Ann Arbor Friends Meeting 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104  734-761-7435  September 6, 2020

Clerk: Kevin Miller  734-926-8426
Treasurer: Karla Taylor  734-668-6877
Meeting Worker: Pat Micks  734-761-7435
Meeting Website:  annarborfriends.org

Meeting Donations – Send to AAFM at address above; place in contribution basket; or visit our website.

All meetings online via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.
**Zoom**: Please see the “Changes” webpage of Meeting website (annarborfriends.org/wp/changes) for details.

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Sunday, September 6 [1ST SUNDAY]
9:00 Meeting for Worship
Fellowship Hour at rise of meeting.
10:05 Earthcare
Membership and Outreach
Peace and Social Concerns
Property
10:30 Family Check-In
11:00 Meeting for Worship
First Day School. Online
Fellowship Hour at rise of meeting
4:00 Care and Visitation

Monday, September 7
12:30 Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, September 8
10:00 Meeting for Worship
11:30 Reading and Discussion

Thursday, September 10
7:15 (pm) Quaker House Committee

Saturday, September 12
3:30 Reading and Discussion

Sunday, September 13 [2ND SUNDAY]
9:00 Meeting for Worship
Fellowship Hour at rise of meeting.
10:05 Finance
10:30 Family Check-In
11:00 Meeting for Worship
First Day School. Online
Fellowship Hour at rise of meeting.
12:45 Committee for Children and Families

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Hour hosted by Membership and Outreach Committee on Sundays after rise of meeting for worship for F/friends to chat and enjoy each other’s company. Ad additional Fellowship Hour will also be held during the week (this week: Monday, September 7, 12:30 pm).

Reading and Discussion: Saturdays at 3:30 pm and 4th Sundays at 10:05 am. All welcome. Lisa Klopfer leads the discussion.

- Saturday, September 5, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, and Tuesday, September 8, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: We will discuss “the importance of Retreat and how to reshape our relationship with time”.

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PIAG asks F/friends to consider giving a donation to UNRWA USA (ph: 202-223-5756) so they may continue to provide urgent relief for refugees following the massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4. Donations may be sent to UNRWA USA, 1875 Connecticut Ave.,NW, Tenth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009. F/friends may also be interested in The Virtual Gaza 5k + Digital Festival 2020, a fun family-friendly event, will take place on Saturday, September 12. Funds raised will primarily go to helping fund the salaries of UNRWA counselors in UNRWA’s mental health program working with children in refugee families. (Please Google for details on how to participate, or donate by check.)

Meeting for Canoeing will take place on Friday, September 18. Meet at Kent Lake dam, Island Lake Rec area off Kensington Rd (one mile south of I-96). Car spotting starts at 10 am. Bring kayak or canoe, lunch, water, life saving device, sun and rain protection, paddle and mask. Questions? Contact Thomas Taylor. If you cannot go, perhaps you have a craft someone else might borrow.

Forum: Latinx Perspectives on Racism and Discrimination, Sunday, September 27, 12:45 pm, via Zoom. Recognizing that anti-Black racism is central to the way racism developed and is practiced today in the United States, AAFM continues to explore and expand its understanding of how racism impacts everyone in our community. We will be hosting a panel of our neighbors of Latin American heritage, where they can share their stories about the challenges they face, and the strategies that help them cope with racism and discrimination here in Wastenaw County.

Family Check-In hosted by Committee for Children and Families (CCF) will be half hour prior to Sunday 11:00 am meeting for worship from September onward. Families with children invited to share a little about how they are doing, and, if they wish, share a story or song or

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= See announcement

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The Palestine-India Action Group (PIAG) continues to share news and maintain connections with Quaker and other organizations working for Palestinian human rights and equality. Considering our smaller numbers and Covid-19 concerns, we will meet quarterly on Zoom for the near future. However, we appreciate the Meeting’s involvement in peace and justice issues in Palestine-Israel, regardless of whether F/friends come to meetings. PIAG asks F/friends to consider giving a donation to UNRWA USA (ph: 202-223-5756) so they may continue to provide urgent relief for refugees following the massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4. Donations may be sent to UNRWA USA, 1875 Connecticut Ave.,NW, Tenth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009. F/friends may also be interested in The Virtual Gaza 5k + Digital Festival 2020, a fun family-friendly event, will take place on Saturday, September 12. Funds raised will primarily go to helping fund the salaries of UNRWA counselors in UNRWA’s mental health program working with children in refugee families. (Please Google for details on how to participate, or donate by check.)

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activity or recipe they've been enjoying. Please see the “Changes” webpage (annarborfriends.org/wp/changes) for details.

Committee for Children and Families (CCF): First Day School features online Storytelling and discussion with Ben Kuipers (email Ben kuipers@umich.edu for link to BlueJeans) at 11:00 am this Sunday.

Ministry & Counsel invites Friends to submit proposed Readings for Reflection to Mark Hoover (convener) at mnc@annarborfriends.org. Friends are invited to provide their submissions to the committee in electronic form along with the source of the material (to enable the committee to obtain publication permission) and an optional short commentary on what in the content moves or leads the Friend to submit it as a potential reading for the meeting community to reflect on.

Care & Visitation Committee would like to know if you need help with transportation, food shopping, care of the house, etc. Please contact Nancy Taylor (Convener) (netaylor324@gmail.com or 734-995-6803) if you do or know of a Friend who may benefit from such help.

Young Adult Friends (YAF): Want to join? Have a question? E-mail us at aa-yaf@googlegroups.com.

AMONG FRIENDS

Phil Volk and Bill Riccobono will be facilitating a ‘Bible Worship Sharing’, Thursdays, 9:30 am, from September 3. They plan “an open discussion on various Bible verses” to offer an “opportunity to discuss [the Bible] with other Quakers”. All welcome. (Zoom Meeting ID 872 8493 7438 | us02web.zoom.us/j/87284937438.)

Friends in active fire zones of California

Doug Hamm, who grew up in our Meeting, and his partner, Dorothy Henderson, were both very active in AAFM in the 1980s & 90s and remain close to many Friends here. They moved to Nevada City, California to work at Sierra Friends Center (previously the John Woolman School) and they had recently built a “sustainable” home there. Doug writes, “What has come to be named the ‘Jones Fire’... came up to our house (which is now) surrounded by scorched earth; our 10 acres were almost entirely burned over. The well head and pump shed were both caught in the burn, but we got help yesterday so the house now has water and we were able to move back in today (Aug.24). The fire started with a lightning strike ... (and a few hours after midnight) and we woke to smoke. The fire crews ... made every effort to get the fire contained and controlled as fast as they could. At this time the Jones fire is 70% contained, and most of the firefighters have gone to help with other fires. We were some of the first to be evacuated and among the last to be let back in. At the Sierra Friends Center all but one of the (A-frame sleeping) cabins was lost along with a bathhouse, Madronne Hall (the largest building on campus), Cedar House, the garden structures, and livestock barn were consumed.”

Within the last year Susan Wilson and Bob Fisher moved to Ben Lomond, California to become Co-Directors of the Quaker Center, beautifully situated in a redwood grove there. When they lived in Ann Arbor a decade ago, Susan worked with our Meeting’s children & parents for a number of years while she was teaching at UM, and Bob, with his deep commitment to peace & justice issues, served faithfully on several of our committees. Quaker Center offers a place of retreat and contemplation, renewal and growth, for individuals, families, Friends meetings and other organizations or groups who unite with the Quaker principles of simplicity, justice, peace and respect for “that of God” in everyone.

As the fires in Santa Cruz County moved toward the Center, everyone was evacuated and they still await the final decision to move back in. As far as the Capstone Fire Management group can tell, no major structures at the Center have been lost. We are grateful to learn this, and send Susan and Bob our heartfelt good wishes as they return home to continue wrestling with the challenges of running a program during Covid. They can be reached at BobFisher@QuakerCenter.org.

LARGER CIRCLES OF FRIENDS

Volunteers needed. Donations appreciated. Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice (ICPJ) Voting Access Group offers tools and supports to voters that have been developed by its members. Tools developed include the Non-Partisan Voter Tool Kit that covers many possible issues and questions about voting. The Voting Access Group is particularly focused on increasing voter turnout in traditionally low turnout areas, prioritizing Zip Codes 48197 and 48198. Tools developed for distribution by the UUAA include post cards, posters, a Voting Kit and Voting Helpline. Information about those tools are at: tinyurl.com/Non-Partisan-Voting-Guide.

Volunteers are needed for multiple tasks on this project. Persons interested in helping may volunteer by emailing: VotingHelpline@gmail.com. Funds are also needed to purchase stamps and items for the Voting Kits, which are a high cost item. The Voting Access Group is a collaborative effort of members of multiple organizations, including the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAA), WeROC, Circles of Washtenaw, St. Clare’s Church of Ann Arbor, Friends of Restorative Justice (FORJ), Washtenaw PFC, and others.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) Spiritual Formation Program Retreat, will be held Friday – Saturday, September 11 – 13. The theme is Spiritual Companions within an Ecology of Quaker Practice. It is being led by our Meeting’s Cassie Cammann, Mark Hoover, and Buffalo Friends Meeting’s Nadine Hoover. More information is at: leym.org/spiritual-formation. Contact Valerie Groszmann, Spiritual Formation Program Director of the Quaker Center, beautifully situated in a redwood grove there. When they lived in Ann Arbor a decade ago, Susan worked with our Meeting’s children & parents for a number of years while she was teaching at UM, and Bob, with his deep commitment to peace & justice issues, served faithfully on several of our committees. Quaker Center offers a place of retreat and contemplation, renewal and growth, for individuals, families, Friends meetings and other organizations or groups who unite with the Quaker principles of simplicity, justice, peace and respect for “that of God” in everyone.

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To subscribe to this Sunday handout or to send announcements for Sunday handouts (due Thursdays), newsletter (due third Sunday of the month) and website, contact Rabindar Subbian at comm-cood@annarborfriends.org.
Community Clerk at valerie.groszmann@gmail.com or 269-366-2517 to register.

LEYM Clerk Jo Posti will be resuming weekly Zoom calls, Fridays, 9:00 – 10:00 am, for any LEYM Friend to check in, share any concerns and talk about creative ideas that may help meetings, committees or LEYM as a whole. Zoom Meeting ID 175 173 666, passcode leymexec, us02web.zoom.us/j/175173666

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) Fall Quarterly Meeting, will be held on Saturday, September 19, 9:00 am via Zoom. More information available at: leym.org/green-pastures-quarterly-meeting-of-the-religious-society-of-friends-quaker. In addition to items for business, Blair Ellis from Ann Arbor Friends Meeting will facilitate a short presentation and discussion about his practice of holding Meeting for Worship outside of the jail in Richmond, Indiana, where he is in seminary at Earlham School of Religion. To add an item to the agenda, please contact GPQM Co-Clerks, Deb Wickering (wickedeb@aquinas.edu) or Elliott Brannon (esbrannon@gmail.com). Zoom Meeting ID: 989 6528 2665, umich-health.zoom.us/j/98965282665

Pendle Hill offers a free Zoom lecture on The Road to Pendle Hill, Saturday, September 19, 7:00 pm via Zoom. The lecture is on the history of American Quakers’ decision, ninety years ago, to “open a study center that would meld contemplation and activism” – Pendle Hill. The lecture is the 2020 Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture. It will be led by Tom Hamm, Professor of History, Trueblood Chair in Christian Thought, and Director of Special Collections, Earlham College. For more information and to register for this free event see: https://pendlehill.org/events/stephen-g-cary-memorial-lecture-2020-the-road-to-pendle-hill.

Quaker Books features among its many new arrivals, Anti-Racist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi with illustrations by Ashley Lukashevsky and Unfolding Towards Love by Martin Willitts Jr. Kendi’s Anti-Racist Baby is “a fresh new board book that empowers parents and children to uproot racism in our society and in ourselves”. Unfolding Towards Love is “a collection of spiritual poetry about the presence of God as well as God’s hidden presence and God’s voice speaking within us if we are willing to listen”. Both books are available for purchase via the Quaker Books website: quakerbooks.org.

ANN ARBOR FRIENDS MEETING: SUNDAY HANDOUT

To subscribe to this Sunday handout or to send announcements for Sunday handouts (due Thursdays), newsletter (due third Sunday of the month) and website, contact Rabindar Subbian at comm-cood@annarborfriends.org.
Advices for Participating in Online Meeting for Worship: Please consider and keep in mind the following when you attend online Meeting for Worship. If you can use headphones, please do so. If you use your computer’s speaker and microphone, there can be feedback or an echo.

- When you connect, please type your name into Zoom. This will help Friends know who is speaking, should you speak.
- Enter the meeting in silence as you would for an in-person meeting for worship. **Do not** introduce yourself when you enter.
- Many etiquette norms that apply to in-person Meeting for Worship also apply to the online version. Once you are in Meeting for Worship, please refrain from moving in and out of the video, talking to other people (even if you are on mute), engaging in other activities etc. Some Friends might find this distracting and/or disruptive of the spirit of worship.
- Keep your device on mute unless you are speaking. There is a microphone icon on top or bottom of the window showing you, which you can click to toggle on or off. Background noise such as dogs barking or cell phones ringing can be very disruptive to the spirit of worship and make it hard to hear ministry offered during worship.
- **Vocal Ministry:** If you are led to speak:
  - As always, allow some silence after any preceding message to allow it to settle in our hearts.
  - Unmute your device. (click on the microphone icon in your window). Introduce yourself, simply saying “This is _your name_” (this helps visually impaired Friends and those who participate by phone).
  - Pause briefly in case someone else has also started to speak. If so, wait for the clerk to recognize you. Otherwise, start speaking.
  - Mute your device when you are done. (The host may do so if you forget.)
- **Afterthoughts, joys and sorrows:** Continuing in worship, the meeting closer will invite afterthoughts and joys and concerns as usual. Continue to follow the same advices as for speaking.
- **Rise of Meeting:** The closer will close Meeting with a few words of closure. There will be time for introductions, announcements, and discussion after the meeting.
- If you need to get the attention of the host or clerk for any reason, use the chat feature and choose to whom to address your message or use the raise hand feature. If you are using only a phone to connect, consider texting the host first (if you have access to Meeting directory); unmute and speak if necessary.

Note: These advices are adapted from that provided by Patapsco Friends Meeting, and slightly modified by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM). We are grateful for their leadership and service in this important work.

Changes to Meeting for Worship

**Meetinghouse:** No in-person, physical worship or committee meetings at the Meetinghouse. Social Learning Groups will start in-person meetings soon.

**Meetings for Worship:** Social distancing need not mean social isolation. The Meeting will be offering meetings for worship on **select weekdays and Sundays** via Zoom online platform. Latest information can be accessed from the Meeting website: [annarborfriends.org](http://annarborfriends.org).

**Zoom:** To attend a Meeting for Worship via Zoom, please go to the Zoom page on the Meeting’s website at: [annarborfriends.org/wp/zoom](http://annarborfriends.org/wp/zoom) (latest and most up to date information available each Sunday morning by 7:00 am). Questions? Contact Rabindar Subbian (comm-cood@annarborfriends.org). On Sundays, in case of connection / technical problems during meeting for worship, please call Laura Lein, Assistant Clerk, (512-626-5927).

**Meetinghouse Use:** The Meetinghouse will be open on a fixed schedule. All groups that have been using the Meetinghouse have now stopped their activities at the Meetinghouse for the time being. Group meetings at the Meetinghouse are strongly discouraged.

**Committee Meetings:** All AAFM committee conveners are encouraged to hold their committee meetings via the Zoom online platform. Standing Zoom meetings are being setup for committees at their usual monthly meeting day/times. Conveners are requested to contact Rabindar Subbian (comm-cood@annarborfriends.org) if they have questions or would like to hold the meetings at other days/times. Please see the Changes page of Meeting website (annarborfriends.org/wp/changes) for details on attending committee meetings via Zoom.

**Library Access:** Quaker House will stay locked on Sundays. Those needing access to the Meeting Library should contact the Meeting Clerk, Kevin Miller, at 734-926-8426 or clerks@annarborfriends.org.

**Hardship:** Our Meeting has funds for people connected with the Meeting who are encountering hardship. If you know of anyone who is, including yourself, contact the clerks (clerks@annarborfriends.org).

If Friends get sick or otherwise need help, they are encouraged to reach out to Care and Visitation through Nancy Taylor (netaylor@comcast.net) or via email to the clerks (clerks@annarborfriends.org).

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