

Twelfth Month (December) 2015

# Homewood Friends Meeting

## *Newsletter*

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(includes calendar, no password required)  
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### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*** The Twelfth Query: **The Environment**

Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations? Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world?

***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting***, Advices for the Twelfth Query:

#### **Humankind and the Environment**

Population growth and technological abuses are threatening the planet. Millions of people are malnourished or starving, unable to obtain food, homeless. Our faith that there is that of God in every person calls us to concern over this tragic situation. Friends are advised to set the example in living simply so that others may have the wherewithal to live. We are called also to work for public policy aimed toward conserving the world's resources on one hand and sharing them fairly among all God's children on the other.

#### **Civic Responsibility**

Friends believe that the aim of government is to preserve a community in which justice, peace, good order and individual development are possible. Members of our Society are also citizens of the community and the nation. Quakerism is not intended to be a refuge from the disturbing events of our times, but rather a source of strength and support in facing them. The free institutions under which we live give many of our members a direct share in the responsibilities of government and in forming a healthy public opinion.

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Whether or not directly involved in government, we need to consider carefully our responsibilities in influencing legislation and educating fellow citizens on public issues. Friends should work with people in other churches and in the community to bring about desirable ends through the institutional resources of society.

From the beginning, Friends have found that loyalty to God results at times in refusal of the demands of the state, as in opposition to war and unjust laws, and have supported decisions of conscience taken by individual Friends. Before deciding on a course which involves civil disobedience, a Friend should consult with persons of trusted judgment who have sympathy with the individual's sense of duty. Clearness committees within the Meeting are valuable in such situations.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING** are needed and gratefully accepted; they support the maintenance of the Meeting and our contributions to designated service organizations. It is very helpful for contributors to make arrangements with their banks for automatic transfers. This provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow.

**WICKER BASKET:** Out4Justice will be the recipient for December.

*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***

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** meets at 9:15 a.m.:

**December 13:** Quaker Book Club: *A Sustainable Life*, by Doug Gwyn

**December 20:** Hospitality cookie exchange

### **FIRST DAY SCHOOL**

**December 6:** Christmas Pageant rehearsal

**December 13:** Christmas Pageant rehearsal

**December 18:** Peace Vigil and Christmas Pageant

**December 20:** Christmas Pageant

**SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE: Every Friday,** 5-6 p.m. Since 9/11/2001, we have held a vigil for peace every Friday evening. Join in at any time during the hour. The current focus is on “**BLACK LIVES MATTER/ALL LIVES MATTER.**”

**THE BALTIMORE QUAKER PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE** is now posting an occasional newsletter on the Homewood Meeting website: <https://homewoodfriends.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/bqpjc-september2015.pdf>. No password is needed.

**FCNL ACTION ALERT: Invest in Peacebuilding; Focus U.S. Government on Preventing Atrocities.** Early prevention of violence protects U.S. national interests and is more effective and less costly than military intervention after a crisis breaks out. We urge Congress to authorize a permanent, inter-agency Atrocities Prevention Board that mobilizes the U.S. government at high levels to focus on preventing violent conflict and atrocities. Use the link on the Homewood Website or click <http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=68467791&PROCESS=Take+Action>.

### **FRIDAY VIDEO SERIES: DECEMBER 4, 2015**

**GENTRIFICATION K[NOT]** (USA, 2013, 47 min.) is a documentary by Baltimore filmmaker Jude Lombardi. She is an activist, social worker, sociologist, and former professor. The film explores the meaning of the term gentrification and how it functions as an element of a system that displaces people from their communities during the revitalization of an urban neighborhood. It all started in August 2012 at Station North Arts Cafe (SNAC), when owner Kevin Brown and the filmmaker had a conversation about the meaning of gentrification, provoked by the closing down of the Load of Fun building. Artists, academics, ministers, politicians and everyday people present their views about neighborhoods in flux and possibilities for change.

The series is sponsored by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee of Homewood and Stony Run Meetings, and Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility.

**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.*

**PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A MONTHLY GREETER,** an important opportunity to welcome newcomers, members, and attenders as they come to the experience of worship. It is satisfying and enjoyable—just ask a greeter! Interested? Have questions? Talk with [Kathleen Wilson](#). If you are concerned about occasional absences, talk with her anyway. Greeters and substitutes work together wonderfully, filling in for one another.

**HOLD THE DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 17,** Congressman Elijah Cummings will speak at Homewood Meeting House on “One Baltimore” and what concerned citizens can do to make things better in Baltimore. The talk will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will be followed by Q&A and light refreshments. The event is free and open to the public—help spread the word.

## **Green Action for December: Charitable Contributions to Green Organizations**

December is the month when many of us make tax-deductible contributions to charitable organizations. The Meeting will gratefully receive your contribution. You may also want to contribute to another green organization, especially as we benefit from the current low gas prices due, in part, to the dangerous process of fracking. The Meeting's Green Organizing/Action Team (GOAT) has some suggestions:

- **Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)**—[chesapeakeclimate.org](http://chesapeakeclimate.org)—building a grassroots movement in the region to counter global warming. Current campaigns to protect Maryland from fracking, resist crude oil-by-rail in Baltimore, stop fracked gas exports from Cove Point, and expand wind and solar in the region.
- **Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)**—[eqat.org](http://eqat.org)—advocates for a just and sustainable economy. Previous campaign got PNC Bank to stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining. Current campaign challenges Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO) to purchase energy from rooftop solar in high-unemployment areas of Philadelphia.
- **Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)**—[quakerearthcare.org](http://quakerearthcare.org)—network in North America that facilitates transformation of humans' attitudes, values, identity, and worldview that underlie much of the current environmental destruction.
- **We are Cove Point**—[wearecovepoint.org](http://wearecovepoint.org)—using nonviolent direct action to stop a new liquefied fracked gas export terminal from being built in the residential community of Cove Point in Lusby, Maryland. Patuxent Friends Meeting is in Lusby.
- **350.org**—is building a global climate movement to dismantle the influence and infrastructure of the fossil fuel industry and develop people-centric solutions to the climate crisis. Campaigns include opposing coal power plants in India, stopping the Keystone XL pipeline, and divesting public institutions everywhere from fossil fuels. 350 parts per million is the amount of CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere that scientists say will preserve a livable planet; the current level is over 400 ppm.

For more information speak with John McKusick, Gary Gillespie, Carol Beck, or Polly Heninger of GOAT.

## ***OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES***

**THE BYM WOMEN'S RETREAT** will be held **January 29–31, 2016** in a new location. The Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD, is about 45 minutes west of Baltimore. It offers a number of benefits, especially in accessibility and safety (covered walkways, elevators, etc.), as well as comfortable accommodations, plenty of meeting rooms, and excellent food. Scholarships will be available. For more information, and to register online, go to <https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/events/yમેvents/women16.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.). See [www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/news/peacevigil.shtml](http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/news/peacevigil.shtml)

**ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING SILENT RETREAT AT DAYSPRING:** Join Friends at the Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, Maryland **February 5 - 7, 2016**. The Center's two simple buildings overlook meadows, woodlands and ponds filled with wildlife. See [www.dayspringretreat.org](http://www.dayspringretreat.org) for more information.

Silence is maintained from Friday's opening meeting for worship through Sunday's closing worship. Meals are vegetarian. A Dayspring cook prepares the food. Retreatants carry out final preparation, set-up, and clean-up in silence. Bed linens, blankets, pillows, washcloth and towels are provided. You will need toilet articles, warm casual clothes, walking shoes or boots and a flashlight.

Make a check for \$220 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122. Registration deadline is Friday, January 29. Checks will be deposited after the retreat. Feel free to email [jschristianson@gmail.com](mailto:jschristianson@gmail.com) or call me at 410-544-1912 with questions.

### ***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 <a href="#">Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House</a> (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	<b>Odd months last Sundays (December 27, 2015)</b> 12:15 p.m.
Hospitality—OPEN	<b>As called;</b> contact <a href="#">Pat Tracey</a> , 443.846.1036
House & Grounds—OPEN	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays</b> at 7:30 p.m., contact <a href="#">Charlie Neill</a> , 410.323-8504
Indian Affairs—OPEN	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays</b> at 7 p.m. at Stony Run dining room, contact Dellie James, 443) 501-3535
Library—OPEN	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sundays</b> at 9:00 a.m., contact <a href="#">Debbie Kennison</a> , 410.464.1835
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b> at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact <a href="#">Stan Becker</a> , 410.366.6923
Ministry & Counsel	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays;</b> contact <a href="#">Ann Walker Kennedy</a> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	<b>Dates vary;</b> contact <a href="#">Chris Rutkowski</a> , 410.325-9435
Stewardship & Finance	<b>As called;</b> contact <a href="#">Susan Russell Walters</a> , 410.377.3328
Trustees	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays,</b> Contact <a href="#">Bess Keller</a> , 410. 889-3176

*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](http://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.*

Friends strive to use God's gifts wisely, with gifts conceived in the broadest of terms. These gifts include our talents and our possessions, as well as our natural environment. Friends believe that such gifts are not ours alone.

To Friends, good stewardship means taking care of what has been given, not just for ourselves, but for the people around us and for future generations as well. Friends strive to use their gifts in accordance with their beliefs.

American Friends Service Committee website, <https://www.afsc.org/testimonies/stewardship>.