

Sixth Month (June) 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 Sixth Query, *Home and Family*: Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Advices for The Sixth Query:

Friends have a loving concern for the varieties of supportive relationships that exist. We realize that the range of long-term mutual commitments is now wider than traditionally accepted. Our Meeting communities now include persons living alone, two-parent families, single-parent families, married and unmarried couples, homosexual and heterosexual couples, single adults or extended families sharing a household, and larger communal groups. At present Friends are divided on the wisdom or rightness of some of these relationships. Nevertheless, we recognize that there are many kinds of domestic living situations in which individuals have made long-term commitments to each other and in which a caring, sharing, supportive relationship can grow. We are all called to make our primary relationships responsible, loving, mutually enabling, and spiritually enriching.

[...]

Meetings should be aware of [the] situational stresses some families must deal with. Such stresses may arise in any household, but especially where children have only one parent, all the adults work outside the home, families contain members of different faiths, or the household includes ill or infirm elderly members. These families, as well as others in our midst whose members have special needs because of physical or mental illness, developmental disability or handicap, may require extra loving support and sensitivity to their needs.

Finally, we need to be mindful of those who, for any reason, live alone. While such individuals often live rich, full lives and contribute much to others, they need to be particularly included in all aspects of the Meeting, for frequently the Meeting is their family. Times and places should be provided for them to find and know each other. Single young adults need reassurance as they make life choices, which may run counter to parental or societal pressures. We also need to be aware of circumstances such as illness or unusual stress, in which those living alone may require assistance or companionship.

§

WICKER BASKET collections in June will go to Out for Justice, an ex-offender, member-led Baltimore organization that promotes reform of policies that adversely affect ex-offenders' successful re-entry into society. Funds will be used to purchase books for a reading and literacy program. Learn more at <http://www.out4justice.org/> or visit the group on Facebook.

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>.

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 their other obligations. Thank you, Pat Tracey & Susie Higgins, Co-Clerks.

HOMEWOOD EVENTS AND COMMITTEE NEWS

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 5 the weekly peace vigil will be followed by a potluck supper at 6 p.m., movie at 7, and a discussion to follow. The final movie for the spring season is ***Speciesism: The Movie***. [USA, 2013] This documentary by director Mark Devrie explores the concept and practice of speciesism, the valuation of beings on the basis of their species. 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. The Film & Social Consciousness Series. is sponsored by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Committee and Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility. There is no admission charge.

ONGOING HOMEWOOD EVENTS

EVA HERSH is a longtime member of Homewood Meeting. 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 for our web site, which sorely lacks pictures of Homewood in action. Please welcome her when you see her, most likely on Sunday mornings.

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

June 7: Spring Play: *Moses: The Musical*

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

June 7: No ARE (Meeting for Business)

June 14: Book Club

THE FOLLOWING MINUTE was written and approved by Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Indian Affairs Committee on Third Month 21, 2015, and will be brought to Yearly Meeting for discernment, in hope of approval:

Minute:

Like all Quakers, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is called by God to act with integrity, and out of this grows a concern for justice. Historically, Friends have worked toward reforming the criminal justice system and advocating on behalf of those who are unjustly imprisoned. We have historic ties with American Indian Nations and hold an ongoing concern that American Indian individuals and Nations receive justice within American governmental systems.

Called by the Spirit and led by our Witness for integrity, equality, and community, Baltimore Yearly Meeting asks for the release from prison of Leonard Peltier in accordance with the plan drawn up by the National Congress of American Indians. [There will be an attachment.] As this plan describes in detail, appellate courts acknowledge misconduct during his prosecution and court records reflect that no clear evidence exists to indicate who shot two FBI agents on June 25, 1975. In spite of a record of good behavior in prison for more than the requisite fifteen years, Leonard Peltier was denied parole in 2009.

Leonard Peltier, a writer, artist, and Nobel Prize nominee, is elderly and in ill health. We, along with an international community of those dedicated to the pursuit of justice, ask that he be allowed to rejoin his family and live his last days in peace.

Action Option for Meetings:

In addition to distributing this minute to Barack Obama, local senators and representatives, and Leonard Peltier, Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting are asked to, as they are individually led, spread support of Leonard Peltier's release.

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY ROOM will be available as an air-conditioned space until fall, thanks to our resident violin teacher, Megan Beller, who will teach her students there. Friends are welcome to cool off.

JOIN US FOR OUR PEACE VIGIL: Each Friday the Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee (BQPJC) holds a 5-6 p.m. peace vigil in front of Homewood Meeting House; everyone is welcome.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

SIXTH MONTH 2015 BYM INTERIM MEETING will be on **Saturday, June 13**, at Patuxent Meeting: The Committees currently scheduled to meet in the morning are: Ministry and Pastoral Care, Nominating, Religious Education, Stewardship and Finance, Trustees, Unity with Nature, and Youth Programs. It is important that everyone indicate if they are attending, so that our hosts may properly plan for committee spaces and how much food to make for lunch and dinner. Go to <https://t.e2ma.net/click/wvr2ae/45ox7t/sglom8b> to register.

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 Atminson and Scott Holmes, Carrie Newcomer, and Parker J. Palmer (see <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/evening-programs>). Registration is open. Register early for best access to financial aid and workshops. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details>.

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 is now open. See other Yearly Meeting events at: <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/>.

Attendance at Annual Session does more than enrich the gathering. Annual Session attenders carry their experiences back to their Meetings, benefiting the broader Quaker community. Yet the cost of attendance is substantial and may prevent some Friends—particularly those who have never been—from attending.

That’s why we offer each Meeting the opportunity to send three Friends for two days at no cost. We are seeking participation by those who have not yet attended Annual Session, or haven’t attended in over 10 years. We hope people from your Meeting will be among them. We also hope that your Meeting will join us in providing financial support to help Friends attend.

Each First Time Attender Certificate entitles the Friend to up to two free days (and nights) at the early registration adult double occupancy rate. Please give one to each person you select and ask them to include the certificate with their registration materials. Of course, we encourage people using the certificates to stay more than two days, but to do so the costs for the additional days will have to be paid.

Annual Session Registration forms are in the spring 2015 issue of the *Interchange*. We also have online registration this year—go to <https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/events/annualsession/registration.html>. Friends using the online system will be given the option to indicate that they have received a certificate, and the system will automatically deduct the appropriate amount from their fees.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Wayne Finegar at the Yearly Meeting office: 301-774-7663 or admin@bym-rsf.org.

ESPERANZA CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: Several Stony Run Friends and Friends School students are involved with the Esperanza Center out of concern for the numbers of unaccompanied children who have immigrated to the US. Several of them volunteer with the English as Second Language (ESL) program. The Center is desperate for summer volunteers as young as 16. Volunteers should attend a training session on **Saturday, May 30** at 430 S. Broadway. Call Eric Seymour at 443-825-3433 or Anne Griffith at 410-889-3311.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES (TTV) IS SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS. Homewood Meeting has a long-standing relationship with this group’s Baltimore store, and HFM member Polly Heninger currently serves on its Board. As a non-profit organization, TTV-Baltimore depends on its Board of Directors to guide it in its mission of creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income through long-term fair trading relationships. TTV is seeking candidates for board membership who can provide general direction and/or have retail, marketing, financial, legal, or network knowledge. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Polly at 410-366-8360, peh616@msn.com; or the Board Chair, Anita Zimmerman, at 443-472-1887, abzimmer@juno.com).

THINKING ABOUT RACE—Continuum On Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization

In March 2015 the Clerks of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and of BYM Interim Meeting announced that the Yearly Meeting had accepted a grant of \$250,000 from the Shoemaker Fund to address, in part, "...how can our Meetings at all levels be more inclusive and welcoming to all, and build multi-cultural community?" They explained, "What we are contemplating is no less than a profound culture change that will permeate all we do and change us forever."

The BYM Group on Racism is looking forward to helping all of us in the Yearly Meeting discern how to live up to these commitments. One guide that can be helpful is a chart entitled "Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization," developed by the Crossroads Ministry of Chicago, Illinois. See it at <https://www.churchpublishing.org/media/5205/ContinuumAnti-Racist.pdf>.

The chart describes what an organization looks like at each of six points along that continuum. The chart does not tell us how to move along that continuum. We all must discern that together. It does, however, help us understand where we are now and the changes needed to move us to the next point on the continuum.

A beginning query: "where would you place your Monthly Meeting now along this continuum?"

This column is prepared by the BYM working group on racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaisons at each monthly and preparative meeting for publication or other means of dissemination. The WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 a.m. To 1:00 p.m., usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. In June 2015, however, it will meet at Adelphi Friends Meeting. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

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.). See www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/news/peacevigil.shtml.

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (downstairs in summer)
Every Tuesday (on vacation until September 8 2015)	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 months last Sundays (September 27, 2015) 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.

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)

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

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Homewood
3107 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

