

Fifth Month (May) 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: Monday before Monthly Meeting

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, The Fifth Query: Personal Way of Life

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

§

WICKER BASKET collections in May will go to a fund to help the family of Freddie Gray cover his funeral expenses.

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>.

HOMWOOD EVENTS AND COMMITTEE NEWS

EVA HERSH is a longtime member of Homewood Meeting. She transferred her membership to Homewood from Albuquerque Monthly Meeting in 1986. In recent years she has rarely attended meeting for worship because of a sleep disorder which makes it impossible for her to sit in silence for more than a few minutes without falling asleep. Eva has volunteered to take photographs to be posted on our web site, which sorely lacks pictures of Homewood in action. Please welcome her when you see her, most likely on Sunday mornings.

THE BALTIMORE QUAKER PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (BQPJC), 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 BQPJC 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, movie, and discussion.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015

Speciesism: The Movie [USA, 2013] This documentary, by director Mark Devries, explores the concept and practice of speciesism, the valuation of beings on the basis of species membership. It features interviews with, among others, Peter Singer, Richard Dawkins, Temple Grandin, and Steven Best, along with material shot in and around factory farms in the United States. During the making of the film, Devries became a vegan.

Speciesism is the idea or assumption that humans are superior beings. which leads to the cruel and unjust treatment of other beings. This superiority leads to mistreatment of other beings. Animals are humiliated, injured, experimented on, and slaughtered under the belief that they are here to serve humankind. While the film introduces the viewer to the concept of speciesism, it also offers suggestions for taking action.

JOIN US FOR OUR PEACE VIGIL this Friday, May 8th at 5 p.m. We will hold a large sign: **Black Lives Matter/All Lives Matter**. The Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee will hold a meeting afterwards from 6-7 p.m. to review next steps for the Baltimore Quaker community.

Last Friday 33 people stood in front of Homewood from 5-6 p.m., holding a large sign: “Black Lives Matter/All Lives Matter.” The response from most of those driving by was enthusiastic and positive. We were very grateful that several people from Baltimore Yearly Meeting (including Jolee Robinson, BYM Clerk Ken Stockbridge, and Executive Secretary Riley Robinson) were there to support Baltimore Friends.

ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ: WHERE ARE THINGS HEADED? The stunning advances of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria have put all ethnic and religious groups in the area, including moderate Sunni Arabs, at risk. For some groups, the threat approaches genocidal proportions. From President Obama on down, everyone agrees there is no military solution, but past and present U.S. policies leave the U.S. unable to do the heavy political and diplomatic lifting needed to quell the violence. While there is lip service to the idea that there is no military solution, the discourse in the U.S. is almost solely about military means.

On **Wednesday, May 6**, at 6:30 p.m., at the Baltimore [Central Library](#), Poe Room, 400 Cathedral Street, Jim and Deb Fine, who worked for the Mennonite Central Committee in Iraq, will talk about what needs to change to bring about the end of the “Islamic State.” Sponsored by the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee.

BARBARA WOLFF, 12/10/1932-4/22/2015. We have received word of the death of Barbara Spicer Wolff. Barbara was an attender of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting at the Miller Center and a member of Homewood Friends Meeting. Her son, Robert, and many Friends from Friends House tended to her over the last week. Robert, a member of Hartford Meeting, can be reached at 860-881-4467 or at wolff@ccsu.edu. Robert is considering a Memorial Meeting for Worship at the Miller Center at Friends House.

ONGOING HOMEWOOD EVENTS

THE MONTHLY POTLUCK LUNCH will be **May 10th**

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.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE asks F(f)riends to rinse and wash their own dishes and put them in the drainer.

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

May 10: Service Day

May 17: Prepare for end-of-year play, which will be an original based on the stories of Moses.

May 24: Prepare for end-of-year play, *Moses!*

May 31: Prepare for end-of-year play, *Moses!*

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION meets at 9:15 a.m. On first days (Sundays). Please be prompt.

May 10: Book Club

May 17: Living The Quaker Life Everyday—the last in a series of discussions about the day to day experience of being a Quaker.

May 24: 5 Rhythms[®] Movement

May 31: To be announced

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ann Whittaker, member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, passed away on April 12 after a long illness. Ann served on many committees with both Sandy Spring and the Yearly Meeting, and was employed by Friends House, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and Sandy Spring Friends School.

There will be a Memorial Meeting for Worship at 11:00 am on **Saturday, May 23**, at the Miller Center at Friends House in Sandy Spring, Maryland.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION SPRING SESSION CANCELLED. From BYM: “We have unexpectedly few registrations for our Spring Spiritual Formation retreat this year. We also sense that the costs at Priestfield may be a burden to some Friends; hence our focus on identifying ways to provide spiritual nurture funds for the program. We will hold a retreat again in the fall; in the meantime, the Spiritual Formation Working Group will be reaching out to program participants from recent years via a survey. For more information, contact Marilyn Rothstein (marilynrothstein@comcast.net).”

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2015 will return to Frostburg State University. The Pre-Session Retreat will begin after lunch on **Monday, August 3** and conclude with Meeting for Worship at 11:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, August 4**. Annual Session will begin with Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business at 3:00 p.m. on **Tuesday** and will continue through **Sunday, August 9**. Registration will open in mid-April 2015. See other Yearly Meeting events at: <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/>

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING 2015 will be at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, **July 5-11**. The theme is “Seeking Wholeness.” Speakers will include [Daryl Atkinson](#) and [Scott Holmes](#), [Carrie Newcomer](#), and [Parker J. Palmer](#). Registration is open. Register early for best access to financial aid and workshops. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details>.

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.

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.

§

While my practice of Quakerism is rooted in my experience of God, that is not the case for all Quakers. For some Friends—indeed for most Friends—Quakerism is first a religion, an understanding and experience of God that leads to a certain way of life. But for others it is a way of life rich in its own right, needing no origin in or confirmation from a divine entity. To the question, “Is Quakerism a way of life or a religion?” I would answer, “It depends upon the Quaker.” This dual reality explains the wide diversity among Friends today. For some, Quakerism is a religion, a way of comprehending and relating to God, usually through the life and witness of Jesus. But that is not all it is. For the atheist Friend, Quakerism is a way of living in the world so that the world is made more just, loving, and peaceable by his or her presence.

Philip Gulley (b. 1961)

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 (May 31) 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.

Very little is needed to make a happy life. It is all within yourself, in your way of thinking
Marcus Aurelius