

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

February 2025



DMVF Hosts Roots of Injustice Workshop

40 people participated in the “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” workshop at the meetinghouse on Jan. 25.

Paula Palmer, of Towards Right Relationship With Native Peoples” came from Denver to facilitate the workshop. The day before Paula led the workshop at Scattergood School and Farm for the entire Scattergood community. All participants in the Des Moines workshop found it to be very meaningful.

We were blessed by the presence of Ralph Moisa (Yaqui), Eugene Fracek (Rosebud Sioux tribe), and Jean Hansen (Blackfoot Confederacy). Their presence deeply enriched the workshop experience for all of us.

Free will donations raised will be offered as a gift to the Meskwaki Nation. We hope this will be an opening to relationship between our meeting and the Meskwaki settlement in Tama.

-- contributed by Peter Clay, who led coordination of the workshop

A minute for consideration DRAFT MINUTE FOR CONSIDERATION AT FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING:

“Quakers, both individually and as Yearly and Monthly Meetings, were directly involved

in the founding, financial support, and administration of Indian boarding schools under the federal government’s effort to eradicate Indian culture by eliminating all traces of Indian identity from upcoming generations. Our Quaker meeting acknowledges that the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) were responsible for harming many Native children in the 30 or more Indian Boarding Schools that Quakers oversaw. We acknowledge that these harms continue today across generations. Even though the Des Moines meeting did not participate directly in operating the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools, we grieve the harmful actions of our Quaker forebears. We cannot take away those harms, but we seek to build relationships with Native communities today based on truth, respect, and justice. Des Moines Quakers are resolved to seek all ways to build respectful relationship with the Meskwaki Nation and with other Native nations, tribes and individuals on whose land we live today.”

-- contributed by Peter Clay.
The first sentence in the draft Minute came from a template provided by FCNL, Decolonizing Quakers, Quaker Earthcare Witness and Friends Peace Teams, Paula Palmer

Mid-Year Meeting - Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, April 12-13, will focus on Quaker Discernment, Action for Palestine

Iowa Yearly Meeting’s 2025 Midyear Meeting will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Fourth Month (April) 12-13 at Bear Creek Meeting near Earlham, Iowa.

The special guest for this year’s mid-year gathering will be Steve Chase, from Friends Meeting of Washington, on The Fierce Urgency of Now: Quaker Discernment and Action for a Just Peace in Israel / Palestine.

A Save the Date flyer is available on the [Iowa Yearly Meeting \(Conservative\) website](#).

Additional schedule and registration information will be posted soon.

Steve 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. He is working on a book entitled Faith, Zionism, and Palestinian Rights: A Discernment Guide for Quakers and Other Peace and Justice Christians. He was selected as the Pendle Hill’s 2024 Henry Cadbury Scholar to aid his research.

**Des Moines Valley Friends
MEETING FOR WORSHIP
WITH ATTENTION TO
BUSINESS
1/12/2024**

In attendance: Forest Determann, Charlie Brown, Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Dorothy Lifka, Peter Clay, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Ann Robinson, Fred, Luke, Cindy —on Zoom Billie Wade, Virginia Smith, Andrea Holveck, Brock Wommack, and Addison Williamson (acting recording clerk)

Announcements:

- M&C presentation: Jim D-K reads notes from agenda
- Gentle reminders about Quaker etiquette
- Questions and answers about Roots of Injustice workshop on Jan 25 (no hybrid option and no registration fee. A free-will offering will be taken, and proceeds donated to the Meskwaki nation as a gesture of friendship from DMVF Meeting.

Charlie thanked the M&C Committee for their report and hard work getting this workshop together for Jan. 25, and want to remind people to get registered asap, by emailing Jim.

- Response to question from Luke C about hosting workshops/second hour Activities: Carol schedules 2nd hours, and Claire C-D schedules meeting house

Finance Committee (Report presented by Dorothy Lifka and Catherine Dietz-Kilen)

The committee did not meet in December, financials from November are attached

November financials based on July-December 2024 budget;

as of the end of November we were 83% through our budget half year: We're at 120% income, and 56% expenses. Some expenses did not occur in this 6-month period or have not yet happened in this period so it looks more optimistic than it is but nonetheless we are in good shape

For designated funds, \$30 was transferred into the sharing fund

Dorothy will check if we've gotten a bill for repairs to our 42nd St. wall

Minute: The Meeting expressed appreciation to the committee, Dorothy and Katie for their Work.

**Building and Grounds
Committee**

No meeting in last month. Still trying to schedule someone to look at the furnace.

**Religious Education
Committee:**

(Report presented by Dorothy Lifka)

Wondering if Friends would be willing to reimplement a childcare schedule, similar to the hosting schedule. She reminded us of the policy that there should always be two adults with children, and that adults who work with children need to go through a background check

Comment: historically the number of children part of this meeting has changed and fluctuated, but it is important to be ready to welcome families who have children.

Friends encouraged everyone to volunteer to host and be a "third," working with the children is a joyful experience

A suggestion: good to keep track of what you're doing with the kids on a monthly basis to help orient volunteers.

Minute: We thanked Dorothy for her work and report, and for welcoming the Youth to our meeting. We highly encourage people to contact her about getting on the list.

Friends House Board

If anyone has copy of key to door that goes from meeting house side to Friends House side, we would like to make copies

Brock suggests that we consider a keypad system perhaps connected to the alarm system.

There was a question about the parking lot snow removal policy. Dorothy said that Renee will check w/ snow removal people to see what their understanding is of threshold of snow to begin plowing. This year, we may have a new provider.

We encourage shifting back from sand to environmentally-friendly ice melt; Des Moines Valley Friends and tenants should also take responsibility if the sidewalk is slick

Question: Where will the snow melt be to enable us to take responsibility? Some in front of Friends House, we need to think about where to keep it in this building.

Overnight stay policy: created by Billie and emailed to Dorothy who will distribute it soon; there were no concerns about the policy.

The "Batcave" on Friends House building: has not been repaired yet because of weather,

Mark Grueber has it as a priority over the next few weeks to keep natural fauna from moving in rent-free!

Internet issues are being sorted out; we can acquire a better deal from Metranet. Tenants of Friends House have had a terrible time with the internet. Brock suggested Starlink.

Insurance on both buildings renews automatically, Renee has not been able to get into contact w/ the provider and for that reason among others we are looking into changing our insurance provider. Clarification: This is a policy for the whole building

There was a question about use of the elevator. If one were stuck in the elevator and you used the phone to call, who do you call? The elevator company and they come and fix it? 911, who would destroy the front door and elevator door potentially? Fred pointed out that the person helping the stuck person in the elevator would be the person outside, so the information about who to call should also be on the outside of the elevator. The policy of never using the elevator alone is common sense and good policy.

Buildings and Grounds received concern from Friends House that as we're dealing with seasonal pests, we would like help finding the most environmentally-friendly and effective ways to deal with normal vermin. Fred remarked that we have not had vermin or bug issues over on our side of the buildings, so we do not have expertise in the matter.

Dorothy said there is a sense that people on both sides of the meeting house want to do what is best environmentally and humanely.

There was no update on the 50th anniversary bombing. May be a gathering at the end of 2025 to acknowledge. Ann commented that at the 2nd hour when this was discussed, general input from the meeting was that we didn't think it was particularly beneficial to highlight that history especially at this Time, considering what's going on in our country. There seemed to be strong interest from some to do something, but not from the Meeting's. Renee and Des Moines Valley Friends, or other tenants with interest, would be the ones to move things forward. Brock commented that he was attending then and the bombing "scared the pants off him." However, upon returning after taking a short break after the scare, he remembers the unity, love, peace and forgiveness that was in evidence "and would love to have that feeling again."

There were reminders that Jon Krieg found an old Friendly Line newsletter soon after the bombing, which was shared at the end of the last FL newsletter. Members might want to revisit the pictures and words from that article, as well as information about that time in the basement archives.

Dorothy will follow up on the questions in their next quarterly meeting.

Minute: The Meeting thanked House Board members Dorothy, Billie and Deborah for their

service on the board. It is important for us as a meeting to remain knowledgeable about what is going on over there in the Friends House.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

(Report by Billie Wade)

The committee plans to soon revive the old tradition of having soup lunches the third week first day of each month.

A reminder: Carol, not Claire, schedules second hours. Claire schedules the Meeting House.

Ann asked the committee to share information about plans to recognize Peace and Social Justice month in May, so the information can be shared in Friendly Line.

Outreach Committee

(No report). No meeting in December. Working on rescheduling next meeting with new members.

New/Other business

Item 1: We encouraged people to register for Towards Right Relationships workshop with Jim D-K, we have room for 7 or so more.

Item 2: Andrea was unsure of how much we wanted to be involved with the immigrants rights project explained in a recent email. Do we need a refugee committee to work on this? Do some want to form an ad-hoc committee to see what we can do with our capacity and funds? Catherine urges that we reconvene with a smaller group when we're fresh and not at the end of Meeting for Business. As per our tradition, work should go to a committee first, then bring back report to meeting for

business. Several volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to work on this: Ann, Andrea, Peter, Dorothy, Jim, Catherine, Addison (we will let Logan Jimenez know as well). Peter agreed to call the first meeting

Item 3: Jim reported that Leo Ramizani's family celebrated at the end of the year, the year of support from the Ottawa meeting. At this point, Leo and his family are proceeding in a self-sufficient manner. It is appropriate for us to acknowledge the miracle that occurred there and how amazing it was to Jim that we made a referral to the Ottawa meeting, and the Penn Valley meeting before them, who came through and supported that family in a remarkable way. Ann suggested that it would be nice to include a write-up about this in the Friendly Line and reminded us of the importance of having hopeful stories.

Meeting closed with a moment of silence

Iowans continue efforts to defend immigrant rights

AFSC alums with Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (MMJ) share their latest [resistance update](#), including work to protect kids from ICE in schools, Know Your Rights trainings, action steps and resources.

For all its work, MMJ will receive the annual Bishop Dingman Peace Award in March. To download AFSC's posters for Just Migration, please [click here](#).

Query #9 for March – Civic Responsibility

ADVICE:

Because Friends believe there is that of God in all people, we strive for a world of freedom, justice and equality for everyone. Believing that progress toward these ideals is advanced by those who devote themselves to the shaping of a just society, we urge Friends to be active and conscientious citizens. This means staying informed on social issues, and on the opinions and activities of our elected representatives and of those seeking office. It is important that Friends speak truth to those in power. We recognize that, in our world, power in government and private sectors lies disproportionately with those of economic means. Speaking out on a personal level in our communities may be difficult, even dangerous, yet by doing so we may encourage others to work for justice.

Our first allegiance is to the Holy Spirit. In general, Friends support the laws of the State, but if those laws directly violate our religious convictions, we may be led to oppose them. When contemplating civil disobedience or unpopular personal testimony, we must carefully consider the spiritual basis for, and honestly face the consequences of, our actions.

QUERIES

What conflicts do we perceive between the laws of the State and our religious convictions? How do we resolve those conflicts in our lives?

In what ways do we assume responsibility for the government of our community, state, nation and world?

How do we share our convictions with others?

Do we express our opinions with courage, yet with love, mindful of the Divine Spirit within everyone?

How do we maintain our integrity when we find ourselves in a position of power?

How do we respond when we feel powerless?

Do we really respect and help those we seek to serve?

Are we careful to reach our decisions through prayer and strengthen our actions with worship?

Are we open to divine leadings?

News of Our Friends

DMV Friend **Billie Wade** was featured in a recent interview by the American Friends Service Committee. View the recording of the conversation on "Racism and the Struggle for Equality," [linked here](#).



"I've been holding our community and nation in the light," reported **Ethan Huelskamp** of Scattergood Friends School, last week. "We

are doing our best to keep hope at the center of our classes, and that's best achieved by taking action. This week, our Des Moines service trip decided to participate in a protest at the capital. A student was interviewed about it! Read the [article in the Iowa City Press Citizen](#).

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE: Mid-Year Meeting - Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, April 12-13, 2025

Theme: Quaker Discernment and Action for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine.

John Woolman: Man of Integrity will be presented, Feb. 16, 2025, by Dale Dorrell, at the Meeting during second hour. Dorrell's original 30-minute program consists of some narration for historical setting, quotes from Woolman's journal and other writings, and original music by Dale. There will be opportunity for discussion around present day applications.

Friends are invited to participate in a community meeting with new police chief, Michael McTaggart, March 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Polk County Senior Center. The meeting is hosted by Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI). A flyer has been shared by the DMVF Clerk, along with agenda items for Meeting for Worship with attention to business for Feb. 9.

Quaker Earth Care video on the world's current climate situation.

Steve Shivvers recently shared information about videos by the Quaker Earth Care Witness organization. Their programs can be found at:

<https://quakerearthcare.org/video/>

The website also invites Quaker to support each other in addressing climate change and earth care by participating in events, including weekly worship with attention to Earth Care leadership, on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., CDT.

Upcoming Hosting List

Feb. 9 – Katie & Deborah
Feb. 16 – Claire & David
Feb. 23 – Petra & Tyler
March 2 – Jim & Catherine
March 9 – Steve & Kari
March 16 – Ann & Carol

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 11:45 a.m.

Upcoming Second Hours:

Feb. 16: John Woolman (Dale Dorrell)

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: 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 March FL to Ann Robinson at anny.robinson1@gmail.com by Friday, Feb. 28.

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.