

Tenth Month (October) 2016

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Tenth Query: Peace

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of [...] violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Testimonies for the Tenth Query:

[...] God's law of love, as taught and lived by Jesus Christ, applies to all the levels of society. Wars break the law of love as do violence in communities and families and fighting between individuals. Friends have a settled intention to practice love and to make peace.

As peacemakers we hold that attitudes of justice and compassion are basic. A peacemaker must be able to identify with others. Peace cannot be attained at the expense of others. "Do to others as you would be done by" is indeed a Golden Rule.

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple life style is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace.

Friends need to wage peace boldly and positively. The promotion of peaceful methods of conflict resolution, of international exchanges, of peace education and research, of world law and world-wide standards of human rights all are positive ways.[...]

David Penney, Homewood Meeting's Administrative Coordinator, is retiring on December 31 after serving the Meeting for more than a decade. Please stop by or contact the office to wish him well.

HOMEWOOD MEETING EVENTS AND NOTICES

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: All programs are at 9:15 a.m., First Day (Sunday)

October 16	Quaker Peace Testimony: Roots and Branches	Barbara Bezdek, Downstairs
October 23	Quaker Peace Testimony: Peace with Justice	Barbara Bezdek, Downstairs
October 30	Experiment with Light	Susan Russell Walters, Library

FIRST DAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

October 16: Service Activity (all ages)

October 23: New Testament

PEACEABLE CITY: The Peace & Social Witness Committee is holding a series of talks and discussions about the causes and remedies of violence, on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for eleven weeks beginning **October 11**. Each week's discussion will be responsive to the previous week's discussion. Week 1 was Verna Meyers on "How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them." **October 18's** discussion will be based on a talk by Bryan Stevenson. Also see "Peaceable City" on Facebook.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS on **November 6** will include the first reading of the 2017 budget.

HOMEWOOD FRIENDS WILL BE THE GUESTS at Stony Run Meeting for Thanksgiving Day this year. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m.

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.

KEVIN-DOUGLAS OLIVE invites young Friends to travel to Quebec in **summer 2017**, with City College students and other students from the Baltimore area. You do not need to be a French student to go. Tentative trip dates are **June 24-July 2 2017**. Contact kdolive@hotmail.com.

THE BALTIMORE QUAKER PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE posts occasionally on the Homewood Meeting website:

<http://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/committees/peace-justice/>.

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**" and "**We Are All One People**." On the **first Friday of each month** a potluck supper and video program follow the vigil.

SIMPLE LUNCH: Everyone is welcome to lunch after Meeting for Worship; there is no charge. Friends are welcome to bring food but please bring enough for everyone. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Dining Room if you can provide Simple Lunch for September

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS IN OCTOBER will go to **Thread**. Thread weaves a new social fabric by connecting students, university and community-based volunteers, and collaborators, with freshman students at risk of failing to graduate high school. Thread provides committed volunteers who work with the students through high school and for up to six years thereafter. Thread breaks the cycle of crime and poor educational and economic outcomes, replacing it with a new cycle of educational attainment, service, and social well-being. Just this year, 255 students and alumni, 800+ volunteers and 175+ collaborators have spent over 30,000 hours together, building relationships that transcend barriers and enrich the lives of everyone involved. See <https://www.thread.org/>

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>.

GOAT NOATS: The Green Organizing Action Team will screen Mike Wicklein's **FRACKING WESTERN MARYLAND**, on **Sunday, November 20**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Homewood Meeting House Dining Room. The film has a particular impact at this point in the Maryland State Legislature's 2016-2017 session. A recent article in the *Frederick News-Post* described this documentary film and the political issues around fracking for natural gas in our region:

Out in Western Maryland, where the Marcellus shale formation crosses state lines, the question of how Maryland will regulate gas companies remains on the forefront of many minds, especially as the Maryland Department of the Environment rapidly approaches its Oct. 1 deadline to release a revised list of rules and regulations and the two-year moratorium on drilling draws to a close.

Independent Documentarian Mike Wicklein, 62, produced **Fracking Western Maryland?** to document the public outcry and legislative response to whether Maryland would allow hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, in Allegany and Garrett counties. The film was released earlier this year.

Fracking Western Maryland was the first film Wicklein approached as a journalist, and is a primer for residents on the situation in Maryland.

"The vision was not to make another **Gasland**, he said, which is a 2010 documentary narrated by its producer Josh Fox while he documents residents setting their water on fire from alleged gas leaks that were impacting their wells.

"He did the emotional 'we're going to show you in the house on fire film,'" Wicklein said. Instead, **Fracking Western Maryland** explores the politics at the local and state level that ultimately lead to a decision being made by very few and impacting many.

"Very few people are key in how this goes forward." Wicklein said.

Many of those people speak in the film, including General Assembly Democrat Maryland State Senator Joan Carter Conway, who reads the stripped down fracking moratorium bill at the end of the film, and Wendell Beitzel, the Maryland House of Delegates member for the two counties that could be fracked.

However, most of the pro-fracking politicians would not go on record for the film. This included the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, which changed its stance from pro-fracking to neutral near the end of filming, he said. Wicklein offered to speak with the chamber member again, but they refused [. . .]

Until very recently, Wicklein said he remained unbiased on the fracking question. That changed when he saw the images coming out of North Dakota of the oil and gas industry bulldozing ancient burial grounds, Wicklein said by email. “The image of attack dogs were bad enough to remind me of Selma, Alabama, in the 1960s,” Wicklein wrote. “But then the video of the bulldozers plowing through documented burial grounds just told me that the gas and oil industry has no regard for human beings.”

“Originally, Wicklein planned to make a 10- to 12-minute video, but it swelled to a 67-minute film. People can buy the film on Engage Mountain Maryland [website](#).

*[reprinted from Samantha Hogan, “Fracking documentary reveals key players in big decision for Maryland,” September 15, 2016, **Frederick News-Post**.]*

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 al absences, talk with her anyway. Greeters and substitutes work together wonderfully.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

THINKING ABOUT RACE, October 2016 – *Witnessing Whiteness*

“When we say that we do not see another person’s color, what we essentially are saying is that we do not see a person’s racial placement as meaningful... that we do not see the ways that a person of color experiences the world differently than does a white-appearing person. Worse, being colorblind usually means that since we do not see differential experiences, people of color will have to convince us that race continues to matter in their lives.....

“In addition to offending people of color and denying and dismissing their experiences, choosing colorblindness also has one glaringly negative ramification for white people. Being colorblind truly keeps us blind, blind to ourselves. Our whiteness, already a rather blurry topic, moves from being uncomfortable and out of focus to being purposefully hidden from ourselves. As we refuse to see the color in someone else’s life, we refuse to see the whiteness in our own.” (pp. 27-28)

From **Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It**, second edition, 2010, by Shelly Tochluk. Tochluk trains educators to work with the diverse Los Angeles school population as an associate professor of education at Mount St. Mary’s College. She led workshops at the 2016 White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting. The BYM WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

SAVE THE DATE: BYM has confirmed the reservation of Camp Catoctin from **April 28 thru 30, 2017** for the **Men's Retreat**. Expect an invitation to a planning meeting early next year--Blaine Keener.

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;
Trustees	3rd Mondays, contact Bess Keller, 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). Location is at the Meeting House unless noted. Most committees are OPEN to guests; contact the clerk if you'd like to attend.

Like everyone else, Quakers live in the real world. Insights which are gloriously clear in the spirit translate into words or actions which seem muddled and imperfect. From time to time we fail, we fudge, we are hurt, and hurt others. To accept as a certainty the spiritual conviction which underlies the peace testimony is not to be certain of the outcome. We cannot guarantee that we will never kill, far less that we will never do violence to those with whom we share the earth. Nor can we, by refusing to do harm and seeking always for a creative response in conflict ensure our own personal safety or the triumph of the causes we support. We can only choose to live day by day as if it

were possible always to defend what we value and to resolve conflict without deliberate harm—in such a way that if damage does occur, healing is possible.

Mary Lou Leavitt; Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Quaker Peace Testimony