring us each month.

### **Iowa Sanctuary Movement**

**(ISM) Update** – The clerk reviewed a letter Friends received from the Iowa Sanctuary Finance Committee, reviewing and updating ISA's work for its supporting organizations.

*Dear friends,*

*Your support has meant so much to individuals and families over the last several years! Because of you, we have been able to provide direct financial support to 20 asylum seekers, helped families impacted by ICE raids cover living expenses and have helped many DACA recipients renew their status! This incredible generosity has had a direct and lasting impact on people's lives!*

*Those of you who pledged and contributed allowed us to commit to supporting transgender asylum seekers and families for months- sometimes years, without having to worry about constant fundraising. The Iowa Sanctuary Movement's Finance Committee and Iowa MMJ extend our deepest appreciation to you for your generous support.*

*At this time, needs for on-going support have decreased and we still have funds available for and intended to be used to support direct relief for immigrants in Iowa. While continuing donations are less urgently needed at this moment, I ask you to consider support for the work of the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Iowa MMJ). Iowa MMJ will use your*

*donations to provide immigration legal services and advocate for systemic change to make Iowa and the U.S. more welcoming to immigrants and refugees. To find out more about Iowa MMJ, visit our website at <https://www.iowammj.org/>.*

*Thank you all for your support. The impact we've been able to make together has brought together faith communities from around the state and provided immeasurable support to people who have been targeted and left out of basic systems of support in our communities.*

*Sincere and deep appreciation,*  
***Iowa Sanctuary Movement (ISM) Finance Committee***  
Erica Johnson, Founding Executive Director Iowa MMJ  
Judy Davis, 1st Unitarian Church of Des Moines  
Susan Barnes, Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community  
Andrea Holveck, Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting  
Beverlee Bell, Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

**Minute** – The clerk read a letter from ISM updating Friends on the many projects they have been working on at this time. The sense of the Meeting is to request a presentation from Erica Johnson from Iowa MMJ for a future Second Hour so we can be further updated on their work and see if Meeting can support any of those projects. The clerk will confer with Carol Spaulding Kruse to find available dates to give Erica Johnson for a future Second Hour. We appreciated hearing the letter and look forward to a possible presentation.

## **Property Management**

**Committee** – (Dick Douglass, convenor)

### ***Review of Meetinghouse Facility Assessment of 2011***

Fred Nelson, Bob Henderson, and Dick Douglass communicated through email in consultation with Charlie Brown re the status of recommendations made in the *Facility Assessment of 2011* and the question of whether we are planning major expenses related to the facility in 2022.

#### Completed

recommendations: roof replaced, parking lot resurfaced, exterior brick wall restored, asbestos removed. (Several other projects have also been completed, e.g., new flooring.)

#### Recommendations not done or deferred:

- 1) Site drainage on west side of building,
- 2) Parking lot expanded on west side,
- 3) Exterior windows replacement (except west lobby) (We consulted with Pella Windows who affirmed replacement not needed.)
- 4) Interior doors between Meeting and Friends House replace with fire doors
- 5) Replacement of main water line from the street to Friends House.

Since Item Five primarily involves Friends House, Fred Nelson has agreed to address the issue at Friends House Board's next meeting to be sure they are aware of the recommendation and can decide what, if any, action is needed.

We are not aware at this time of any major projects that will need to be completed in 2022.

**Minute** – Property Management Committee met at the request of the Meeting clerk. The clerk reviewed the report for those attending. We appreciate Fred Nelson's willingness to take the need to look at main water line to the next Friends House Board (FHB) Meeting. FHB would also be affected should problems develop with that line as it serves both parts of Friends House. Fred will bring back what he learns.

We appreciate the work of Dick Douglas and members of the Committee, as well as that of the Building & Grounds Committee. Fred clarified that some of the work projects were not actually deferred but were rather explored and found not to be needed or at least not in the near future. The Committee will continue to revisit the condition of the building and grounds on a regular basis.

### **Outreach Committee Report**

(Katie Jacoby, convenor) –  
Attending: Ann Robinson, Billie Wade, Katie Jacoby.  
Ministry and Counsel Committee approved the placards for placement in the meetinghouse. They are now placed on the counter near the sign-in book. On the small table near the bulletin boards are: a notebook with children's activity pages related to the placards with clipboards and crayons for younger children who might be attending meeting for worship before in-person First Day School resumes, or who aren't ready to join First Day School.

A mock-up of a sign/banner was in the most recent *Friendly Line*, and we are waiting for

feedback on the design. Once approved we will apply for a permit.

The Outreach Committee is scheduled to meet again at the end of October and will be doing some discussion via email prior to that time. We will be exploring some ways to build on the First Day School young people's interest in being involved in outreach. We welcome their enthusiasm!

**Minute** – We appreciate the report and the things they are doing to help our meeting be more visible to possible seekers and more welcoming to visitors.

Ann reported that she has not yet received any input concerning the proposed banner for the brick wall. She also said that the Committee is exploring the possibility of creating some "Quaker Minutes" on various topics that could be shared at the end of each meeting for worship. This "minute" would likely be read after worship at the beginning of "Circle." Young Friends might be able to help think of topics and do a bit of the research. Friends are supportive.

Meeting approved OC moving forward on the banner. One suggestion was adding an "s" at the end of Quaker on the banner. The Committee is in the process of discernment on that suggestion.

## **Old Business**

**Queries** – The clerk asked whether Friends would like to keep meeting one Wednesday evening a month to consider the *Advice and Queries*. Attendance has been inconsistent on Wednesday evening. Several Friends were in favor of

returning to query consideration Sunday after meeting for worship. It was suggested that Friends could have a break of perhaps 10 or 15 minutes to get some snacks and refresh themselves and then begin the Query discussion. The query discussion would be both in person and on Zoom.

**Minute** – Friends approved moving Query Discussion back to the first Sunday every month. Deborah Fisch and Billie Wade were appointed to find Friends to clerk each session beginning in November. They will confer with Carol S-K who organizes Second Hours about scheduling.

**Hosting Meeting** – The clerk brought the need for Friends to volunteer for hosting on-line and in-person meetings for worship and someone to serve as organizer.

**Minute** – It was suggested that Hospitality and Outreach committees take on the responsibility for finding and scheduling hosts for the next several months. There are already several F/friends who have volunteered.

### **New Business**

#### **Suggestion for Holding**

**Outdoor Gathering** – The clerk shared that David Drake has suggested that Meeting have an outdoor gathering while the weather is still nice. Several Friends welcomed the idea. One Friend suggested we invite the other tenants of Friends House, to which Friends responded with approval.

**Minute** – Friends happily accepted the proposal that Meeting hold an outdoor gathering while weather is still

nice. David Drake was assigned to take the lead on planning the event along with Hospitality Committee members. Meeting asks that the other tenants of Friends House be invited.

#### **Meeting Concludes**

There being no other business the clerk closed meeting with a time of worshipful Silence.

The next meeting for business is scheduled for 11/14/2021.

### **News of our Friends**

Condolences to **Jon Krieg's family** on the loss of his father, William (Bill) Krieg, of Des Moines, October 10. Memorials can be made to the Animal Rescue League. A memorial service is planned for June 2022. Bill's obituary is at <https://www.ilesfuneralhomes.com/obituary/William-L.-Krieg/>.

**Osh Andersen**, still living in East Lansing, Michigan, shared a picture with two new tri-color guinea pigs, Paul and Butters, she adopted recently.



#### **Query #3 for November: Meeting for Business**

**ADVICE:** In our meeting for business, Friends seek Divine

guidance in handling the affairs of the meeting. By opening the meeting with a period of worship, Friends can more easily wait patiently upon the will of the Divine Spirit while conducting business. This assists our meetings for business in finding the loving unity that might never be achieved through discussion alone. The right conduct of meetings for business, even in routine matters, is important to the life of the meeting.

Friends are encouraged to prepare for and attend meetings for business just as they would other meetings for worship. Participating in meetings for business and acceptance of responsibilities within the meeting should not be taken lightly. When filling positions within our meetings, it is important to consider the suitability of individuals for specific tasks. Although the clerk is particularly charged with gathering the sense of the meeting, all Friends can assist the process by committing themselves to be faithful in opening their hearts and minds to wait upon the Divine Spirit. **QUERIES:** 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?



### Untitled

*A poem by Joseph Blunck, son of Patty Wengert*

The leftovers of  
Joseph Blunck,  
Philosopher,  
Like the answers he sought,  
Mystery was his two-faced foe,  
And life a test of curiosity,  
Over which technology now controls.  
But his questioning was not in vain:  
For in seeking he came to new wonders, And in new wonders he came to seek, New answers for our past,  
present, and future problems that we must meet, So when he stands at God's feet, He'll look up and say,  
"Why, God, Why?"  
And God will speak,  
Then for the first time, he will truly listen, To what the creator said, over and over again, And surely he  
will notice his knowledge felt within.

*-- shared by Patty Wengert*

## Des Moines Valley Friends

**Meeting for Worship:** First days at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Dorothy Lifka, at [dmlifka@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlifka@yahoo.com)

**Meeting for Worship/Business:** Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

**Second Hours Coming Soon:** TBA - Journey to Friends - Jim Dietz-Kilen & Deborah Fisch

**Query Discussion:** 11/7 (Sunday) noon - Query #3 Online & in person, Billie Wade, facilitator

**Child Care:** Temporarily suspended at the Meeting House. If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, please contact Dorothy at [dmlifka@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlifka@yahoo.com).

**Building & Grounds:** Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse can be directed to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Hospitality Committee:** If you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee Convener Cindy Winchell, 515-720-5516

**Friendly Line:** Please send info for next Friendly Line by Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, to Ann at [anny@mediacombb.net](mailto:anny@mediacombb.net)

**Find us online at:** [www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org](http://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org)

**Check out our Facebook** group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at [jfalb0326@yahoo.com](mailto:jfalb0326@yahoo.com)

