

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### August 2023



DMV Friends (from left) Deborah Fisch, Billie Wade and Peter Clay at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in July, at Scattergood School and Farm. The theme for this year's gathering was Knowing Ourselves: Knowing Our Neighbors. This year, Billie Wade was the speaker for the First Day pre-meeting on the theme "Unrelenting: The Trauma of Perpetual Racism on Black People in America."

### Quaker organizations part of coalition recognized with United Nations human rights award

The United Nations' highest human rights award this year recognizes the Global Coalition of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, Social Movements, and Local Communities for the Universal Recognition of the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment.

This coalition includes AFSC, Quaker United Nations Office, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Quaker Earthcare Witness,

among many others. The award is a recognition of tireless efforts that began decades ago and has resulted in thousands of people from across the globe joining forces to achieve a milestone: the recognition by the United Nations of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Learn [more](#).

### A Quaker Minute: Elizabeth Fry

Elizabeth Fry was a middle-class Quaker lady in her mid-30s, who had 11 children when her charitable work took her inside the notorious Newgate Prison.

Quietly outraged by the inhumane conditions, Elizabeth recruited a cadre of women to join her in regular prison visits. They read the Bible and led prayers. They brought food, clothes, books and necessities. They founded a prison school for the children and organized appropriate "job" training for the adults. They treated the inmates with dignity and respect, and involved them in decision making.

Frederick William IV, King of Prussia, and advocate of prison reform, corresponded with Elizabeth. When he visited London in 1842, he accompanied her on a visit to Newgate prison. When Elizabeth (in the manner of Friends) knelt spontaneously and offered an extemporaneous prayer, the King, his courtiers and the inmates knelt with her.

An engraving of the plain Quaker woman, the women of Newgate prison, and the King of Prussia praying together became the centerpiece of the Quaker pamphlet "Children of the Light".

*One in a series on Quaker history and practice, contributed by Pam Blackburn*

## **DMVF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, July 11, 2023**

Present: Dorothy Lifka, Billie Wade, Andrea Holveck, Susan Myers, Virginia Smith, Kari Noble, Steve Shivers, David Drake, Dick Douglass, Claire Cumbie-Drake

The Meeting opened with a Moment of Silence

Minutes from June 2023 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

**Minute:** The Minutes were approved.

### **Financial Reports**

**Minute:** The Meeting reviewed and approved the financial report.

### **Finance Committee & Budget Report** (Catherine Dietz-Kilen)

DMVF Finance Committee Minutes, May 30, 2023

Attendees: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Dorothy Lifka, Cindy Winchell, Dick Douglass, Kelsea Gillespie, and Katie Jacoby

Monthly Financials. Finance Committee reviewed the financial reports for April 2023 and found them to be very straightforward and complete. Nothing unusual to report.

Action Item. Finance Committee discussed the proposed budget and comments from last month's business meeting. We decided to present the budget to Meeting for Business on June 11, 2023, without making any changes to the proposed budget previously presented in May.\*\*

Informational Only. Finance Committee discussed the best process for transitioning the roles of Treasurer from Kelsea Gillespie to Katie Jacoby and Assistant Treasurer from Cindy Winchell to Dorothy Lifka. The Committee notes that the transition to a new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer is taking place in lieu of a Friendly Audit.

Our next scheduled meeting will be July 25, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

We are tentatively holding June 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. open if a Committee meeting is needed as a part of the transition process.

\*\* After the above report was prepared, a donation to the Meeting was received from the Peace, Charlie legacy fund established by Charlie Day through the Des Moines Community Foundation. The donation is sufficient to restore the allocation to Iowa Yearly Meeting that had been reduced in the previous budget proposal. The Finance Committee recommended that the proposed budget include the full allocation to Iowa Yearly with no reduction.

**Minute:** The Meeting approved the proposed budget that restores the Iowa Yearly Meeting allocation. The Meeting expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the work of Kelsea Gillespie, Treasurer, and Cindy Winchell, Assistant Treasurer.

### **Nominating Committee** (Claire Cumbie Drake)

The Nominating Committee presented its updated roster of committee members. Several positions remain unfilled, including assistant clerk and assistant coordinating clerk. The

Finance Committee is requesting that additional individuals be added to the committee. Friends should contact any member of the nominating committee (Claire Cumbie-Drake; Dick Douglas; and Andrea Holveck) if they are interested in serving. No other action is requested.

**Minute:** The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the work of the Nominating Committee.

### **Ministry & Council Committee Report** (Jim Dietz-Kilen)

Sunday, 2 July 2023

In attendance: Gordon Bivens, Andrea Holveck, Peter Clay, Debra Fisch, Billie Wade and Jim Dietz-Kilen (convener).

We gathered in silence at our appointed time (8:30).

We discussed and noted our gratitude that several Friends have stepped forward to carry on the important work of our Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

The remainder of our time was spent on matters of pastoral care, out of which arose two items we wish to note for the wider meeting community:

Chuck Day's son, Chris, reports that Chuck will soon be moving from skilled nursing to long-term care at Ramsey Village. Chuck will let us know when he has a new room number. Chris reports that Chuck is in good spirits and would likely enjoy visits from Friends.

Jack Holveck was expected to go home from the hospital the day following our meeting. He will need to have someone always present for some time, and we are compiling a list of Friends, with email addresses, who are willing to sit with Jack

when Andrea needs to run errands or simply needs a break. Andrea will send a group email and make arrangements with those who email.

**Building & Grounds Committee** (Dick Douglass)  
No report.

**Religious Ed Committee Report** (Dorothy Lifka)  
No formal report. Dorothy noted that two teens are participating in First Day School on an irregular basis this summer, and that the garden planted by young friends is doing well.

**Peace & Social Concerns Committee** (No current convener)

**Outreach Committee Report** (Ann Robinson) No report.

**Library Committee** (Virginia Smith) No report.

**Ad Hoc Committee** (Dorothy Lifka) No report. The committee has laid down its work for now.

**New/Other Business:**  
Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative will be held July 26 – 30, 2023. Items to address related to Yearly Meeting include: Peace & Social Concerns: Patty Wengert is preparing the report.

Queries report: Dorothy will contact Brock about this report

Directory updates: Friends should contact Dorothy, Ann, Deborah or DJ by the time of Iowa Yearly Meeting if there need to be revisions to contact information in the directory  
All other required reports have been submitted.

Friend's House Board meets in two weeks.

The Meeting closed with a moment of silence.

### **QUERY #3 for September: 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?



### **NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS**

A special report from **Fred Nelson** about his trip with Above and Beyond Cancer: The Above and Beyond Cancer pilgrimage climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa was incredibly inspiring! We first visited a cancer unit at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center on June 16, then started our climb of Kilimanjaro later that day. The hiking on Kilimanjaro was seven days with six nights camping. On June 20, 2023 we flew prayer flags on Kilimanjaro to honor, support, and remember individuals and families affected by cancer. The prayer flag ceremony was held at Kosovo camp which is 16,000 feet above sea level. There were four strings of flags on cord running from high on huge boulders down to near ground level with massive Kilimanjaro hovering over. In a large circle which included some of our African guides, we shared

thoughts, memories, and blessings. At dusk a beautiful new crescent moon set over the flags and Kilimanjaro. The prayer flag ceremony is adapted from Buddhist tradition of flying prayer flags allowing the wind to carry compassion and peace throughout the world. I brought several prayer flags including in memory of my Dad & Mom and for Sandie & me as we support each other on our continuing life journey. Sandie encouraged me to take this journey and her sister and mother came from Arizona to stay with Sandie while I was away.

Climbing Kilimanjaro is a great challenge (it's a huge volcanic mountain with difficult trails and risk of altitude illness). The night of June 20 at 11:30 pm we started hiking again. At sunrise above the clouds on June 21, we summited Mt Kilimanjaro the highest peak in Africa and highest standing alone mountain in the world at over 19,000 feet. Taking the journey along with a wonderful supportive Above and Beyond Cancer group of people was very moving. For me the climb is a metaphor for all life's challenges — dealing with cancer and other challenges. During the climbing, in addition to keen awareness to the present, the importance of being supported when needed and being supporter for others during their challenges is very clear. It's a reminder that cancer patient and caregiver are on life's hike together — sometimes needing a helping hand up the trail and sometimes being someone with a helping hand.



Several DMV Friends were among those who gathered, Aug. 8, at the Japanese Bell on the Iowa Capitol grounds to observe the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This year's event titled, Horror and Hope, included readings, prayers for peace and music. Photo by Jon Krieg.

### **Listen to the Light: Quaker Today podcast**

For a thoughtful and often inspiring podcast on Quaker life and influence, check out the Quakers Today podcast sponsored by Friends Journal and AFSC.

Recent episodes include "Circle Thinking: A Quaker Model of Leadership," and other topics covering Quaker leadership, literature, and art.

Find the free episodes at: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/podcast/>.

### **Upcoming Hosting List**

Aug. 13 – Dorothy  
Aug. 20 – David & Claire  
Aug. 27 – Jim & Catherine  
Sept. 3 – Charlie B.  
Sept. 10 – Ann R.  
Sept. 17 – Deborah & Katie  
Sept. 24 – Claire & David

**Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting for Worship:** Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, at [carol.spaulding@drake.edu](mailto:carol.spaulding@drake.edu)

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

### **Upcoming Second Hours & Events:**

Aug. ?

**Query Discussions:** First Sundays, 11:45 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator. Aug. Query #3: Meeting for Business.

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

**Building & Grounds:** Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse to Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

**Hospitality Committee:** Questions about housekeeping at the Meeting House to Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Friendly Line:** Info for next FL due to Ann Robinson by Aug. 31, at [anny@mediacombb.net](mailto:anny@mediacombb.net).

**Find us online at:** [anny@mediacombb.net](http://anny@mediacombb.net)

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