

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### April 2025



#### New DMVF Committee Invites Friends to Help Discern its Charge

The new DMVF Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns has been meeting and has begun distributing designated funds to support established organizations and allies in the community working to support migrants and refugees. Groups that have received support so far include: the US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI), Afghan Mosque & Cultural Center DACA renewals.

The committee plans to share information and invite feedback at a second hour, April 30. One of the items that will be considered is a **draft committee description**, as below:

*The Des Moines Valley Friends Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns:*

- *identifies opportunities to collaborate with and support larger community efforts to welcome, advocate for and provide both financial and volunteer assistance to new community migrant and refugee neighbors who have come here in search of better lives.*
- *Allocates gifts from DMVFM's designated fund for Immigrant and Refugee Concerns.*

- *Informs DMVFM members and attenders of opportunities to support this work through individual donations and volunteering.*

As part of our draft charge, we want to provide information to Friends/attenders who want to provide individual contributions, based on information we have gleaned so far.

#### How Can We Help Our Migrant and Refugee Neighbors:

USCRI (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)

Donate directly to our local regional USCRI field office. An anonymous donor is currently matching donations.

Contact Peter Clay at [peterclay1@me.com](mailto:peterclay1@me.com) if you can volunteer to help our local USCRI office with office tasks or to donate Walmart gift cards to help the case managers who have been laid off as a result of the Trump administration's aid freeze.

#### DACA application fund

Donations to help DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients pay for the required biennial renewal can be sent to: Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners, PO Box 65, Ames IA 50010. Please write "DACA Support" on the memo line.

*(continued on page 5)*

#### Mid-Year Meeting, April 12-13, near Earlham

You can still register to participate in Iowa Yearly Meeting's Midyear Meeting (in person or online), April 12-13 at Bear Creek Meeting near Earlham, Iowa. Just click [here](#) or go to [iymc.org](http://iymc.org) to find details and the registration link. MYM begins Saturday morning at 10:00 and meeting for worship at 10:30. Presentations start in the afternoon at 1:30. Sunday begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. for in-person attenders, and a pre-meeting presentation at 9:00 with worship at 10:30. The event ends with lunch after worship.

The special theme is The Fierce Urgency of Now: Quaker Discernment and Action for a Just Peace in Israel / Palestine with discussion leader, Steve Chase, Pendle Hill's 2024 Henry Cadbury Scholar. Chase is a member of the Friends Meeting of Washington and the Quaker Palestine Israel Network. He has also served as an interfaith ally of the DC Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace. Chase is working on a book titled Faith, Zionism, and Palestinian Rights: A Discernment Guide for Quakers and Other Peace and Justice Christians.

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Look for essay **Fear**, page 6, contributed by Charlie Brown

## **Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, 3/9/2025.**

Attending: Dorothy Lifka  
Charlie Brown, Susan Myers  
Ann Robinson, Brock  
Wommack, Fred Nelson, Peter  
Clay, Stan Sanders, Cheryl  
Sutton, Jim Dietz-Kilen,  
Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Andrea  
Holveck, Billie Wade, Bob  
Henderson, David Drake, Claire  
Cumbie-Drake

Meeting started with a moment  
of silence.

Meeting accepted minutes from  
February.

Meeting discussed updated  
process for minuting. The clerk  
has recently adopted a minuting  
style similar to that used at  
IYMC. Previously, the recording  
clerk took minutes for the clerk  
which were later approved prior  
to publishing in the FL. Since,  
January 2025, however, the clerk  
has endeavored to minute  
according to her sense of the  
meeting. These minutes are  
indicated in bold, while the  
recording clerk includes more  
conventional meeting notes.  
Friends engaged in lively  
discussion about whether  
conventional minutes were  
necessary in addition to the  
clerk's recorded minute.  
Considerations included:

- The relevance and tradition of discernment by the clerk
- The value of having more detailed minutes, sometimes with names attached
- The recognition that the clerk's minute is the product of the

corporate discernment of a  
meeting in engaging in worship  
as they conduct the business of  
the meeting

- By contrast, the more detailed minutes recorded by an individual who, however well meaning, does not reflect the discernment of the meeting as a whole and could even include intentional or unintentional cultural or personal bias on the part of any recorder, now and in the future. Presumably, that bias would be checked by the more traditional minuting process because the minute would be the product of worshipful corporate discernment.

Ultimately, Friends expressed appreciation of the additional notes from recording clerk.

### Ministry and Council Committee (report presented by Jim Dietz-Kilen)

The committee continued consideration of the length and appropriateness of some meetings shared during worship and during time we traditionally share joys and concerns.

The committee suggested a half-hour time period from 11:00-11:30 for joys and concerns and announcements combined. With social time after, this would push second hours back to noon.

M&C considered questions from IYMC about revision of advices and queries. IYMC asked participants to consider where changes should be made to advices and queries. We plan to add 10 minutes to each discussion to consider changes to queries. It was felt a year should

be taken to consider this and feedback be provided after a year.

Cheryl clarified that IYMC is not considering major changes, but minor revisions and that they're looking from feedback from other meetings for later consideration.

Jim noted appreciation for Billie for clerking advices and queries and to Susan for recording them.

Ann asked what do if end-of-meeting sharing goes longer than the designated 30 minutes. Jim suggested ringing the bell to remind people of the time. Dorothy encouraged those that are hosting on their own to not be afraid to ask for help.

The Meeting discussed the process for recording minutes for advices and queries.

**Clerk's Minute: We received the committee report from Ministry and Council. A 30-minute time for sharing joys concerns and announcements with a brief script for hosts was proposed. A way for IYMC to update advices and queries was also proposed.**

**Query discussion will include 10 minutes to discuss these updates. After a full calendar year, next March these will be compiled and presented to IYMC.**

**Both proposals were approved by the business meeting. We thank the committee for their work.**

### Finance Committee

(report presented by Catherine Dietz-Kilen)

Dorothy expressed thanks for Katie Jacoby for her work bookkeeping and to Katie Ulin for her assistance.

Grateful acknowledgment was expressed for Katie Jacoby's work in taking over the work previously done by the outside bookkeeper.

The finance committee wishes to think with the meeting about how best to use our funds.

Friends are encouraged to send their ideas for a mission statement which would be required to set up an account at the community foundation. Eventually, this statement may be used to set up an account at Community Foundation.

Catherine noted there has not been a final decision to set up an account at the community foundation but it's being considered for the future.

The mission statement would be a statement for meeting as a whole, but the mission statement will be considered by the finance committee.

Peter recommended considering John Woolman's "A Plea for the Poor" as a resource.

**Clerk's Minute: Finance committee presented their report. Financial reports were approved by the committee but delayed for presentation this month.**

### Peace and Social Concerns Committee

(report presented by Billie Wade)

Carol noted concern with scheduling conflict for the committee's second hour conflicting with soup lunch. Billie suggested the speaker could complete her presentation first and then be invited to join us for the soup lunch.

Charlie also suggested she present prior the soup lunch.

Andrea suggested shortening the half hour for socializing to accommodate the presentation. Carol noted the presenter likely only needs about half an hour.

**Clerk's Minute: We received with gratitude the report from the Peace and Social Concerns committee. An exception to soup lunch Sunday will be made for April 20th. On that Sunday, a guest presentation will begin at 11:30, followed by soup lunch and fellowship with our guest.**

Appreciation was expressed to the Clerk for making this blended event possible.

### Nominating Committee

(report presented by Andrea Holveck)

Andrea noted help is needed with the Religious Ed committee. Committee, which now consists of Dorothy and herself (Andrea). They're asking for volunteers to help plan for religious education.

Dorothy noted she would no longer like to convene the committee, but would like to remain on the committee and assist.

Carol volunteered. Ann volunteered as well to be on the committee and to work with the children.

**Clerk's Minute: We received a brief report from Nominating Committee. Religious education is in need of volunteers. Several friends offered to serve. A new committee list will be presented soon.**

**We are grateful for nominating committee's ongoing work.**

### Migrant and Refugee Concerns

(report presented by Peter Clay)

The committee does not yet have a formal convener.

Regarding US Committee for Refugees and Immigration, a visit to their office occurred on 2/26. Just after the meeting, the federal government revoked all funding and will not be paid for work done by USCRI. DMVF has sent \$1,000 dollars, which is being matched. About \$16,000 has been raised, including the match.

Additional donations are encouraged. Contact EG Wallace, his contact info is in the report. Peter noted they need assistance needed with filing/clerical work. They also could use volunteers from bilingual individuals.

A number of organizations were successful in joining a lawsuit preventing ICE from entering their spaces. Dorothy suggested we should be working with other churches and religious groups on these issues. Peter affirmed intent would be to join with other communities.

Dorothy noted a thank you note sent from DM Valley Friends.

Peter noted about 1000 people have been scheduled to be resettled in Iowa.

Andrea noted work with several churches to assist a Sudanese family. Assistance is needed for transportation. An online test/certification may be required.

Ann noted thanks to Brock for his support in providing special gifts to support this work.

Brock noted his gifts are possible due to the estate of his parents. He would want others to seek out people with funds they must distribute and ask them to match his funds.

Dorothy said the committee has a designated fund they are using to provide support. They're reporting funds DMVF has provided and are not currently asking for separate funds from the meeting. However, donations being encouraged for both individual donations to the USCRI organization and to the committee

**Clerk's Minute: Given recent executive actions, pending state legislation and federal budget cuts, a sense of urgency informs the work of this committee.**

**This includes help with funding the USCRI and volunteering directly with the organization. In light of the need and a \$125,000 matching grant, Friends are particularly encouraged to consider volunteering and making individual donations to USCRI as well as to this committee's designated fund. The idea of bringing a joint lawsuit by**

**several faith communities was raised. This lawsuit would protect places of worship from ICE activities. A draft letter was presented to send to Polk County board of supervisors thanking them for their financial support of migrants and refugees in our community.**

**Uniquely, this committee enjoys a designated fund made possible by many friends in our meeting as well as by the generosity of a member of our meeting, so that the committee may respond with alacrity as need arise.**

**We are grateful to the committee for their commitment and concern regarding the challenges faced by the hundreds of affected migrants and refugees in our community.**

#### New and Other Business

A letter from Bear Creek Meeting should have been sent to DMV Friends, regarding Cheryl Sutton's request for transfer of her membership from Bear Creek to DMVF. (Dorothy checked the mail but did not find the letter.)

Charlie does not have a report for Building in Grounds, but had an item to share: On 2/28, he met with technician regarding the geothermal system and they'll be meeting to prepare a report for next meeting. The technician noted that the system is beginning to fail.

Resources will be provided by Peter in a folder to be included in packet for March materials. (He looked into how other Quaker meetings and similar

communities were dealing with these matters and included materials from those he had reached out to.)

Meeting ended with a moment of silence.

#### **Query #11 for May: Social and Economic Justice**

*For when I was hungry you gave me food, when thirsty you gave me drink, when I was a stranger you took me into your home, when naked you clothed me, when in prison you visited me.*  
Matthew 25:35-36

#### **ADVICE**

We are part of an economic system characterized by inequality and exploitation. Such a society is defended and perpetuated by entrenched power.

Friends can help relieve social and economic oppression and injustice by first seeking spiritual guidance in our own lives. We envision a system of social and economic justice that ensures the right of every individual to be loved and cared for; to receive a sound education; to find useful employment; to receive appropriate health care; to secure adequate housing; to obtain redress through the legal system; and to live and die in dignity.

Friends maintain historic concern for the fair and humane treatment of persons in penal and mental institutions.

Wide disparities in economic and social conditions exist among groups in our society and among nations of the world. While most of us are able to be responsible for our own

economic circumstances, we must not overlook the effects of unequal opportunities among people. Friends' belief in the Divine within everyone leads us to support institutions which meet human needs and to seek to change institutions which fail to meet human needs. We strengthen community when we work with others to help promote justice for all.

### QUERIES

- How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation?
- How are we victims of inequity and exploitation?
- In what ways can we address these problems?
- What can we do to improve the conditions in our correctional institutions and to address the mental and social problems of those confined there?
- How can we improve our understanding of those who are driven to violence by subjection to racial, economic or political injustice?
- In what ways do we oppose prejudice and injustice based on gender, sexual orientation, class, race, age, and physical, mental and emotional conditions?
- How would individuals benefit from a society that values everyone? How would society benefit?

### How Can we Help?

(cont. from page 1)

#### Des Moines Refugee Support

Go to: <https://dsmrefugees.org> for a list of ways to help.

DMRS has a Facebook page for donations

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/dmrsvolunteers/?ref=share\\_group\\_link&exp=93fa](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dmrsvolunteers/?ref=share_group_link&exp=93fa) You can post pictures of your items on this site. This will get views from volunteers who know the specific needs of various families. Preference is that you be able to drop donations to families.

DMRS is also having a give-away event in April.

Soccer Items: DMRS would love size 5 and bigger cleats in good shape, soccer socks and soccer shorts. You can send a text to Alison at 515-478-0669, and she will give you an address to drop them off.

### News of Our Friends

**Carol Spaulding-Kruse's** mother, **Jacqueline Roh**, died suddenly on March 15 after many years of living with dementia. She lived in Salt Lake City in a nursing home near Carol's brother and family. Her obituary is [here](#).

**Dorothy Lifka's** daughters, **Genevieve** and **Alix**, and grand daughter, **Ella** spent 5 days over spring break in Puerto Rico. Alix visited some historical sites, Genevieve got some much needed rest and relaxation, and Ella discovered virgin strawberry daiquiris.

We appreciate Friends who have been submitting compelling articles and letters to the editor recently. Their words hold up many Quaker concerns. Recent examples include contributions to the *Des Moines Register* by David Drake (March 16) and Claire Cumbie-Drake (March 23).



**Peter Clay** traveled to Chicago and visited his cherished friend **Joan Berman** for her 100th birthday party. Joan and Peter first met in 1960 when she was 35 and Peter was 10. Joan and Peter's mother Teddy were best friends and led Junior Great Books together as part of their mutual love of reading, literature and poetry.

### Memorials Coming Soon

A Celebration of Life will be held for **Charles (Chuck) Day** Saturday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bear Creek Meeting, 18058 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, IA 50072.

A Celebration of Life for **Cris Douglass** will be held Friday, May 2, at 2:00 p.m., at the Raccoon Valley Nature Lodge, 2500 Grand, West Des Moines.

### Upcoming Events

**April 13 - Palm Sunday Procession and Service for Peace**, sponsored by the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace. Procession starts at 3:00 p.m. starting at New Beginnings Christian Church, 8631 Hickman Rd, returning to the church with a service at 3:30.



## Fear

*essay contributed by Charlie Brown*

My father died at 77 of the side affects of Alzheimer's. I've lived with a certain amount of fear of that most of my adult life.

A few months ago David Drake announced in circle he had gone to Broadlawns Geriatric Memory center for evaluation. Later we spoke and he mentioned that he had heard me express some of the same problems he was having and suggested I get a referral to the center. I visited with my primary care doctor at Broadlawns, and she said we would need to run some tests before she could refer me. First was a battery of blood tests to rule out other causes. Those tests didn't show anything.

Next she scheduled a set of MRI's. They ran the first set and said now we will inject a dye for contrast, another set. Then they came in and said the doctor wanted to run more scans to focus on a specific area. I was told the doctor would be in touch as soon as the scans had been reviewed.

A couple of days later I got a notification of an update on the Patient Portal. I looked at a section called Condition. And saw, AVM (arteriovenous malformation) brain. The fear raised up. It turns out it's a congenital condition that's been there my whole life. It's not serious now but that could change. I quickly got my referral, but the wait time was nearly two months.

As part of the first appointment, Susan came with

me. Dr Shah interviewed us together and then he spoke to Susan in another room while a med student administered a cognitive test on me. I got 27 out of 30 if I remember correctly. He sent me home with an extensive Life Style questionnaire about diet, exercise, and social stimulation. The answers were multiple choice , scored 0, 1, and 2 points. I had 5, 0's with a total score of 50 out of 80. Not the best, room for improvement. They also drew blood for A protein blood test measures levels of proteins, amyloid beta and tau in the blood that indicate the presence of Alzheimer's disease in the brain. I scored just below mid-intermediate, scary at first. Dr Shah explained that the questionnaire revealed things I can work on changes to help reduce my blood test scores. By changing lifestyle behaviors I can reduce my risk. My goal is to get rid of all zero answers, then work on other items.

Don't let fear prevent you from action, a good life lesson. My thanks to David Drake for suggesting I get screened. While most of us experience some memory loss with age, not all memory loss is normal. If you have questions, get checked out.

### Upcoming Hosting List

April 13 – David & Claire  
April 20 – Petra & Tyler  
April 27 – Jim & Catherine  
May 4 – Steve & Kari  
May 11- Ann & Audrey  
May 18 – Peter & Andrea

## 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,

[carol.spaulding@drake.edu](mailto:carol.spaulding@drake.edu)

**Meeting for Worship/Business:** Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 11:45 a.m.

**Query Discussions:** First Sundays, Noon - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

### Upcoming Second Hours

April 13 – MidYear Meeting

April 20 – Soup Lunch + Melissa Rose Harris

April 27 - Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns presentation/discussion

**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:** For questions about the building or grounds of the Meeting House, contact Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Hospitality Committee:** For questions about housekeeping at Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Friendly Line:** Send info for the April FL to Ann Robinson at [anny.robinson1@gmail.com](mailto:anny.robinson1@gmail.com) by Friday, April 25.

**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](mailto:jfalb0326@yahoo.com).