

Michigan Friends Center

7748 Clarks Lake Road

P.O. Box 218 Chelsea, Michigan 48118

A Quaker-Oriented Facility for Meetings, Retreats and Conferences

Phone/FAX (734) 475-1892

Current Programs:

Meeting for Worship in the manner of Friends

Second Sunday of every month / 10am

Under the auspices of Ann Arbor Friends meeting, a Quaker worship group has been meeting in one form or another since the early days of the Friends Lake Community and Michigan Friends Center. John Deikis currently carries on the tradition as coordinator. To become part of this group, email director@mfccenter.org

A Day of Solitude and Meditation Practice led by Carol Blotter

9 am to 4 pm Sunday, September 21 and Saturday, December 6

Suggested donation \$30 or as able. Pre-registration requested; contact Carol Blotter at 475-0942.

Each retreat is an opportunity to enjoy the quiet of the country while practicing sitting and walking meditation. This day is appropriate for anyone interested in meditation: beginners will have break-out instruction; experienced meditators can be in silence all day; those in-between can practice and have their questions answered. These retreats are fundraisers for the benefit of Michigan Friends Center.

Autumnal Equinox Celebration

a multi-generational celebration of balance and letting go

Monday, September 22

Potluck 6-7 pm; bonfire 7-9 pm – join us for any part – at the Friends Lake beach

We will celebrate the balance of day and night with a potluck dinner followed by a bonfire around which to share thoughts, poems, stories, songs, knowledge. All ages welcome. Bring food to share. We will provide water, tea, plates and silverware.

Bring something to share for after dinner as well-- a verse, story or song you like, seasonal lore, a readiness to partake in what others have brought. What does this season mean to you?

Bring flashlights, and long sleeves, and dress for the weather.

Active Hope Workshop with Claire Maitre

Three-session series: **9:30-4:00 October 4, October 18, November 1.** Please plan to attend all three sessions.

Donations of \$60-120 for the series support this offering. If money is an issue, register and pay what you can.

Based on the book, [Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy](#) by Dr. Joanna Macy and Dr. Chris Johnstone. The workshop is a facilitated book discussion group that includes Ritual & Group Exercises from the extensive work of the authors, as well as reading assignments and creative expression. Better than merely reading the book, Claire Maitre's group allows you to experience it. Claire's insights and teachings expand on the reading, group sharing invites community, fosters an understanding of our 'radical interconnectedness,' and invites exploration of each person's understanding of how they may participate in the most important social [r]evolution of our time.

Pre-registration requested: Contact the Center at (734)475-1892 or email Carolyn manager@mfccenter.org

The Better Angels of Our Nature Book Discussion

Part 1: 7-9 pm Wednesday, October 8; Part 2: 7-9 pm Thursday, October 23

Has violence declined over the course of human history? Whether you believe it has or not, please join one or both of two independent discussions of Steven Pinker's provocative book *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*. There will be no expectation that you've read the book, but if you have read it that would be great; you'll be able to participate and contribute in either case. The October 8 discussion will be about Pinker's "six trends" toward less violence, a discussion driven by history and statistics. The October 23 discussion will be on Pinker's "inner demons" and "better angels", a more psychological discussion about innate human drives toward aggression and cooperation.

Winter Solstice Sing

a reflection of the season in sound and silence

Saturday, December 21, 7 – 9 pm

We sit quietly in a circle and teach each other rounds, songs, and chants of the season as they occur to us. The woods around us, our sheltered circle focused on inner light, and our voices are the only elements of this simple celebration of the longest night. Anyone who enjoys singing and sitting quietly is welcome. You don't need to be a singer, or even able to sing--some just enjoy humming or listening. However most young children do not enjoy this event, and while we encourage family participation in most of our events, this is one for older children and adults.

Donations appreciated, please register in advance if possible