

Fourth Month (April) 2017

# Homewood Friends Meeting

## *Newsletter*

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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(includes calendar, no password required)

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### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Fourth Query, Personal Spiritual Life:***

Do you make time for meditation, prayer, and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support, and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in return?

#### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Advices for the Fourth Query***

The Divine Spirit, which Friends variously call the Inner Light, the Light of Truth, the Christ Within, That of God in Everyone, has power to reveal, to overcome evil, and to enable us to carry out God's will. Quaker testimonies arise from listening to and obeying this Spirit.

Quaker faith welds the beliefs of its Christian foundation with the conviction that the Holy Spirit speaks to men and women and children of all races at all times. It draws individuals into a community of worship and of work for the redemption and improvement of human life. A Friends Meeting should be such a community. It should involve frequent, regular coming together in a common spiritual search, with members sharing experiences and insights, and finding the channels of service to which we are called individually and collectively.

The meeting for worship is the heart of every Friends Meeting. Baltimore Yearly Meeting generally has unprogrammed worship based on waiting in silence, and founded on faith that human beings can commune directly with God. In expectant silence we strive to center inwardly. Each is aided by the seeking of others, so that worship becomes a corporate experience. ...

Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. The experienced speaker should be watchful not to speak too often or at undue length. No Friend should come to meeting for worship with an intention to speak or not to speak.

We are obliged also to recognize and nurture the gifts of other Friends. The spiritual quality of our meetings for worship deepens when those who are led to speak out of the silence receive encouragement and help. The fabric of the Meeting community and the larger community is strengthened when Friends who serve the community receive loving support from other Friends. ...

Nurturing the life of the Spirit requires frequent communication with the Divine Spirit. It is not sufficient to rely solely on an hour (or less) on First Day mornings, or on brief moments of silence before meals or committee meetings. We should make room in each day to know that of God within ourselves. God's help and healing can be sought in many ways, including vocal or silent prayer, meditation, visualization, silent listening, and confident affirmation. Friends seek harmony with the Divine Will, individually or in groups, sometimes laying our concerns before God, sometimes asking for guidance, sometimes giving thanks for the beauty and blessing in our lives.

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**Dear Friends,**

*Our worship can only really begin when we are all gathered. Late arrival delays that process. Please consider an intention of arriving a little early for worship so that we can begin together at 10:30 AM. Even so...if you find yourself delayed please know that you are welcome.*  
*With loving concern for our community,*  
*Ministry and Counsel*

**A message from a former attender:**

*I'm a birthright member of Homewood and now live in Washington PA. There is no meeting near me here so I find I miss Friends. Some of the older members might remember me as a child and teen. They also might remember my mother Gloria Jaracz who passed in the early 90s. I'm just a child of the meeting reaching out to say hello. ...*

*Though I have visited other denominations including Jewish temples, Catholic churches, and such as we Quakers are known to do, there is no place like Homewood. I grew up on the love and guidance of this Meeting, dinners in the basement and learning to sit in silence as a young child to hear the peace within. I never have to go to a Meeting to "center" myself. It's a wonderful thing to learn and experience that we can feel at "home" no matter where we are once we are "centering down".*

*My mother became a member of Gunpowder meeting. I used to take her there and of course, felt welcomed, but my "home" will always be Homewood. My mother is buried at Gunpowder. That meeting is historical and I love sitting on the porches overlooking the amazing view. Or sitting on the carriage steps, but history can be found everywhere at Homewood too.*

*Best to my beloved Meeting.*

*Vicki (Millay) Shipley*  
*Washington, PA*

If you would like Vicki's email address, please notify the office.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD:**

**YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE:** **March 31 - April 2** here at Homewood Meeting. Young Friends (ages 14 - 18) will begin arriving at 7:00 pm on Friday. For information, check the Young Friends website ([https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/what\\_we\\_do/yfs/yfcon.html](https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/what_we_do/yfs/yfcon.html)) or contact Jocelyn Dowling (301-774-7663).

**PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS:** **April 9, 12:30 - 1:00.** Stan Becker writes, “Inspired by a letter from Richard Taylor in *Friends Journal* (3/2016) in which he wrote, ‘What would happen if the adherents of ISIS saw, all across the United States, thousands of people gathering in groups to pray for them?’, we meet for worship to hold in the Light those active in or attracted to ISIS. This includes over one hundred who have been captured in the U.S. We meet for about 30 minutes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> First day in the library of Homewood Friends Meeting. All those who believe in the power of the Light at a distance are invited to attend.” If you have any questions, please contact Stan at 410-366-6923 or [sbecker@jhsph.edu](mailto:sbecker@jhsph.edu).

**INQUIRERS' SERIES:** Monday evenings, **April 17 & 24, May 1 & 8, 7:00-8:30.** This will be an opportunity to learn more about Quakers and Homewood Friends Meeting. More information will be forthcoming.

**THRESHING SESSION:** On **April 30**, we will explore how Homewood Meeting spends its money. How do our budgetary choices reflect our spiritual life? How do we deal with the hard fiscal realities that confront us? Mark your calendars now.

**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. Join us on **April 7** for our potluck and the video (please see the weekly announcements for more information).

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

Mark your calendar for these April activities and join us:

**April 9** - Quaker Book Club (*Our Life Is Love*), Donna McKusick, Leader; Lower Level. We will discuss “Community,” pp. 80 - 97.

**April 23** - The Greening of Our Meeting. Members of the House and Grounds Committee and the Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) will give a brief overview of current efforts to reduce the Meeting’s carbon footprint, discuss next steps and possible projects, and facilitate discussion on individual and family involvement in the greening of our Meeting.

**April 30** - Experiment with Light, Susan Walters, Leader; Library.

### **FIRST DAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE - ALL CHILDREN WELCOME**

**April 2:** Lesson with Giovanna and Meri

**April 9:** Service Project with John and Susie

**April 16:** Easter (TBD)

**April 23:** Art with Chris

**April 30:** Lesson with Giovanna and Meri

**SECOND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FIRST DAY SCHOOL** Both good practice and our youth safety policy requires a second adult to be in our classes for First Day School. No preparation is required and no direct teaching is expected. The time period is from 10:50 to about 11:50 when parents pick up their children. For more information or to volunteer, please contact John McKusick or Megan Shook. Even doing this one Sunday would be a big help and it is a great way to get to know the children of the Meeting better!

**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 their banks to send regular checks. 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 absences, talk with her anyway. Greeters and substitutes work together wonderfully.

### **WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS**

The recipient for April is Stony Run's Fund for support and assistance to Refugees/Asylum Seekers/Asylees being helped by Friends of Stony Run Meeting and Homewood Meeting. For further details, you may contact Maria Brown of Stony Run ( [maria\\_b3@verizon.net](mailto:maria_b3@verizon.net)). *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>.

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### **“GOAT NOAT” FOR APRIL:**

**Fracking ban in Maryland:** The fracking ban bill (HB1325) passed the House of Delegates with a 70% majority, and the same bill passed in the Senate on March 27! Governor Hogan is expected to pass it. More news should be available by the time you read this.

**People's Climate March, DC, April 29:** We are considering chartering a bus to the march. If you are interested, please contact John McKusick ([john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net](mailto:john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net)), ASAP. There will be a cost involved.

From <http://peoplesclimate.org/>: On the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the Trump administration, we will be in the streets of Washington, DC, to show the world and our leaders that we will resist attacks on our people, our communities and our planet. We invite you to join the People's Climate Movement as we march to:

- Advance solutions to the climate crisis [that are] rooted in racial, social and economic justice and committed to protecting front-line communities and workers.
- Protect our right to clean air, water, land, healthy communities and a world at peace.
- Immediately stop attacks on immigrants, communities of color, indigenous and tribal people and lands and workers.
- Ensure public funds and investments create good paying jobs that provide a family-sustaining wage and benefits and preserve workers' rights, including the right to unionize.
- Fund investments in our communities, people and environment to transition to a new clean and renewable energy economy that works for all.
- Protect our basic rights to a free press, protest and free speech.

For more information contact John McKusick, Gary Gillespie, Carol Beck, or Polly Heninger of the Green Organizing/Action Team (GOAT).

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**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 a month of your choosing.

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

**CAMP REGISTRATION:** BYM Camps registration is now open for All Campers at Catocin, Opequon, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure Quaker Camps. See <http://bymcamps.org/> for registration forms and more information. Camps are about 80% full. **Please note that money from the Davis Fund at Homewood is available for camperships.** Contact Bess Keller for details.

### **BYM PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NETWORKING DAY**

**April 1** - The 2017 Networking Day is at Friends Meeting School (Ijamsville, MD). This interactive "Debate into Dialog" program begins at 10 a.m. and will give Friends practice in a technique to resolve controversies within their own Meetings and in their communities. Friends then will be invited to choose two of four 1 hour+ workshops: 1) Addressing climate / environmental issues - session I; 2) Making a difference in criminal justice - session I; 3) Helping refugees & immigrants - session II; and 4) Working for economic & racial justice - session II. Continental breakfast & lunch will be provided with a donation basket to help defray costs. For more information, contact Bob Goren at [goren.moore@gmail.com](mailto:goren.moore@gmail.com).

### **QUAKER DIALOGUES ON PEACE AND JUSTICE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE**

**April 2** - 6:30 p.m. at William Penn House (515 E Capitol St SE)

*Racial and Economic Diversity in Quaker Camps: A Discussion with DC STRIDE.*

Dyresha Harris and Jamie DeMarco [son of Homewood members Molly Mitchell and Vinnie DeMarco] will present efforts to increase equity and accessibility through Supporting Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE), a committee of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Program. Attenders are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

### **SINGING FOR EVERYONE**

From Susan Warner: "We will gather for 'Singing for Everyone' on Sunday, **April 2**, 2017 from 7 to 9 PM at the home of Judy Fulton and Mark Howard (1903 Indian Head Road, Baltimore, MD 21204), phone number 410-337-3701. Thanks, Judy and Mark! Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one." Judy's email is [jfulton5@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton5@gmail.com).

Directions from downtown Baltimore:

\*Take I-83N from the center of Baltimore City.

\*Take the Ruxton Road exit.

\*At the top of the exit ramp, there is a four-way stop. Turn right onto Ruxton Road.

\*Turn right onto Darnall Road, the first street on your right. It comes up suddenly after the first curve, and the street sign also says "No Outlet".

\*Darnall ends in Indian Head Road. Turn left onto Indian Head.

\*1903 is the third house on the right. It is the red brick house after the house on the corner, a second house, and a driveway not leading to any house.

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### **SPRING CLEANING DAY AT FRIENDS WILDERNESS CENTER**

Saturday - **April 8** - 10:00 a.m. or when you can arrive until 4:00 p.m. or when you need to leave  
Sheila Bach writes, "Come out and help clean up the Friends Wilderness Center for spring and summer activities. We have great programs planned for the rest of the year, but we need help in getting the place ready, but we need your help!!! ... Please let me know that you will be here to work on April 8 so there will be enough food for you and those you bring with you! But you will be welcome if you come by yourself!! snbach@earthlinknet, or just reply to this message, or by phone at 304.728.4820. If you need directions please visit our website - [www.friendswilderness.org](http://www.friendswilderness.org) - but do not rely on GPS unless you use WAZE. You might end up where you do not want to be."

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### **EVENTS AT PENDLE HILL**

**April 3** – Quaker and leading U.S. Middle East scholar Stephen Zunes speaks on "[Quakers Addressing Israel/Palestine: Advocacy or Reconciliation?](#)" at our annual Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Barn. Register to attend in person or for livestreaming.

**April 7-9** – Hanging on to pain, hurt, and anger stands in the way of openness to healing for ourselves and others. In "[Practicing Forgiveness as a Spiritual Discipline](#)", Sue Regen leads a weekend workshop that nurtures forgiveness as a spiritual discipline.

### **EVENTS AT STONY RUN**

**April 9** - 1:00–2:30 p.m.: Halina Silber, a Holocaust Survivor, will bear witness and share her experiences. Childcare will be provided.

**April 22** - 2 to 4 p.m.: Celebrating Earth Day at the Burial Ground. Our Quaker Burial Ground, at 2506 Harford Road, is especially beautiful at this time of year and is well worth a visit.

There will be light refreshments. Please park on Harford Road; handicapped parking is available on the circle inside the Burial Ground. If it rains, this event will be canceled.

**April 23** - 1p.m.: "A White Historian Confronts Lynching" is the second in a series of illustrated talks by Dr. Susan Strasser, with African - American poet Marcia Cole reading her powerful "A Bitter Suite," winner of the 2010 College Language Association Creative Writing Contest first prize in poetry. Historian and poet both seek to provide perspective to people grappling with contemporary issues of race and racism. Following the presentations there will be a Q&A and worship sharing to process this challenging part of history. Childcare will be provided.

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### **FAITH & PRACTICE PROCESS CLARIFICATION LISTENING SESSION: April 15 at**

Bethesda Friends Meeting (Bethesda, MD). The ad hoc Faith and Practice Process Clarification Committee seeks your input on the guidance that should be given to a new Faith and Practice Committee. Join Friends at Bethesda Friends Meeting from 1-3pm. The Process Clarification Committee reported on its progress at Interim Meeting on March 18. The committee has scheduled this listening session, and your participation will help us provide necessary guidance to the new Faith and Practice Committee. Go to [http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/fandpclarify/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/fandpclarify/) for more details. There will be two more listening sessions during the Apportionment Meetings on April 22 and 29. Be heard.

**THE JONATHAN K. TAYLOR SWARTHMORE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND** is administered by Stony Run, and preference goes to members of the BYM community. For the next academic year, up to \$15,000 can be allocated among the successful applicants. For more information or to apply by the **April 20 deadline**, contact Cindy Maier (cmaier@theodysseyschool.org).

**MEN'S RETREAT** will be **April 28 - 30** at Camp Catoclin. Please contact Blaine Keener ([blkong@hotmail.com](mailto:blkong@hotmail.com)) for more information, and see their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1187277721300931/>.

**2018 APPORTIONMENT MEETINGS** will be held on **April 22 and 29** at Floyd Friends Meeting (Floyd, VA) and Nottingham Monthly Meeting (Oxford, PA), respectively. Come find out more about the money that your Meeting sends to BYM! You'll hear about how other Meetings handle their finances and about how the Yearly Meeting is doing. The Stewardship and Finance Committee hosts this annual meeting to consider issues of apportionment – that is, financial support of BYM. We will hold the meetings on two Saturdays, one toward the north and one to the south. Friends will gather beginning at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and snacks. The Apportionment Meeting will begin at 10:00 and is expected to conclude at 2:30 p.m. The Stewardship and Finance Committee will present a rough draft of the 2018 Yearly Meeting Budget, as well as a first proposal of Monthly Meeting Apportionments for 2018. For documents that explain the apportionment process, go to [www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/sandf](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/sandf). Please register for your preferred meeting location so that our hosts may know how many Friends to expect: (<http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/apportionreg.html>).

### **BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES**

Susie Fetter of Gunpowder Monthly Meeting reminds us that BYM needs people to serve on its committees. Please go to [http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/) for more information, and contact the Homewood office if you would like to contact BYM about serving on a committee. This is a great way to engage in the larger Quaker community.

### **REGISTER FOR SUMMER GATHERINGS**

**FGC GATHERING EARLY REGISTRATION** is **April 3-16**. Ruth Reber, Conference Organizer, notes that “The Gathering is **great place for families with children**. Each age group finds opportunities for spiritual growth and community AND there is plenty of family time as well. The High Schoolers spend most of the week in their own program and see their parents/sponsors briefly for daily check-ins.” **Register early**; the registration deadline for children (birth through the 8th grade) is May 31, and for the high school group June 10. The Gathering is July 2 - 8, at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, NY. For more information, go to <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/children-and-teens>.

**REGISTRATION FOR BYM 2017 ANNUAL SESSION** begins at the **end of April**. The Session will be held at Hood College in Frederick, MD, July 31 - August 6, 2017. The registration fee for attending Annual Session this year will remain the same as it was in 2016, with one exception: All children in the JYM age group (birth through 8th grade) will attend free of charge. **This is a boon for families!** For more information, go to <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/ashome.html>.



## **THINKING ABOUT RACE (APRIL 2017):** James Baldwin

Excerpt from *Review: "I Am Not Your Negro" Will Make You Rethink Race* – by A.O. Smith in the New York Times, February 2, 2017:

“Baldwin could not have known about Ferguson and Black Lives Matter, about the presidency of Barack Obama and the recrudescence of white nationalism in its wake, but in a sense he explained it all in advance. He understood the deep, contradictory patterns of our history, and articulated, with a passion and clarity that few others have matched, the psychological dimensions of racial conflict: the suppression of black humanity under slavery and Jim Crow and the insistence on it in African-American politics and art; the dialectic of guilt and rage, forgiveness and denial that distorts relations between black and white citizens in the North as well as the South; the lengths that white people will go to wash themselves clean of their complicity in oppression.”

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](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net).



### ***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 | 12:30 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House<br><b><u>MARCH'S BUSINESS MEETING</u></b> will be on <b>March 5</b> . |

### ***Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings***

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Administrative                                  | <b>Odd months last Sundays</b> 12:15 p.m.                                                                                                                |
| Hospitality—OPEN                                | <b>As called</b> ; contact <u>Pat Tracey</u> , 443.846.1036                                                                                              |
| House & Grounds—OPEN                            | <b>2nd Tuesdays</b> at 7:30 p.m., contact <u>Charlie Neill</u> , 410.323-8504                                                                            |
| Indian Affairs—OPEN                             | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays</b> at 7 p.m. at Stony Run dining room, contact <u>Dellie James</u> 443.501.3535                                            |
| Library—OPEN                                    | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sundays</b> at 9:00 a.m., contact <u>Chris Rutkowski</u> 443.310.0863                                                                  |
| Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b> at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood ( <b>odd months</b> ) & Stony Run.; contact <u>Barbara Bezdek</u> , 410.377.4205 |
| Ministry & Counsel                              | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays</b> ; contact <u>Ann Walker Kennedy</u> , 410.426.5836                                                                      |
| Religious Education—OPEN                        | <b>Dates vary</b> ; contact <u>John McKusick</u> , 410.377.2797                                                                                          |
| Trustees                                        | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays</b> , contact <u>Bess Keller</u> , 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 [homewoodfriends.org](http://homewoodfriends.org)). Location is at the Meeting House unless noted. Committees so marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk if you'd like to attend.*