

Seventh Month (July) 2016

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, The Seventh Query: Caring for Others

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and economic condition? In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Advices for The Seventh Query:

Prejudice and Discrimination

From its earliest days, the Society of Friends has supported the equal right of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect. The opposition of Friends to slavery is well known. Less well known is their support of the rights of women. Quakers, particularly Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and Alice Paul, were in the forefront of the American suffrage movement. We oppose all forms of prejudice. Prejudice should never be allowed to keep any persons from a chance to develop or use their abilities, or deprive them of their political, economic or social rights. We are called to work creatively for equal opportunity in education, employment, justice, housing and the like.

Since thought and action are reflected in words, we should take care to use language that reflects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. We support an ongoing search for broader language to express the continuing revelation of the nature of God. Use of masculine or feminine forms when referring to God perpetuates gender-specific images. With terms such as the Inner Light, That of God in Everyone, and the Seed, Friends already have a vocabulary which is inclusive.

Those Requiring Special Care

We must be sensitive to the need for an institutional and societal framework within which disadvantaged individuals can achieve dignity and can experience a purposeful life within the limits of their capabilities. Aging is a natural part of human life. At no time should people be considered to be on the periphery of society because of their age. Older persons, who represent an increasingly large portion of the population, have varied talents, interests and concerns. Friends have a long tradition of appreciation of the gifts of older members, and our Meetings should continue to encourage participation of all ages in Meeting activities. [. . .]

HOMEWOOD EVENTS AND COMMITTEE NEWS

HOMEWOOD FRIEND DR. LARRY EGBERT passed away in his Hampden home on June 9. Family members have gathered to support his wife Ellen. A memorial service at the Homewood Meeting House is planned for **Saturday, August 27**, from 3-4:30, followed by a reception from 5-6:30.

As an Army PFC, Larry was sent to Hiroshima soon after the war to help evaluate conditions there after the dropping of the atomic bomb on the city. Following the war, he finished medical school and joined the National Health Service, later teaching at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He became an anti-war veteran due to his life experiences, beginning with Hiroshima. Larry became an advocate for single-payer national health insurance, and he was a leading activist in the movement for the right to die with dignity. He was a regular attendee at Homewood Friends Meeting, where he was a faithful participant in the peace vigil and other activities for peace and justice.

The Baltimore Sun published an obituary and brief description of some of Larry's conscience-led activities:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/obituaries/bs-md-ob-lawrence-egbert-20160617-story.html>.

HOMEWOOD WILL WELCOME NEW MEMBER CAROL BECK with a reception in the Library following lunch on **July 10**. Barbara Bezdek and Susan Russell Walters will be co-conveners.

THE 2015 SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT was approved on second reading at the June Business Meeting. Read it at <https://homewoodfriends.org/about-us/our-spiritual-state/>.

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 **“WHEN BLACK LIVES MATTER, THEN ALL LIVES MATTER.”** On the **first Friday of each month** a potluck supper and video program follow the vigil.

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS IN JULY will go to the Maryland Food Bank.

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>.

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 for automatic transfers. This provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow.

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.

THE WORKING GROUP FOR ART AT HOMEWOOD asks artists in the Meeting community who want to share their gifts with the Meeting to let it know. The Group is looking for artists of all sorts: ceramists, photographers, dancers, puppeteers, musicians, painters, poets, writers, film makers, weavers, and others. It will collaborate with each artist to design the presentation.

So far the Working Group has exhibited Mibs Pell's' works, and co-sponsored a showing of Exsul Van Helden's film ***New Roots***. In the near future Noelle Zeltzman will display her paintings and some of her family's art. In the fall the Working Group has a proposal to hold a coffee house once a month to showcase singers, poets, comedians etc.

Talk to Megan Shook 410-419-0099, Phil Furnas, or Jo Brown: The Working Group for Art.

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. Pat and Lara will coordinate in **July**; in August we will keep with our tradition of juice, crackers, and produce for the entire Month!

Please sign up on the Lunch Bulletin Board in the Dining Room if you can provide Simple Lunch for July.

EVERY-BIT WATT HELPS! Homewood Meeting has received a small credit against its electricity bill, for generating more power than it used during the past year.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

ANNUAL SESSION IS MOVING! The **2016 Session** will meet at Hood College in Frederick, MD on **August 1-7**. The theme is *Discernment and Action in Spiritual Community*.

In our Quaker communities, discernment provides the spiritual basis for finding the pathways for our service and action. When our inward and outward lives nourish each other, we thrive best and have more to offer each other and the world, both as individuals and communities.. We will consider these queries together:

- What paths to spiritual growth have we found?
- In our spiritual lives, how do worshiping and ministering interact?
- How does worship guide our ministry?
- How does our ministering feed and test our spirit?
- As we extend our ministry, what else develops? What costs result?

Speakers:

Nancy Bieber (Pre-session Retreat Leader)

Christina Repoley (Tuesday Evening Plenary)

Lauren Brownlee and Jen Cort (Wednesday Afternoon Plenary)

George Lakey (Friday Carey Lecturer)

Homewood's George Amoss will present a workshop with Chuck Fager from 2 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, August 6**. The title is "Quakerism's Basic Theology: The Essence of Christianity? Or Marching Orders for A Chosen People? A Conversation About Contrasting Models."

For registration and information see <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/ashome.html>

NEWS FROM FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC): Homewood Meeting received a letter recently from the FGC Central Committee, about the status and future of some programs. Friends should know that the traveling ministries, Quaker Quest, New Meetings, and QuakerBridge programs will be laid down, as grants have run out and new funding has not been forthcoming. Couple Enrichment will become a largely independent project. QuakerBooks and Quaker Cloud, however, are prospering, and last summer's FGC Gathering was very well attended. See www.fgcquaker.org.

ASSISTANCE TO SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES IN MARYLAND: Langley Hill Friends Meeting has been working with refugees from Syria and needs assistance for the eight new families that arrived in Maryland during June 2016. Several of the families are in the Baltimore area. The families need financial assistance, clothing, books, household goods and furniture as well as assistance learning English and navigating their new life here. Some family members are accepting housekeeping, grounds care, and other jobs. You can contact Najla Drooby from Langley Hill Friends Meeting at najladrooby@gmail.com or speak with Stony Run member, Paul Jones, at pjones@towson.edu for more information on specific needs.

Ther refugees, through Langley Hill Friends Meeting, will be the recipients of the Wicker Basket for August and September, 2016

HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MAY REMEMBER that in the not-too-distant past Meeting members helped support Ten Thousand Villages Baltimore, a non-profit fair trade store located in Fells Point. The store is again looking for volunteers to help in the store and invites interested folks to participate.

Board member Jennifer Miller writes:

“At Ten Thousand Villages, we work with over 130 artisan groups in more than 38 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, providing employment to artisan groups that would otherwise have no access to markets or income. The artisans who create our handicrafts are paid a fair, living wage. Over 70% of our artisans are women, there is no child labor, and all products are sustainably produced under safe working conditions.

“As a nonprofit store, volunteers are crucial to our success! No previous experience or skills are required—just a friendly attitude and the desire to help. We ask that our volunteers work 8 hours per month and we have a very flexible schedule (days, evenings, and weekends) to accommodate busy schedules! We do ask that all volunteers be at least 16 years of age.

“Thank you.”

THE HOMEWOOD DIRECTORY is constantly updated; the online version (<https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/directory/>) has the latest information that has been provided to the Meeting office. The member/attender password is required to use it (call the office or ask another Homewood Friend). Please check your listing and keep the office up to date,

Those who go forth ministering to the wants and necessities of their fellow beings experience a rich return, their souls being as a watered garden, and a spring that faileth not

Lucretia Mott

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 <u>Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House</u> (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 (May , 2016) 12:15 p.m.
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Pat Tracey</u> , 443.846.1036
House & Grounds—OPEN	1st Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., contact <u>Charlie Neill</u> , 410.323-8504
Indian Affairs—OPEN	3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Stony Run dining room, contact Dellie James, 443) 501-3535
Library—OPEN	1st Sundays at 9:00 a.m., contact <u>Debbie Kennison</u> , 410.464.1835
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact <u>Stan Becker</u> , 410.366.6923
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact <u>Ann Walker Kennedy</u> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	Dates vary ; contact <u>Chris Rutkowski</u> , 410.325-9435
Trustees	3rd Mondays

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.