

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

October 2025

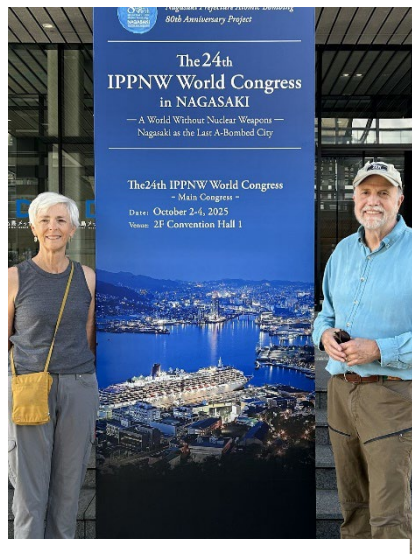


IPPNW's 24th World Congress Declaration from Nagasaki, Japan

-- Excerpt from the declaration by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the first and last paragraphs. Shared by David Drake and Claire Cumbie-Drake from Nagasaki, Japan

We have gathered in Nagasaki, as doctors, medical students, and activists, to commemorate the Hibakusha, the victims and survivors of the US atomic bombings here and in Hiroshima 80 years after those terrible events, and the survivors of the more than 2,000 nuclear tests conducted around the world. We recognize and thank the Hibakusha and Nihon Hidankyo, recipients of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, for their life-long dedication to the abolition of nuclear weapons. We are honored by their presence at this Congress. With their example before us, we recommit ourselves to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

The US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80 years ago exposed the fragility of our world in the nuclear era. The taboo on the use of nuclear weapons since 1945 is now itself eroding. We echo the words of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, "Humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."



Claire and David with IPPNW Congress banner, 2025.

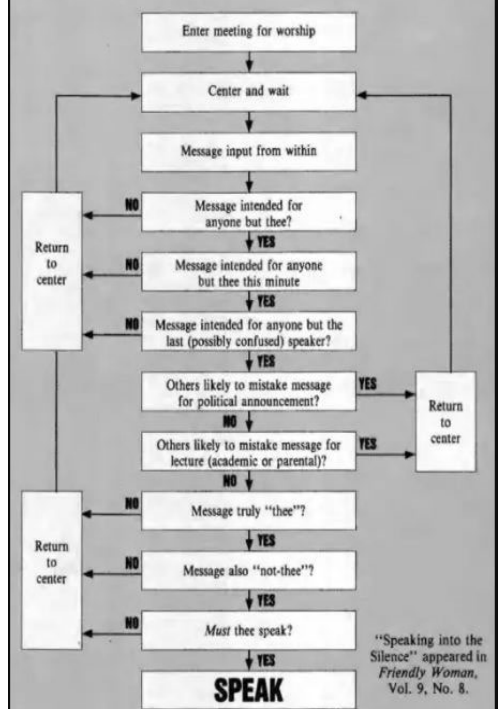
As physicians, we understand that we must prevent what we cannot cure, and nuclear war is a catastrophe from which there will be no recovery. We join our voices with those of the Hibakusha here in Nagasaki in calling for action for a more peaceful world and the prevention of nuclear war as an absolute imperative requiring the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Dear Helpful Hannah. . .

by Sydney Chambers and Carolynne Myall

Dear Helpful Hannah,
I have been attending Quaker meeting for worship for the last year, ever since I left home to enter college. But I still don't understand how to know when to speak in meeting. What should I do?
Uncertainly Silent

Dear Silent,
Over the years, Friends have developed guidelines for "bringing a message" which thee may find in *Faith and Practice*, etc. etc. But Quaker classics present these guidelines in a format which may be difficult for the visual young people of the Computer Age. I hope this flow chart, *Speaking Into the Silence*, will help.



Quaker flow chart for discernment regarding speaking in Meeting. Contributed by Michael Halloran from materials for the class Essentials of Quakerism, he took at the Woodbrooke Center in the UK.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9/14/2025

Attendees

Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Clerk
Forrest Determann, Recording
Clerk, Charlie Brown, Deborah
Fisch, Andrea Holveck, Jack
Holveck, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy
Lifka, Ann Robinson, Cheryl
Sanders, Brock Wommack
Billie Wade

Meeting started with a moment of silence

Meeting reviewed and accepted minutes from August meeting

One update to minutes from
August meeting: It was decided
we ultimately would not apply
for a credit card, this will be
noted as an addendum to the
financial report.

Meeting Reviewed Announcements, Miscellaneous

In addition to RJ, Dorothy,
Katie, and Clair previously noted
as having assisted with cleanup
of the yard, Mike (Martin), Nick
(Abdallah), Fred, Audrey and
Ted also assisted with cleanup.

The meeting thanked Ann for
her work on the Friendly Line.

Ministry and Council Committee

(Report presented by Billie Wade
and Dorothy Lifka)

No action items

They reported there was a very
good turnout for Petra and
Tyler's goodbye celebration.

Pam is back home and doing
well. They've implemented
suggestions about better

including people on Zoom.

A friend suggested doing an
engraved rock in a remembrance
garden or something along those
lines for memorials.

Another friend suggested
maintaining a document
recording *who* individual Friends
are, about their lives; not just an
obituary but more details about
them, their family, and their
ministry.

Billie indicated there had been
discussion around council on
new memberships and marriage.
There was a strong sense this
deserves more discernment. The
committee will continue to
discuss.

Ministry & Counsel is also
working with other committees
on forming an ad-hoc AVP
committee to work with Cheryl.
Peter, Dorothy and Ann have
also volunteered to be part of this
committee. Part of their
committee will work with Cheryl
to form ad-hoc committee.

Movement of the Meeting's
Zoom screen/computer was
another item. Ann noted that
previously they did not place the
computer at the front of the room
as there had been objections to
making the screen central to
worship. Dorothy understood we
would put the screen in a location
more like in the corner by the
plant. Charlie noted his support
of the new location, since it's
more to the benefit of those on
Zoom, and is of little impact of
those not the call.

Charlie will look into
microphones to be placed in
room.

Finance Committee

(Report presented by Katie
Jacoby)

Finance committee requests
other committees and individuals
with information relevant to
Finance Committee to get details
to them in a timely manner.

The report indicated they'd
been considering applying for
credit card, but the committee
has since decided not to proceed
with applying for a credit card.

Building and Grounds Committee

(Report presented by Charlie
Brown)

The committee suggests we
should hire outside help to clear
out the overgrown area in the
southwest corner of the property.
Some of it may need to be
cleared by chainsaw and there is
work to be done that would best
be handled professionally.

It was suggested we should
proceed with this as Meeting
business and not as Friends
House business, since this is on
our side of the property and
Meeting has been adding to the
debris there. If Friends House
wants to contribute, they are
welcome to do so, particularly if
they want to contribute to work
on other parts of the property.
The sense of the meeting is in
agreement with hiring this work
to be done.

Charlie will proceed to get
three bids to have this done.

It was noted that Renee, who
manages the Friends House, is on
sabbatical this month from
anything other than routine work.
The clerk and assistant clerk are
on point contact while she is out.

A friend noted that that
driveway area had been
deliberately abandoned since that
was the route taken during the
bombing 50 years ago and

suggested also having the asphalt taken up as well.

Charlie noted that the rainwater runs off onto the asphalt. Removing it may cause issues with water. Previous consideration of removing it was found it would be very expensive. And it's occasionally still used for loading/unloading from building.

A Friend asked that consideration of habitat for pollinators should be considered during the clean-up.

A Friend noted concerns with invasive species coming from the adjacent neighbor and suggested working with neighbor to address it with them.

Clerk noted after this area has been cleared out, it will require long-term maintenance/care. Clover or other low maintenance planting should be considered.

A friend indicated that the Friends House board may need to be notified of the plan.

Dorothy will speak to Charlie about the possibility of creating a simple children's space back in back, or a meditation space, also friendly to pollinators. It was suggested religious education and building and grounds may want to work together to consider a use for this space. It was noted that Cindy may be interested in providing input about what to do with that space, as she had some draft plans for a children's space at one time. (She is on Religious Education.) A Friend suggested this area could also be a location for memorial garden discussed earlier.

Building and grounds will take ownership with input from religious ed and other committees and report back in a

couple of months on long-term plans. Short-term they will move forward with cleanup.

Currently there is only \$1,300 in committee funds. If additional funds needed, it was agreed that it may come out of the \$17,000 available from the property management designated fund.

Charlie looked into cost of getting a couple of ceiling fans installed, with professional installation. He will get quotes on this. They'll consider decibel rating to ensure fans are quiet. A friend suggested reaching out Iowa Yearly Meeting trustee; They had very quiet fans installed at Scattergood recently and may have recommendations.

Due to water quality problems, Building and Grounds suggests having a reverse osmosis water filtration system installed for kitchen sink (APEC Water Esteems RO-90). Material cost would be about \$246.05 up front, plus maintenance costs of changing filters every few years, which are about \$100 each. Charlie would do the installation himself. It was suggested upkeep costs be added to the business and grounds committee budget and the meeting is in agreement. Carol also suggested having the water tested first.

The meeting agrees to have Charlie proceed with purchase and installation of the water filtration system.

Religious Education Committee

(No report)

Friends House Board

(No report)

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

(No report)

Outreach Committee

(Report presented by Katie Jacoby)

The committee is working on migrating email hosting to Google Workspace. A friend had suggested the poster from PrideFest be put up in the entryway. This may help show Friends Meeting as a welcoming space. Meeting agreed to put up the sign in the entryway when not in use. This may be taken down on some occasions for use at events.

Meeting agreed to bring some of the small chairs from the children's space downstairs to be used in meeting room.

The committee is designing a sidewalk sign to be placed out front during worship, encouraging people passing by to come in.

The committee decided it's beyond the capacity of Outreach Committee to take leadership on AVP workshop request from M&C. Cheryl further commented that they're reaching out to various seasoned facilitators in the broader community. This is not necessarily a three day workshop as had been mentioned, the details and duration of the workshop will be determined later.

A friend noted concerns with drinking alcohol while representing DMVF at events like Ingersoll live. Dorothy suggested having committee create guidelines for working events that would include guidelines regarding drinking/smoking/apparel, et

cetera while volunteering on behalf of the Meeting.

Clerk noted that we should be clear up front about what our principals are and be clear about the basis for our criteria.

It was suggested that these guidelines should be taken up by M&C Committee to come up with brief guidelines on what's expected of Friends when representing Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting as a volunteer for events.

A friend had inquired about using the desmoinesvalleyfriends.org website to share music playlists. It was decided that the FaceBook group would be a more appropriate space for sharing information content such as playlists, as the website is a more formal space representing our Meeting.

The committee had discussed updating the permanent sign out front. Since it's grandfathered in, the sign should not dramatically change appearance. Estimate for



Community members, including a number of Quakers, attended the International Day of Peace commemoration at Cowles Common in Des Moines, on September 21. Speakers included Eloise Cranke (pictured) and Brian Campbell, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Photo by Ann Robinson.

3x4 sign would be a little under \$500 for a two-sided aluminum UV coated sign. It was suggested this should come from the Building and Grounds budget. Meeting agreed costs should come from the Building and Grounds budget.

Library Committee

(Report presented by Deborah Fisch)

We have many books for for the book sale. The committee plans to leave books out for a week on order to give people time to peruse them.

The Young Women's Resource Center book sale is occurring November 7-9, a Friend suggested donating remaining books to them.

A friend suggested having Library Committee set up a section of books helpful in terms of life situations. For example, books about Alzheimers, death, divorce, et cetera, could be set up in a special section that might be helpful in certain life situations.

A friend expressed appreciation to the library committee's work.

Nominating Committee

The committee did meet, but a report has not yet been prepared.

Migrant and Refugee Concerns Committee

(No action items.)

Clerk encouraged committee to actively work to consider situations for Muji.

Other Business

Forrest is working on digitizing records. Multiple Friends expressed concerns about having digital records and where they're kept, particularly regarding matters that could be subject to

government surveillance. Concerns with keeping these records private will be considered for how they're stored.

The meeting expressed appreciation for the quotation calendars and is interested in continuing to have them available.

[The meeting ended with moment of silence.](#)

Query # 6: Education for November

ADVICE:

Friends seek an education which integrates our intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimensions and enables us to face difficult moral issues with courage.

While the religious education of our children is primarily the concern of parents, everyone benefits when the entire meeting is concerned with nurturing them. If a spirit of common concern is present, children will gain a sense of belonging to the larger community, and, knowing they are loved and respected, will be able to face the mysteries of life with trust.

Friends promote learning throughout life and encourage freedom of thought and inquiry in all educational pursuits. Our complex and changing world demands that we learn to think and act creatively to meet its challenges.

QUERIES:

- How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life?
- What effort are we making to become better acquainted

with the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, our JudeoChristian heritage, the history and principles of Friends, and the contributions of other religions and philosophies to our spiritual heritage?

- In what ways can we encourage an educational process that is consistent with the values Friends cherish?
- How do gender based expectations affect the goals we set and the way we learn?
- Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere?
- How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

News of Our Friends

Congratulations, **Billie Wade**, for her winning short story -- third prize in the All Iowa Writers Workshop Conference competition. The workshop was in Montezuma, Iowa, Sept. 20. A great result for the first time she ever entered her writing in a contest! Her story, "Righteous Indignation," is shared at the end of this newsletter, starting on page 8. Also, you may want to ask her about the substack "Unrelenting," which she plans to launch soon.

Good luck to **Dick Douglass**, who is preparing to walk a half-marathon in the upcoming Des Moines Marathon, October 19.

Thanks to **Elaine Wedeking** for agreeing to represent DMVF at a concert benefit for the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) on Sunday, Nov. 2, at

the West Des Moines Christian Church, 6:30 p.m. Get more information on the [DMARC Facebook page](#). Elaine will be playing a harp piece. The theme of the concert is gratitude.

Fatma Bachelani has asked Friends to keep her in mind if they become aware of a job opening that might fit her skills: She says, "I am open to helping with bookkeeping, gardening and farming (but not heavy lifting), and yes I am open to new life skills! Also informal counseling, research, writing, proofreading, keeping people company, going on walks with them and helping prepare their meals, tutoring, house/room organization. I am organized, detail-oriented, professional, on-time and work well with flexible, genuine people."

Fatma Bachelani also shares a review she has written about a book that Friends might find timely and hopeful. Read about *The Road to Wisdom: on Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust*, by Francis S. Collins on pages 6-7.

Apologies for incorrectly spelling **Osh Andersen's** last name in the September *Friendly Line*. It should be spelled with an **en** at the end. The good news is that she is recovered from her recent fall!

Dorothy Lifka, recently retired mental health professional, was encouraged to share several suggestions she recently wrote to the advice columnist, Carolyn Hax, in response to a reader who was concerned about feeling "emotionally numb in the face of all the political tumult."

Dorothy's Advice for the Times

I am a mental health professional (retired), and I think that everyone's mental health is being negatively affected by continuous chaotic unpredictability and fear mongering (by all sides).

Here are the steps I use to protect my brain, prevent emotional numbness and continue to feel some control over what I can control:

- Protection - I limit my doom scrolling and exposure to screaming heads on screens, regardless of what side they're on
- Education - I've identified sources of information that I can trust to keep me informed while I also maintain healthy skepticism about any single source. Fact-based, reliable media are available for a variety of political viewpoints.
- Connection - I reach out to other human beings (or at least other living things). I try to talk to them, listen to them, and care about and for them.
- Action - As another reader wrote, I do something to make things better in an immediate and concrete way. Volunteering at a food pantry twice a month helps me focus on a short-term solution instead of being stuck in the problem. And I regularly call my elected officials when I think they're wrong - and when I think they're right!

Ways to Help Newcomers to Iowa: Ideas from LSI

Clayton Boeyink visited DMVF Meeting in October with his wife and two children. Clayton is family services manager at Lutheran Services Iowa, and in his professional capacity at my request, he emailed information below about needs that Friends may be able to help with. The DMVF Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns (CMARC) will consider the requests, but others in the meeting may be able to help as well.

He says: We almost constantly have clients with rental or housing needs and can facilitate that with your committee, but I know that is a big financial ask. We also are constantly recruiting volunteers for mentor programs, ELL, the Global Greens agricultural program, and many other things.

Employment is one of the most important needs for newcomers. If you or anybody in your network know of anyone who is a business owner, works in HR or holds an important role in a business, we are always looking for warm introductions. We can work with people who have never worked with non-native English speakers and help them to think through best practices for working with these individuals. We would also be available to troubleshoot any issues.

Finally, LSI would welcome donations of the following items to help clients:

Hygiene products

toothbrushes/toothpaste
toilet paper, deodorant

hand and body soap,
shampoo/conditioner,
razors/shaving cream,
feminine hygiene products

Cleaning products

laundry detergent, trash bags,
cleaning wipes, dish
soap/sponges, toilet cleaner,
paper towels

Home items

Quilts for all sizes of beds

Baby care

Diapers of all sizes, baby wipes,

School supplies

Babkpacks, notebooks,
pencils/markers/crayons
English language learning books,
coloring books/activity books

Other

Walmart gift cards, gas gift cards

Upcoming Hosting List

Oct. 12 – Ann & Audrey
Oct. 19 – Peter & Andrea
Oct. 23 – Charlie & Dorothy
Nov. 2 and later - TBA

Book Review: *The Road to Wisdom: on Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust*

by Francis S. Collins

Review by Fatma Bachelani

This book was published in 2024 and while much of its contents are based on past events, the book's words are still very relevant and fresh. It is one of a number in recent years that address some troubling trends of social and cultural polarization and lays out different ways to help its readers manage and work towards alleviating this social malady.

(continued on page 7)

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

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

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

Upcoming Second Hours:

Oct. 19: First Day Potluck

Oct. 26 - Robin Young, Bishop Street Mtg, Religious Society of Friends, Derry (David Drake)

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 Oct. FL by Friday, Nov. 1, to anny.robinson1@gmail.com

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.

Book Review: *The Road to Wisdom: on Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust*

(continued from page 6)

This book was published in 2024 and while much of its contents are based on past events, the book's words are still very relevant and fresh. It is one of a number in recent years that address some troubling trends of social and cultural polarization and lays out different ways to help its readers manage and work towards alleviating this social malady.

Friends may find this book's contents compelling because of the ongoing societal challenges we see in reaching out to people and keeping them engaged, especially when we reflect on long-standing and strong Quaker values that speak to community-building and peace-oriented social interactions. People always need hope through action and words in tandem (and must avoid being unrealistic about perfection!), so the work we do to improve ourselves and other people must continue.

While I initially started out slowly with this book and took long breaks to consider the weight of what his words were, towards the end, the book was difficult to put down. Broaching the broad subject of how to build and/or regain truth, faith, science and/or trust within ourselves and with other people, is no simple feat. In four separate chapters, Collins discusses each concept with contemporary examples (some personal). The last chapter is devoted to encouraging hope and providing steps for action

from what's been learned from previous chapters.

Social media is supposed to make these concepts easier to practice, but it can have problematic interactions that tend to stick in the human mind, which can affect us offline as well. To that point, Collins points out a particular statistic that indicates teenage girls whose recent mental health upticks in anxiety, depression and even suicide are related to their screen time. He encourages us to find activities and regular interaction with neighbors and family. When we take time to build on these interactions, we may see improvements in our locale and society; perhaps social media will be less difficult to manage as well.

The author notes that much of the US's polarization has been and continues to be related to our adherence to either of the two major political parties. This adherence is tribalizing our minds and deepening our inability to reach across and build bridges. He mentions he is advising readers from a non-partisan perspective, and that he is sincerely trying to bring very different people together for a healthier society.

I was reminded that we will have to put in the work regularly if we are going to save our society. We do not want to live in a divided, apathetic and uninformed community, let alone let our youth accept this state of current affairs as some kind of "new normal". We must avoid staying completely in our comfort zones, and instead choose to be brave in continuing to genuinely listen and talk with

one another. The U.S.'s strength is in its diversity of experience and expression.

Collins closes the book with a version of a blessing from Benedictine Sister Ruth Fox from 1985:

"May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

May we all be blessed by enough foolishness to do what others claim cannot be done: to travel down this road to wisdom with joy, and to help catalyze the reemergence of a loving, civil, compassionate, optimistic, and visionary democratic society. Come, my friends, and be part of that dream."

The Road to Wisdom: on Truth, Science, Faith and Trust is available at our local library. I welcome any thoughts you'd like to share with me about this book. Thank you for taking time to read this review!

Righteous Indignation

A short story by Bille Wade

Carol glared at the television screen. Her neck and face were red hot as the anger rose and her gray eyes narrowed into slits. Her downtown brick apartment building provided security surveillance of both entrances, the parking lot, and the laundry room. Residents could tune to Channel 23 and see what the cameras saw. She, thus, kept a vigil of the comings and goings of the twenty-somethings and their dismissive attitude toward the rules.

Age fifty-seven, not old enough for the senior living community she wanted to move into, and a round 4' 10" tall, she bore the distinctions of the oldest and the shortest tenant.

Despite site management's callous attitude toward rule enforcement, Carol remained watchful. The office issued an occasional so-called scary edict addressed to "All Residents," which annoyed her. She believed management should hold each offending tenant accountable for her or his individual infraction. The message did not pertain to her, as she obeyed the rules.

She did not open the door to let in friends, loiter in the parking lot, or toss newspapers in the trash rather than the recycle dumpster provided for such refuse. Their carelessness and lack of respect for the place they all called home

knew no bounds. Thoughts of what their apartments must look like on the inside made her shudder. She kept her modest, one-bedroom residence immaculate, uncluttered, and most of all, quiet.

The young people hurried past Carol in the hallways. Rarely did they hold the door for her, as they seemed not to notice her. Some sneered at her and heckled her as she passed by with comments such as "tattletale," "old biddy," "fun-size," or "evil little troll." Coming from the insolent young people, "fun size" did not seem as humorous as when she identified with the moniker to her friends.

To sound formidable, Carol retorts, "You're just young and stupid. You'll find out one of these days. I hope it's not too late." They ignored her.

She cried in her apartment as frustration and loneliness overtook her. She had destroyed every relationship in her social life with her judgmental attitude and efforts to control everyone around her. "I may not always be right, but I'm never wrong," often spewed from her lips. People who attempted to please her and avoid her ire provoked additional creative criticism from her. No one could live up to the nebulous ideals in her imagination.

The bedroom of the apartment next door adjoined Carol's living room. The young woman living there led an active life, as evidenced by the sounds that

penetrated the thin walls. One night, as Carol surveyed the parking lot, the woman's wails became too much. She waited for just the right moment and stormed over and gave the door several loud knocks. Her face flushed, the woman flung open her door. She scowled down at Carol, who did not flinch or step back, but began a tirade. "Do you know what time it is? All of downtown can hear you. What would your mother—"

The woman closed her door and locked it, thwarting Carol's plan of demanding that she move her bed to a different wall and hold down the squeals. She'd sing a different song when she heard from the office. Carol would see to that.

She tromped back to her apartment and turned up her television. The thumps and wails lasted another hour. The latest object of Carol's wrath embodied a man, probably late twenties, who just left the laundry room. She watched in disgust as he washed lights and darks together. He didn't bother to fold any of his clothing, just removed the laundry from the dryer and threw it into his basket—at least he had that—and left. Her righteous indignation escalated when he failed to clean the lint filter in the dryer. Didn't he know the trapped lint would cause a fire? The presence of the fire department across the street offered her little comfort. She had witnessed fire damage to homes. "That's it," she

muttered, as she added the infraction to her list of complaints.

She grabbed her paper bag of recyclables and stomped out of her apartment. Carol frowned when she entered Melissa's office and found her engaged in a telephone conversation. She sat in one of the two straight-back chairs in front of Melissa's wood desk, stared at Melissa, and fidgeted. Melissa finished the call and clasped her hands in a tight squeeze on top of the papers in front of her. Tilting her head upward, she closed her eyes for a split second and asked, "How may I help you today, Ms. Hopp?"

Carol unfolded her list, stepped up to Melissa's desk, and leaned over it. She seemed taller than 4' 10". She read the list, her voice loud and sharp, and punctuated each accusation with a finger tap on the desktop.

Melissa managed a sardonic smile. "Ms. Hopp, we appreciate you bringing these matters to our attention. We're deeply concerned about the comfort and safety of all our residents, and—"

"Then do something about it. I'm tired of wasting my time and my breath." Carol picked up her garbage bag, turned and left the besieged Melissa to deal with the list.

Back in the hallway, Carol took a deep breath of triumph. She exited the heavy door on her way to the dumpster. "Damn, it's hot and sticky," she muttered as the heat and humidity of the mid-

summer afternoon greeted her. On her return, she jammed her hand into her pants pocket. Her eyes widened in horror as she realized she had left the main door key in her apartment. She had only her apartment key.

She lowered her head and shoulders in defeat as she walked around the building to knock on the office window so Melissa would let her in.

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