

Second Month (February) 2015

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

3107 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Website: www.homewoodfriends.org
(includes calendar, no password required)
Newsletter Editor: David Penney

Phone: 410.235.4438; Fax: 410.235.6058
Email: homewoodfriends@verizon.net
Co-Clerks: George Amoss, Louise Hopkins
Newsletter deadline: Friday after Monthly Meeting

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Second Query, Meetings for Business:

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting: Advices for the Second Query: Principles of Organization and Conduct of Business

The Society of Friends began not as a structured organization, but as a fellowship of Friends of Truth. As the need arose for service to members or others, Meetings were established and named for the times or intervals of their regular sessions, as Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, or Yearly Meetings. Meetings, in the Society of Friends, are thus both gatherings of persons for a purpose and units of the structure of the Society. All organized Meetings normally have gatherings for worship and other gatherings for the conduct of business.

Meetings for business are held in a spirit of worship. This does not mean they must be overly solemn or devoid of humor. It means they should be conducted in a spirit of inward recollection out of which will come a flexible and informal dignity fitting to the conduct of the work of a Religious Society.

Friends believe that the right and satisfactory decision in any matter is reached when those present understand and consent in the proposed judgment, finding it in accordance with their understanding of the will of God for the Meeting's action. Therefore, they act on a basis of the "sense of the Meeting" rather than by decision of the majority.

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WICKER BASKET collections in February and March will go to Doctors Without Borders/*Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF), which works in nearly 70 countries providing aid to those most in need regardless of their race, religion, or political affiliation.

Doctors Without Borders provides medical and related help for those under the stresses of war or natural disaster. Physicians, nurses, and yes, plumbers, architects, and administrators, etc., volunteer. If there is a health care problem from a disaster, Doctors Without Borders will be there.

The organization began with a group of French physicians who had been working with the International Red Cross. The work is very similar to that of the Red Cross with one important exception: if MSF learns about human rights abuses while working on the casualties, it publicizes the abuse—the Red Cross tends to avoid that, since when it does, it often is promptly kicked out of the country. It's a tough moral dilemma. Learn more at <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>.—Larry Egbert.

Please consider making a regular Wicker Basket contribution. Recipients are chosen by the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee (BQPJC), which meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend. FIND BQPJC on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/BQPJC>.

HOMEWOOD EVENTS AND COMMITTEE NEWS

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Monthly Meeting for Business will be on **February 1st**.

MONTHLY POTLUCK SIMPLE LUNCHESES are held on **second First Days (February 8th)**.

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING SHARING will follow an abbreviated Meeting for Worship on **Sunday, February 8** (Snow Date **March 8**). Sharing from the meeting will form the basis of the Meeting's annual report to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. After worship we will shift into a facilitated session in which we explore questions related to the spiritual health of Homewood Friends Meeting.

ONGOING HOMEWOOD EVENTS

THE BALTIMORE QUAKER PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (BQP&J), a joint Homewood and Stony Run Friends committee, meets on the **fourth Sunday of each month**, alternately at Homewood (odd-numbered months) & Stony Run., at 8:45 a.m. Contact Stan Becker or Larry Egbert.

Each Friday BQP&J holds a 5 p.m. peace vigil in front of Homewood Meeting House, but on special Fridays the vigil is followed by a potluck supper, film and discussion. The series is sponsored by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, and Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility are continuing their Film & Social Consciousness Series. The theme for this year's series is "CAN WE SAVE THE PLANET?" There is no admission charge.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6: *American Gun* [USA, 2005] centers around three stories dealing with the results of gun use. One story is about an inner city school principal, Forest Whitaker, in Chicago, who threatens one of his most promising students with expulsion after catching him with a handgun. In Oregon, a single mother, Marcia Gay Harden, tries to protect her son after a Columbine-like massacre. Finally, an A student at the University of Virginia, Linda Cardellini, who works at her family's gun shop, gets a gun after her best friend's near rape at a fraternity house. Also starring are Donald Sutherland, Amanda Seyfried and Tony Goldwyn. Steven Bagatourian and Aric Avelino wrote the screenplay, and Avelino directed, in his debut.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL: Lessons this year will be drawn mainly from the Old Testament.

February 1: Old Testament lesson

February 8: Service Day

February 15: Old Testament Lesson

February 22: Art

March 1: Old Testament lesson

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION meets at 9:15 a.m. on First Days (Sundays). Please be prompt.

February 1: no Adult RE; Business Meeting

February 8 Book Club: Pendle Hill Pamphlet 427, *Radical Hospitality*, by Lloyd Lee Wilson

February 15: Living the Quaker Life (see series description below)

February 22: Movement (*text to come, from Richard*)

SIMPLE LUNCH offers soup, bread or bagels, peanut butter, jelly, at times some fruit, and a salad. Everyone is welcome; there is no charge. Friends are welcome to bring other food but please bring enough for everyone.

Note: The Hospitality Committee needs to complete Sunday's Simple Lunch in a reasonable amount of time, to make time for our other obligations. Thank you, Pat Tracey & Susie Higgins, Co-Clerks.

REMINDER: Everyone must observe Homewood's Youth Safety Policy (YSP). You can download the "Parent's Guide to the YSP" from <http://www.homewoodfriends.org/Parents%20Guide%20to%20YSP.pdf> (no password needed) or the policy itself from http://www.homewoodfriends.org/members/Youth_Safety_Policy_2-20-14.pdf (password needed).

LIVING THE QUAKER LIFE EVERYDAY is a series of discussions about the day to day experience of being a Quaker. The various topics will explore issues in contemporary Quakerism such as:

Simplicity—How can we better manage our possessions from a practical point of view? What are some creative ideas to resist excessive purchases or to recycle our things?

Peace—How do we practice peace moment to moment? How do we redirect everyday feelings of anger and hostility to promote peaceful resolution of conflict?

Unity with Nature and Sustainability—How do we, in our homes, foster sustainability? What are some tips for recycling and composting? How do our eating habits reflect our beliefs?

Equality—In our everyday lives, how do we relate to cultures that may promote values different than our own? How do we set examples to our co-workers when distasteful jokes, comments, or micro-aggressions are made?

Holidays—How do Quakers manage holidays? What family customs or traditions honor our Quaker beliefs? How can we make every day a holy day?

Adult Religious Education is looking for session leaders for this series. The responsibilities include providing a short reading, identifying a few additional queries, leading a discussion in which participants share their practical experiences, and leading worship sharing. Please contact Donna McKusick at donna.mckusick@verizon.net to volunteer. The remaining dates for this series are **Sundays, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17**. You can pick a date! Adult Religious Education meets at 9:15 a.m.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

"MILITARIZATION OF POLICE AND MASS INCARCERATION: WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO? AND WHAT CAN WE AS FRIENDS DO?" will be the topic of a forum on **Sunday, February 8** at 11:15 a.m. at Gunpowder Friends Meeting. Diane Randall of the Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) will lead the discussion.

"@QUAKERS: MAKE YOUR MEETING MILLENNIAL- AND #TECH-FRIENDLY": A recent study found that 70% of Millennials feel religious groups are alienating young people by being hypocritical, judgmental, and unfriendly to gays and lesbians. That's good news for Baltimore Yearly Meeting—Millennials are looking for us! Is our meeting ready to be found? BYM is sponsoring a day-long workshop on **Saturday, February 28** at Langley Hill Friends Meeting. Participants will learn how to make their meeting web pages more effective for outreach and use social media to help Millennials find them. All those who work on A&O are invited. No technical competence is required. For the workshop outline visit: www.LangleyHillQuakers.org. Register by **February 14** at gensec@bym-rsf.org.

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING will be on **Sunday, March 8** at Stony Run Meeting House. Friends will discuss the BYM Unity With Nature request for each Local Meeting to discern on climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation. Gathering and light refreshments will be at 9:00 a.m. \

HELLO MEN FRIENDS! Before you snuggle down for the winter, mark your calendars for the 14th annual Men's Retreat at Camp Catoctin on **Friday, April 10-Sunday, April 12, 2015**. We are having this retreat to join together as a community of men, relax, work cooperatively, hike (or nap), talk, tell stories, play, and have fun. Please share this information widely with all of your men friends. Peace, Blaine Keener.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE MILES WHITE BENEFICIAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE CITY ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for educational funding. Funds are available for books and tracts, Friends educational institutions and programs for the young, and for undergraduate college scholarships. Proposals will be considered for requests up to \$5,000.

Preference shall be given to applications from the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan Area and to those with connections to Friends Meetings or their members within the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. All requests must be made in writing. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2015. Notification of approval will be made by May 1, 2015. [For other information, contact William O. Miles.](#) [Click here for the student application.](#)

THE BALTIMORE-AREA WORKING GROUP ON RACISM usually meets 7-9 p.m. on the 2nd **Sunday of the month** in the Stony Run dining room. We consider issues around racial justice, share personal experiences, and plan and host special events. All are welcome to attend. Learn more and find resources at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting website: http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/racismwg/home.html.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING'S "Seek Peace and Pursue It" silent vigil is held each Saturday, 12 to 1 p.m. on the West Lawn of the Capitol (nearest the wall along First St.) www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/news/peacevigil.shtml.

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In a Quaker business meeting, our goal is to seek and discern the will of God as to the matter before us. Whether that matter is a decision to be made or experiences to be shared, we try to be open to answers which may be unexpected, to decisions being taken which are completely contrary to the opinions we as individuals might have held in advance of the meeting. It is fine to come to a meeting with firmly held opinions – indeed, to some extent it is helpful as part of one's preparation to do so. However, we need to be prepared to let go of own opinions and listen very carefully to what God is telling us through the spoken and silent ministry of Friends present. Sometimes that clear leading from God might seem at the time to fly in the face of all good sense; we need to trust in such circumstance that God's purpose will become clear in due course.

simon gray, in Who are these Quakers, anyway?

<http://www.aboutquakers.org.uk/quaker-business-method-and-organisation/quaker-business-meetings/>

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (downstairs in summer)
Every Tuesday	11:30 a.m. at Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House (under the care of Stony Run Friends Meeting)
First Sunday of each month	12:15 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd month last Sundays (February 1, March 1) 12:15 p.m.
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact Pat Tracey, 443.846.1036
House & Grounds—OPEN	1st Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., contact Charlie Neill
Indian Affairs—OPEN	3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Stony Run dining room, contact Barb Katzenapple, 410.319.6440
Library—OPEN	1st Sundays at 9:00 a.m., contact Debbie Kennison, 410.464.1835
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact Stan Becker, 410.366.6923
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact Ann Walker Kennedy, 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	Dates vary ; contact Chris Rutkowski, 410.325-9435
Stewardship & Finance	As called ; contact Susan Russell Walters, 410.377.3328
Trustees	3rd Tuesdays ; contact John McKusick, 410.377.2797

These are the regularly scheduled meeting times for each committee or group. Changes and special meeting times will be announced and/or committee members will be notified (see calendar at www.homewoodfriends.org). Location is at the Meeting House unless noted. Most committees are OPEN to guests; contact the clerk if you'd like to attend.

In meeting for business, Friends are seeking to discover and to implement the will of God. . . . The Quaker way of conducting business . . . can create and preserve the sense of fellowship in the meeting. . . . It contributes to the way of peace in the world.
*New England Yearly Meeting, **Faith and Practice***

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Homewood
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