

Third Month (March) 2017

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Third Query, The Meeting Community:

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Advices for the Third Query

It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.

Typically Friends come together in meetings for worship from diverse neighborhoods, seeing one another rarely except on First Day or on special occasions. Many Meetings find it helpful to encourage groups to meet in one another's homes for worship, recreation, study or fellowship. Committees provide opportunities for other kinds of relationships within the Meeting. But all too often these contacts fail to satisfy our yearning for community. Sometimes a glimpse of the meaning of community comes as Friends work together in projects of social service, peace education, religious education or pastoral care for fellow members. Each Meeting should have as an active concern before one or more of its standing committees the nurture of the Meeting community in whatever ways may open. ...

Our belief in that of God in every person requires that we cooperate with other religious bodies. We are aware that we have much to learn from the religious experiences of other groups, Christian and non-Christian. We believe also that we have a rich and unique experience from which we can contribute. The Friends World Committee for Consultation brings us into contact with Quaker groups worldwide, often different from our own in culture, theology or practice. Through Friends United Meeting and Friends General Conference, our Yearly Meeting is affiliated with national and international ecumenical movements. In addition, many of our local or area Meetings cooperate in community councils or associations of religious groups. In all these affiliations we make clear that our faith is one of experience rather than one of creed or doctrine. In sharing that experience with persons from other backgrounds through common worship and shared service we enrich our sense of community. ...

Our belief in the universality of the Inner Light requires us to "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone" as George Fox urged. No human being is excluded from our sense of community, for we are led by our faith to view human beings as children of God rather than as stereotypes of cultures, nations, or ideologies. It is individual people with whom fellowship must be established, and each Friend must seek in the quiet of worship the personal strength to work at the establishment of community.

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*

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD:

PEACEABLE CITY (How Nonviolence Works) will continue for the **next two Mondays (3/6; and 3/13)**, 6:30-8:30 PM at Homewood. We will view together a 20-minute TEDTalk, followed by an hour-long discussion led by Jo Brown. Light refreshments will be served. If you have not attended the earlier series, no worries. Check out Scilla Ellworthy, "[Fighting with Nonviolence](http://www.ted.com/talks/scilla_ellworthy_fighting_with_nonviolence)" ([TED.com](http://www.ted.com)), from the last session, to get a running start. **PLEASE NOTE the earlier start time: 6:30pm, and the NEW DAY: MONDAYS. All meetings are held in the downstairs common room at Homewood Meeting. Please enter at the lower-level side door on the south side of the building, down the brick stairs.** For more details, please go to <http://evite.me/7wangbdWeF> or see the Homewood website.

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 **March 3** for our potluck and the video *Shadows of Liberty* [United Kingdom, 2012], directed by Jean-Philippe Tremblay, which examines the impact of corporate media and concentration of media ownership on journalism and the news. It is based on the book *The Media Monopoly* by Ben Bagdikian. The film's title is borrowed from a Thomas Paine quote: "When men yield up the privilege of thinking, the last shadow of liberty quits the horizon." The film portrays mainstream media, as controlled by fewer and larger conglomerates that exercise extraordinary political, social and economic power. Enjoy interviews with Amy Goodman, Julian Assange, Chris Hedges, Daniel Ellsberg and others.

PHIL FURNAS ART EXHIBITION Phil Furnas, a relatively new member of Homewood, is having a retrospective show of his artwork at Homewood Friends. The show begins on **March 5** with a Reception at 3 pm, in the lower level of the meetinghouse. It will be on display from March 5 until March 12. Gallery attenders during the week should call the meeting office (410-235-4438) to confirm their visit.

Phil is a retired architect who has drawn and painted throughout his career, graduating from Earlham College in 1959, and taking classes at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Woodstock Painting Studio. His art is representational with a strong sense of composition and using a colorful pallet.

In addition to his development as an artist, Phil wants to begin a chapter of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts at Homewood. This organization supports Quaker artists nationally by presenting art programs and workshops, and it publishes a quarterly journal/newsletter. He is one of the founding members of the Homewood Working Group for the Arts, which is helping to curate this show.

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING: **March 12** here at Homewood Meeting. The speaker is Doug Gwyn, author of *A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice and the Renewal of Creation*. He will address this timely question: "What does a revolutionary Quaker faith and practice look and sound like?" For more information, please go to the Homewood website at <http://www.homewoodfriends.org>. We will have a catered lunch, but please see Ned Worth to sign up for prep work at 9 a.m. or cleanup after all of the meetings have finished.

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

Mark your calendar for these March activities and join us:

Sunday, Mar. 19 - Quaker Book Club (*Our Life Is Love*), Donna McKusick, Leader; Lower Level.

Sunday, Mar. 26 - Experiment with Light, Susan Walters, Leader; Library.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

3/5: Life and Teachings of Jesus with Giovanna

3/12: Service Project with John and Susie (Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting)

3/19: Life and Teachings of Jesus with Giovanna

3/26: Art with Chris

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!

FROM GOAT: Guided nature walk in Wyman Park, **Sunday, March 26**, 2:00 pm. Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) is holding a series of guided nature walks open to folks from area faith communities to encounter the natural world, connect in fellowship with each other, and commit to better stewardship. IPL engages Baltimore congregations of many faiths in environmental activities. We'll likely gather at the Meetinghouse, or at least nearby.

YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: **March 31 - April 2** here at Homewood Meeting. Young Friends (ages 14 - 18) should plan to begin arriving at 7:00 pm on Friday. For information, check the Young Friends website (https://bym-rsfor.presencehost.net/what_we_do/yfs/yfcon.html) or contact Jocelyn Dowling (301-774-7663). Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is two weeks before the conference. Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend.

HOLD THE DATE: *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....

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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 for their banks to send regular checks. This provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow.

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS

The recipient for March is the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. *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 NOAT” FOR MARCH: Environmental Legislation in the Maryland Assembly

1. **Clean Energy Jobs Act.** Both houses of the Assembly overrode Gov. Hogan’s veto of this landmark legislation, bringing it into law. To build on this success, join the **Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative** (www.cleanenergyjobs.org). Their agenda is to expand clean energy in Maryland to 50% by 2030, fund women- and minority-owned energy businesses, and create solar job training programs for Maryland residents. You can help by funding this campaign or holding a house party to raise funds and interest.
2. **Fracking in Maryland.** There are currently two bills in Annapolis about fracking. **Senate Bill 740** would place a **permanent, statewide ban** on fracking. **Senate Bill 862** would place another two-year **moratorium** on the practice and put fracking to a **county-by-county referendum** vote. Only one bill will get out of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. Which one will it be?

A permanent ban is the only thing that will truly protect our communities from the health, environmental, and economic harms of fracking. **District 43 Senator Joan Carter Conway**, chair of the committee, is sponsoring the second bill, a thinly-disguised measure to bring fracking to Maryland. The oil and gas industry can concentrate all of their efforts on Garrett County to pass the referendum. Fracking in Garrett County harms all of us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Attend **Don't Frack Maryland march and rally**, Thursday, March 2, 12:30-2:30, Annapolis. Buses are leaving Rogers Avenue Metro Station (4300 Hayward Avenue) at 11:00am and returning to the same location at 4:00pm. Schedule, bus info, and RSVP at <http://www.dontfrackmd.org/march/>.
- Learn more and **sign a petition** to state legislators in support of a permanent ban on fracking in Maryland: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/423/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18084
- **If you live in District 43, call Sen. Conway.** If you are unsure what to say, feel free to use this language from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network: "As [a resident of your district and] a Marylander who stands for clean air and water, healthy children, and a safe climate, I urge you to put a permanent, statewide ban on fracking. By banning fracking, we can focus on the clean energy solutions that will sustain and strengthen -- rather than divide and pollute -- our communities." Use mdpgis.mdp.state.md.us/Legis_District to see exactly where District 43 is. Search if an address is located in the district at www.MDElect.Net.
- **Pass this information on** to your friends and neighbors in Maryland.

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

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.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES:

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

SINGING FOR EVERYONE will be on **Sunday, March 5th**, from 7 to 9 pm at the home of Judy Davidoff (6213 Sareva Dr., Baltimore 21209 [Mt. Washington area]), 410-484-3246. Susan Warner of Stony Run notes that “there is plenty of street parking. The house is a rancher with 1 step into the house, bathroom on the same floor.” If you have a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, please bring it.

EVENTS AT STONY RUN

March 5 (Sunday) - 8:00 am to 10:30 am - Pancake breakfast - fundraiser to support Unified Efforts.

March 11 (Saturday) - 9 am to 1 pm - Clerks' Workshop - open to all who are interested in maximizing your committee's effectiveness.

Holocaust Remembrance: 1) **March 19** – 9:00–10:30 am forum on the work of AFSC to assist and rescue victims before, during and after the war: Don Gann and Isaac Rehert, and 2) **April 9** – 1:00–2:30 pm: Halina Silber, a Holocaust Survivor, will bear witness and share her experiences. A third forum is being considered for a later date, to be determined.

DIALOGUES ON PEACE AND JUSTICE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

March 5th, 2017 6:30 pm at William Penn House (515 E Capitol St SE)

Criminalization of Race and Poverty in DC.

Karen Dolan of the Institute for Policy Studies will share her research and advocacy on the intersecting nature of racial discrimination, poverty, and policing.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE (<http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/>) is an 11-month experiment, living at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism. Young adults work full-time in professional positions at community based organizations addressing a wide range of issues, while living in a cooperative house and worshipping with, and being mentored by, local Quakers. Fellows receive housing, transportation, food, support for health and wellness (including access to health insurance if needed), and a small stipend, while engaging in regular self-led workshops and retreats that allow for continuing education in social justice, faith, and community building topics. The application deadline is **March 10**.

MILES WHITE SCHOLARSHIPS: The Miles White Memorial Scholarship may be granted annually to a member of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting for undergraduate study at the college or university of choice. Decisions are made based on academic performance, character, and financial need. Other grants of lesser amounts may be made to qualified students associated with the Society of Friends on the same basis if funds are available. Applications will be considered only from students – not from third parties. However, financial information may be submitted separately in confidence by parents or guardians. Additional information and materials may be requested from mileswhite@stonyrunfriends.org. Applications should be returned on or before **March 15** and should be submitted electronically to the

mailbox cited above. For more information, go to [http://www.bym-rsf.org/who we are/organizations/mileswhite/mileswhite.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/who_we_are/organizations/mileswhite/mileswhite.html).

BYM INTERIM MEETING is **March 18** in Richmond, VA. Get to know Yearly Meeting Committees and Friends from other Meetings! Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Interim Business Meeting. Richmond Friends Meeting will host the Third Month Interim Meeting. Committee clerks will gather with Marcy Seitel at 9 am. Friends will gather at 10:00 am. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30. [Check the Yearly Meeting website for more information](#). **If you are interested in ride-sharing**, BYM Unity with Nature is exploring using a BYM bus for the March 18th Interim in Richmond. They note, "We did it some years ago and it worked well. The bus would need to leave from Sandy Spring around 7 am and, if we stayed for dinner, we would be returning around 10pm. It may be possible to make a stop along the way in Virginia. Cost would be around \$15-20 per person." Please contact Toni Hudson at johudson@erols.com by **Wednesday, March 1** if you are interested.

BYM PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NETWORKING DAY

April 1 - The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee is planning the 2017 Networking Day at Friends Meeting School (Ijamsville, MD). There will be an interactive "Debate into Dialog" program beginning at 10 am that will give Friends practice in a technique to resolve controversies within our own Meetings and in our 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. RSVP by email (peace@BYM-rsf.org) on or before **March 20** and let us know: a) name(s) of workshop participants; b) your Meeting; c) your two preferred workshops; and d) any questions.

MEN'S RETREAT will be **April 28 - 30** at Camp Catoctin. Leadership opportunities still available include Ice-Breaker Activities on Friday evening; Discussion Topic on Saturday sometime; and Camp Fire Discussion Topic on Saturday evening. Please contact Blaine Keener (blkomg@hotmail.com) if you are interested in one of these opportunities.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (MARCH 2017)

Amani Al-Khatahtbeh was nine years old on September 11, 2001, and could see the destruction of the World Trade Center towers from her home in New Jersey. After that, experiencing anti-Muslim attitudes and behavior through her school years, she found her voice and founded www.MuslimGirl.com. It started as a blog in 2009 and turned into a highly popular, highly regarded website, thus giving voice to many others. Her book, *Muslim Girl, A Coming of Age*, describes her journey:

I feel that the horrible scapegoating we've had to endure has forced us into a corner of defensiveness, dissipating our energy in this endless game of pushing back against the misconceptions that ultimately victimize us. It makes me sad to think about all the resources the Muslim American community has been forced to waste for the past decade on campaigns, events, and media efforts to prove that we, too, are Americans; that we, too, are *human*, betting and pleading the public not to believe the racist rhetoric being spewed about us. I can't imagine the types of institutions, programs, and civic society we could have cultivated for our community—the type of *backbone* we could have had the opportunity to grow—had we not been forced into this position. (pp. 44-45)

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.

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.

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.

<i>Schedule of Meetings for Worship</i>	
Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (downstairs in summer)
Every Tuesday	11:30 a.m. at Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House (under the care of Stony Run Friends Meeting)
First Sunday of each month	12:30 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House <u>MARCH'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on March 5 .
<i>Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings</i>	
Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 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 , 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 Chris Rutkowski 443.310.0863
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact Barbara Bezdek , 410.377.4205
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact Ann Walker Kennedy , 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	Dates vary ; contact John McKusick , 410.377.2797
Trustees	3rd Mondays , contact Bess Keller , 410.889.3176
<i>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). 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.</i>	