

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

October 2023



Sing with the Meadowlarks, Oct. 28-29

IYMC Friends and friends are invited to sing together the weekend of Oct. 28-29. The gathering will be hosted by Ames Meeting members Deb and AM Fink at Windsor Oaks Senior Community 1100 Adams Street, Ames.

They are reviving an IYMC tradition of Friends singing weekends, traditionally known as the Meadowlarks. You do not need to be a good singer or to read music. If you like to sing, plan to attend for fun and inspiration.

The group will use the songbook "Rise Up Singing" and other song sources that people bring. Click the link below to sign up. Save this email so you can fill it out again later if your plans firm up or change.

Schedule:

- Saturday 28th: Lunch at noon for those who arrive early, singing 1-5 PM, potluck soup supper, singing 7-9 PM
- Sunday 29th: Breakfast and singing at Winsor Oaks, 8:00 AM until 10:15 AM
- Meeting for worship 10:30 AM at Ames Friends Meetinghouse 121 S Maple Ave, Ames, IA

Lodging:

There are a few rooms available in people's homes for overnight. Please email Deb Fink if you'd like to reserve one.

Or you can make your own arrangements.

Please register in advance at [this link](#), where you can find additional details.

Read with Friends

There is still time to participate in the DMVFriends' book group discussion! Our first meeting on October 3 was a short introduction, with three more discussions planned for Oct. 17th, 31st and Nov. 14th.

The book is "Graceland, at Last - Notes on Hope and Heartache from the American South" by Margaret Renkl. This is a collection of essays published in the New York Times, offering "natural beauty, human decency, and persistent hope," while delving into the most important issues of our time.

The book is divided into sections of 33-45 pages, including Flora and Fauna, Environment, Social Justice, Politics and Religion, Arts and Culture, and Family and Community. We plan to read two sections prior to each session and each person can share their thoughts on an essay (or portions of essays) of their choice.

More information about the book and Margaret Renkl can be found here:

<https://margaretrenkl.com/>.

-- Contributed by Katie Jacoby

A Quaker Minute

Introducing George Fox's 1656 "Letter from Launceston Gaol," which encouraged Friends to maintain the vigorous global preaching initiative that had been launched a few years earlier.

Consistent with early Quakers' understanding of the "New" covenant, Fox was not telling Friends to convert people to a particular creed or doctrine or bring them into a human institution. Rather, he was calling them to help people to turn to the Light as their inward teacher.

Adapted to modern English in this paraphrase, George Fox wrote:

The Living God has sent me to give you this message. Let the way you live and the things you say and do, communicate the way of God to others. Be visible examples and a source of inspiration to all people across the world. Rise above and overcome the ways of the world and help people turn to the Spirit of God that dwells with them.

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

DMVF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Sept. 10, 2023

Present: Carol Spaulding-Kruse; Brock Womack; Claire Cumbie-Drake; Charlie Brown; DJ Newlin; Katie Jacoby; Deborah Fisch; David Drake; Dick Douglass; Susan Meyers; Virginia Smith; and Dorothy Lifka

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

Announcements:

Brock Wommack reminded Friends that everyone on Zoom is “in the room” with attenders at the Meeting House and suggested that a separate microphone be set up so that those on Zoom can participate in the social hour.

Minute: The Minutes were approved with one amendment. The Minutes should state that the Treasurer did not provide a financial report, however the minutes of the Finance Committee were presented. The minutes from the Finance Committee meeting are as follows:

DMVF Finance Committee Minutes, July 25, 2023

Attendees: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy Lifka and Dick Douglass

1. Financial Statements for June 2023 The Finance Committee was unable to review the statements for June 2023 because they were not yet available.
2. EBank In order to add Dorothy, Katie and Randy to our bank account, the EBank requires a written minute. Catherine will prepare a minute based on the previous approval of the Business Meeting to hire Randy as our bookkeeper and to appoint Katie and Dorothy as our new Treasurer and Assistant

Treasurer. Catherine will deliver a copy of this minute to the EBank branch on SW 9th Street and initiate the process by which the other individuals are added to the account and then we will let Katie, Dorothy and Randy know when this task has been accomplished. Each of them will need to go to the branch and sign the new account paperwork with their identification.

3. Lawncare Katie noticed that the bill for our share of the costs for Friends House lawncare included spraying the lawn for a third time. Katie reviewed the contract with the lawncare folks and saw that it contained a provision to spray the lawn two times. Katie will communicate with the Friends House manager that the third spraying should not have occurred and it should not be paid for and we that it is our preference that the lawn not be sprayed in the future.

Other Action Items

- Dorothy reported that, at the Business Meeting in July, it was approved to restore the funds to the budget for our contribution to Iowa Yearly Meeting because we had unexpectedly received a donation from the Peace Charlie Fund from the Des Moines Community Foundation. We will bring a revised budget to the Business Meeting in August for approval.
- Catherine will contact the Des Moines Community Foundation to see if we can

get names and contact information for those persons who make the decisions for distributions from the Peace Charlie Fund in order to both send a thank you and also to determine, if possible, whether or not there are plans to make additional contributions from the Peace Charlie Fund to our Meeting.

- We began a discussion regarding the current reserves and designated funds that the Meeting holds, with the intent to develop a statement to inform future budgeting discussions. Finance Committee will keep in mind that it is necessary to have ample reserves for the changing circumstances of the Meeting, without accumulating funds solely to have those funds held in reserve.

Our next scheduled meeting will be September 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Ministry & Council Committee Report (Jim Dietz-Kilen)

Sept. 3, 2023 Meeting

Attending: Billie Wade, Dorothy Lifka, Gordon Bivens, Andrea Holveck, Peter Clay and Jim Dietz-Kilen (convener).

Following our gathering silence, we discussed a request from Billie Wade for support from our Quaker Education & Enrichment Fund, to help with costs to attend and upcoming FGC Friends of Color conference at Pendle Hill. Her specific request to M&C was for \$310 to help cover conference registration. She has also requested support from Iowa Yearly Meeting and FGC to help

with travel and other expenses. We enthusiastically approved \$310 from our fund and asked her to let us know if she experiences a shortfall that we might consider covering. We also asked her to consider giving a Second Hour presentation to share her experiences after her return. The conference is in early November.

We also returned to our earlier discussion about Friends House and concerns we have experienced in the wake of AFSC's departure. Dorothy, Billie and Deborah, as our representatives to Friends House Board, shared some positive developments, including:

- That they are looking for a professional property manager.
- That they are gathering information so they can prepare an operating budget.
- That they are considering a proposal to have an updated architectural assessment completed. The last one was done about a dozen years ago. This assessment is designed to provide estimations of the likely maintenance costs to expect and a roadmap for keeping the house in good order.

Our committee was encouraged by this report, and we look forward to updates as these items are accomplished.

Ministry & Counsel also wishes to express appreciation for the terrific work of Jon Krieg in managing the property for many years.

Meeting for Worship for Business closed with a moment of silence.



Carol Roh Spaulding reading from her book "Waiting for Mr. Kim and Other Stories" at Beaverdale Book recently, with Rekha Basu. Photo by Jon Krieg.

NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

Beaverdale Books hosted a well-attended and very fun launch event for DMVF Clerk **Carol Spaulding-Kruse's** (pen name Carol Roh Spaulding) new book, "Waiting for Mr. Kim and Other Stories" on Sept. 28. Rehka Basu, former Des Moines Register editor, facilitated the evening's discussion.

Peter Clay plans to return to Rwanda for the months of January and February 2024 to volunteer for, observe and learn about the African Great Lakes Region programs that he supports as Iowa Yearly Meeting's representative to Friends Peace Teams. Key to this opportunity is Peter's need to find somebody to keep an eye on his rebuilt home in Des Moines during the two months he plans to be away during the North American winter. Peter shares- "If any Friends in Des Moines Valley would be able to help make sure

that my home is OK during my travels please contact me directly at peterclay1@me.com or (515) 599-1980. Perhaps some of you have other contacts that might be helpful as I seek help to keep my home safe. I am very excited at the prospect of returning to a country that I first visited in 1985 and which has long felt like a second home country to me. Although it was the Mountain Gorillas that first drew me to Rwanda nearly 40 years ago I quickly learned to love the people, the cultures and the landscapes of this small but beautiful land. Helping Friends Peace Teams do great work working for/with people also helps the gorillas and other wildlife. Unless we care for one another we won't be able to care for the natural world and the myriad of other species with whom we share our home- this precious, fragile Earth.

Thank you, Friends!"



Brock Wommack shared a beautiful late-summer scene from his garden recently. He invites F(f)riends to come visit!

International Day of Peace presentation available

Presentations from the observance of the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, were recorded and are available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TzToa3TIYH_0KLCBKLjVdboa7LkxG1m/view.

Des Moines Valley Friend Dr. David Drake, immediate past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was the main presenter for the short service. His comments are moving and thought-provoking.

The theme of the evening was “Making Peace Under Polluted Skies and Nuclear Clouds.” David Drake. The event was organized by the D.M. Faith Committee for Peace and co-sponsored by Iowa Peace Network, Des Moines Valley Friends and others.

FCNL Annual Meeting, Nov. 15-19

Each year hundreds of Quakers and friends gather to worship and advocate for a more just and peaceful world at the annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

This year’s gathering, with a theme of “Justice Calls Us: Love Unites Us” will be Nov. 15-19 in Washington, D.C.

Find more information or register at <https://www.fcnl.org/events/annual-meeting-quaker-public-policy-institute-2023>.

Upcoming Hosting List

Oct. 8 – Charlie Brown
Oct. 15 – Ann & Linaja
Oct. 22 & Later - TBA

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

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

Upcoming Second Hours & Events:

Oct. 15: Committee meetings
Oct. 22: “Quaker Conservator” with Brock Wommack
Oct. 29: Journey to Friends with Linaja Mikalonis

Query Discussions: First Sundays, 11:45 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

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.

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: Send info for FL to Ann Robinson at anny@mediacombb.net.

Find us online at: <https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org/>

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com.