

Fifth Month (May) 2017

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

3107 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Website: www.homewoodfriends.org
(includes calendar, no password required)

Phone: 410.235.4438; Fax: 410.235.6058

Email: homewoodfriends@verizon.net

Clerk: George Amoss

Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Fifth Query: Personal Way of Life

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

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

Self-indulgent habits and luxurious living dull our awareness and make us insensitive to the needs of others and the leading of the Spirit. Ostentation and extravagant expenditure should not be a part of Friends' lives. Friends should be particularly aware of this in planning marriages, funerals, social gatherings or public occasions. True simplicity does not consist of particular forms or the absence of grace, symmetry and beauty, but of avoiding over-indulgence, maintaining humility of spirit, and keeping material surroundings in proportion to human needs.

Friends' longstanding testimony against the use, production, or sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages is not fully accepted by some. For many, however, complete abstinence is the only effective way to avoid the dangers of the use of these materials. Friends are in unity against illegal narcotics and mind-altering substances, now readily available. Use of any of these materials has adverse effects which reach beyond the individual to harm the family and the community; dealing with illegal drugs also supports a criminal underground. Even legitimate prescription drugs can be used inappropriately and excessively. All these usages deaden the individual to life and spiritual values.

For those trapped in substance abuse, such advice may seem hollow. Commonalities exist between addictive behaviors with these substances and other compulsive actions, such as in the areas of eating disorders, gambling, overwork, and physical abuse. The causes go deep and may not be fully understood, but the resulting pain, fear, desperation and denial, damaging the abuser and all those around that person, need to be supportively recognized. A Meeting community should be ready to listen non-judgmentally, offer information about sources of help, refuse to enable people to continue in harmful patterns, and continue to offer an environment free from addictive practices.

We are faced at every hand with enticements to risk money in anticipation of disproportionate gain through gambling. Some governments employ gambling as a means of raising revenue, even presenting it as a civic virtue. The Religious Society of Friends continues to bear testimony against betting, gambling, lotteries, speculations or any other endeavor to receive material gain without equivalent exchange, believing that we owe an honest return for what we receive. Indulgence in games of chance blunts a proper sense of obligation.

How we use our working hours, our leisure and our resources has direct bearing on our spiritual life. Time for recreation is needed to refresh spirit, mind and body. Our use of time may determine whether the Divine Spirit grows within us or is crowded out.

We are called upon to be stewards of the rich provisions which God has made for all creation. As Friends we are advised to consider the effects of our charitable gifts and of all our expenditures, in the light of our concern for the right and fair sharing of the world's resources.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE YOUNG HOMEWOOD FRIENDS:

Daniel Gillespie was named in *Forbes* magazine 30 under 30 for Enterprise Tech.

For details, see Forbes.com.

AND...

Beatrice Kennison graduates from the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Andy Beck graduates from Haverford College.

Henry Kennison graduates from the eighth grade.

If there are other milestones that should have been included, please contact the office.

FUNDING TO ATTEND QUAKER EVENTS THIS SPRING OR SUMMER:

Trustees has funds to support people (children and adults) attending Annual Session or the FGC Gathering or other Quaker events this spring or summer! (**Aurelia Zeltzman** already has a grant from Trustees to attend Camp Opequon this summer, and **Henry Kennison** and his fellow classmates have a grant from Trustees that will help subsidize the travel of Mt. Royal 7th and 8th graders to Europe this summer.) Members and regular attenders may apply at any time, and may be granted at maximum one grant per calendar year. These funds are intended to supplement resources available to the participant from other sources. For more information and for the application form, please see our website page: <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/scholarships/>.

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. Register by **May 15. Please note that money from the Davis Fund at Homewood is available for camperships** (note recipient Aurelia Zeltzman, above). Contact Bess Keller for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

INQUIRERS' SERIES ends on **Monday evening, May 1, 7:00-8:30 in the library**. New and long term attenders at Homewood are invited to participate in a brief introductory series on Quakerism. The last session's focus is on *Corporate Discernment: Quakers in the World (How to get involved at Homewood)*. For more information, go to our website, <https://homewoodfriends.org/2017/04/01/inquirers-series/>.

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**, we enjoy a potluck supper. Join us on **May 5** for our potluck.

PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS: May 14, 12:30 - 1:00. 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 2nd 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 Becker at 410-366-6923 or sbecker@jhsph.edu.



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

Mark your calendar for these May activities and join us:

May 14 - Quaker Book Club (*Our Life Is Love*), Donna McKusick, Leader; Lower Level. Check future announcements for assignment details.

May 21 - “What are Clearness Committees?” Exploring the how and why of this Quaker practice of personal discernment in community. Ann Walker Kennedy, Leader; Lower Level.

May 28 - Experiment with Light, Susan Walters, Leader; Library.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE - ALL CHILDREN WELCOME

May 7 - First Day School lesson with Gio and Meri

May 14 - Service Project with John and Susie

May 21 - First Day School lesson with Gio and Meri

May 28 - 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!

“GOAT NOAT” FOR MAY:

Maryland has a permanent ban on fracking – we won! Governor Hogan signed the bill into law on April 4. On March 10, the House of Delegates had passed the fracking ban bill with a 70% majority. On March 16, thirteen Marylanders, including three Homewood members, were arrested in an act of civil disobedience on the steps of the State House. The very next day, in a surprising move, the governor said he would sign a bill if it came to his desk. This announcement removed Sen. Joan Carter Conway’s excuse of needing a veto-proof majority to let it out of her committee. The committee voted 8-3 in support of a ban and the full Senate yielded a 75% majority in favor. This is the most environmentally significant bill that Maryland has passed.

Our work paid off. Thank you to everyone who participated in phone calls, an in-person visit with Sen. Conway, rallies, canvassing, civil disobedience, letters, and the many other actions that were part of this campaign. We can now shift our focus – whether to energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental and social justice, or something else – only time will tell.

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

ALSO FROM GOAT:

"Greening our Meeting Community." The Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) sponsored an Adult Religious Education program on April 23rd that provided participants a chance to contemplate efforts to reduce resource consumption and increase energy efficiency both in the Meetinghouse and our individual homes. Facilitated by Gary Gillespie and John McKusick, the session began with silent worship and consideration of Query 12 of BYM Faith and Practice on the Environment. Gary introduced a simple assessment developed by Canadian Friends on becoming a "Five Star Meetinghouse." The House and Grounds Committee at Homewood completed the assessment in advance of the session. While Homewood has made tremendous strides in energy conservation and impact reduction, there now is another generation of opportunities for improvement, starting with a full building energy and resource audit.

The discussion then moved toward personal and home concerns that the participants had, e.g., "What to do with old electronic media?", "Who are those neighbors that BGE compares me to?", and "Is converting to solar really feasible for me?". Gary and his spouse, Sarah Bur, shared their inspiring success story of installing solar panels on their home which now allows them to meet about 85% of their need for electricity. This includes running a wood pellet stove as a primary heat source.

We also talked about the larger picture, including the opportunity to pass the Clean Jobs Initiative in 2019 that would supply a standard of 50% renewable energy in Maryland by 2030 and ramp up jobs and investment opportunities in the renewable energy industry. This would make Maryland a national leader and set a great example for other states in the Mid Atlantic region. We closed with silent worship.

In the next few months at Homewood, look for opportunities to responsibly recycle electronic media, a home energy workshop, and a kickoff for the Clean Jobs Initiative Campaign. GOAT welcomes your ideas, suggestions, and energy!

FROM THE BALTIMORE QUAKER PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE (BQPJC):

Barbara Bezdek writes: We were active on several policies in the Maryland legislature this session, which closed on April 10, 2017. Briefly:

On Criminal Justice -- Money Bail:

Thanks to the many Quakers and others who made repeated rounds of phone calls to their state legislators. We can now thank them for rejecting the for-profit bail industry's efforts to undermine significant reform in our pretrial systems.

The session began with over a dozen contending reform bills introduced in Annapolis. The serious reform bills promoted by Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform and the Coalition for a Safe and Just Maryland were knocked out in early rounds of legislative dickering. However, citizens' calls defeated the worst bill, with the result that the Legislature did not undo the very important ruling by Maryland's highest court. In this case, no legislation became the best outcome.

Senate Bill 983, which was heavily promoted by the bail bond industry and its lobbyists, would have overturned a judicial rule unanimously passed by the state's highest court, the Maryland Court of Appeals. The revised judicial rule, slated to go into effect in July, requires judges to prioritize more

effective, non-financial conditions, rather than money bail, to assure an individual's appearance in court.

As a result of the Legislature's rejection of Senate Bill 983, courts will be prohibited from imposing a financial condition that a charged person cannot afford to pay. Senate Bill 983 would have had other negative consequences in addition to keeping poor and working class defendants in jail simply because they could not afford money bail. It would have undermined public safety by allowing people considered dangerous to buy their way out of jail. It also would have exacerbated the already troubling racial disparities in the pretrial system, where people of color are more likely to remain incarcerated and pay bondsmen higher fees to regain liberty.

Follow this unfinished work -- and related issues of ending solitary confinement practices and permitting the Parole Board to decide to release people with life sentences -- by viewing the web pages for MAJR, <http://www.ma4jr.org/initiatives/>, and the Coalition for a Safe and Just Maryland, at <https://www.safeandjustmd.org/>.

On Immigration – The Trust Act:

More than 350 cities, counties, and other jurisdictions have enacted policies prohibiting local officials from doing things like asking people about their immigration status, holding people so Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can detain them, or sharing information with ICE.

Police and other community members have pushed for these policies because it's crucial that everyone in the community, regardless of immigration status, be able to trust local officials and service providers.

Many Baltimore area Quakers joined immigration advocates and people of faith to press lawmakers this year to enact a bill that would limit police cooperation with federal deportation agents. The measure, known as the Trust Act, passed the House in March; however, a Senate committee advanced only portions of the measure. The key language would bar police and corrections officers from detaining undocumented immigrants on behalf of federal immigration authorities unless they have a judicial warrant. But the Senate removed that language. Governor Hogan had pledged to veto the original Trust Act, but has not stated his view about the watered-down version.

Friends seeking more information may wish to read the resources provided by American Friends Service Committee, <https://www.afsc.org/sanctuaryincities>.

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS

The recipient for May 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. Checks should be made out to 'Stony Run Friends' with 'S.O. Box' on the memo line.

For updates on the Syrian refugees that BQPJC is assisting, email quakerimmigration@gmail.com.

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 their banks to send regular checks. This provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow. *Please make all checks payable to "Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Homewood."*

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

BYM SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM SPRING RETREAT, May 5 – 6, Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry and Retreat Center (Sharpsburg, MD). Open to all, the retreat is a time to explore and deepen our practice of living and worshipping in spiritual community. To register and for more information, go to <https://bym-rsf1-org.presencehost.net/events/spiritform/>.

QUAKER SPRING MARKET, May 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Annapolis Friends Meeting (Annapolis, MD) Quaker Markets are like a big community party - for a cause. Actually, in this case, for a number of causes: Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR); a Quaker Working Group on Refugees; William Penn House; and Survival Press Corps (providing real news on Climate Change). Also, our Young Friends have chosen to divide their proceeds among two causes, Bikes for the World and Friends Wilderness Center. And, we will be joined by our dear friend Fahima Gaheez (who recently emailed our community about the bombing in Afghanistan); proceeds from the sale of her Afghan items will benefit the people of Afghanistan through Afghan Women's Fund (AWF). Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA) will also be on hand to talk about climate issues, and we hope to have a display of environmentally-friendly cars for Friends and other shoppers to check out.

QUAKER DIALOGUES ON PEACE AND JUSTICE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

May 7, 6:30 p.m. Environmental Stewardship and Food Justice with DC Urban Greens

DC Urban Greens is a nonprofit organization striving to offer affordable, nutritious produce to residents of food desert neighborhoods in Southeast DC. William Penn House has partnered with DC Urban Greens for several years for both educational programs and resource-sharing. F/friends are encouraged to bring a dish to share (make it local, if you can!).

SINGING FOR EVERYONE

May 7, 7 - 9 p.m. From Susan Warner: "We will gather ...at the home of Nelson Hyman, 5724 Oakshire Rd., Baltimore, 21209."

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND May 12 – 14, Catoctin Quaker Camp (Thurmont, MD)

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful camp properties. Individuals and families are invited to enjoy the camps for a day or for the weekend. Lots of fun activities! For more information, see www.bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/. To register, contact David Hunter, Camp Property Manager (davidhunter@bym-rsf.org or 301-774-7663).

JOIN B-MORE STRIDE FOR MOTHER NATURE DAY, May 14, 1-3 p.m. Baltimore STRIDE is a group that works to grow genuine diversity in the BYM summer camps and to provide access to nature for all. This community picnic will celebrate moms and mother nature, with games, crafts, food, and a raffle. Free to attend with a \$5 suggested donation for food. Leakin Park, 4500 N. Franklinton Rd., Baltimore, MD 21229. For more information, email Hannah Brown at hazbrown@gmail.com.

“RADICAL SPIRITUALITY; THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE QUAKEERS” This free online course by scholar Ben Pink Dandelion begins on **May 22**. Those who attended our Inquirers’ series may find this course particularly interesting. For more information, go to <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers>.

EVENTS AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA)

May 11 – 14: Expanding Democracy in an Age of Polarization and Resistance

Experienced lifelong activists from their 20s to their 80s will help us sharpen our analysis, hone our skills, and create ways to support each other as we build a grassroots movement working for deep democracy and justice for all people. Join speakers like artist-organizer Ricardo Levins Morales, journalist and professor Khadijah Costley White, long-time Quaker activist and author George Lakey, and more. For full information, including online registration, go to

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/expanding-democracy-conference/?bblinkid=39651476&bbemailid=3280044&bbejrid=232698178#.WLHCbvIayXB>.

EVENTS AT STONY RUN

May 14, 9 a.m.: Stony Run Nurture Funds at Work, featuring four mothers and a daughter telling about their recent activities that not only nurtured them spiritually, but benefitted the Meeting and the wider community. Bagels and pastries at 9:00; program begins at 9:15. For information about Nurture Funds, contact any member of the Funds Review and Use Committee (FRAUC): Barbara Brocato, Elizabeth Cadwalader, Alice Cherbonnier, Bob Goren, John Merrill or Carole Schreck.

May 28: Friends Burial Ground (2506 Harford Road) is hosting a meeting for worship and potluck lunch. Worship is at 11AM. If it's raining we won't meet, as there is no shelter.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

MEDICAID PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM: From Homewood member Vinnie DeMarco (Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative): “On **Monday, May 15th from 5:30-7:30 pm** at 512 Orchard Street in Baltimore City, we will be sponsoring a Medicaid Public Forum featuring Representative Elijah Cummings and Baltimore City Health Commissioner Leana Wen. Our cosponsors will be the NAACP, 1199 SEIU, the Baltimore City Health Department and Health Care Access Maryland. RSVP at tinyurl.com/medicaidevent (click on this link; do not copy and paste). Join us on May 15th to listen to important Marylander stories, hear from members of our Congressional Delegation, leading health care organizations, and you!”

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR UNIFIED EFFORTS’ OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM,

May 15, 5 - 9 p.m. Our Peace and Justice Committee contributes to Unified Efforts, and this fundraiser will provide 50% of the proceeds to UE.

BROADMEAD is a Quaker continuing care retirement community founded by Friends of Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run and located in Cockeysville, Maryland. They have announced that **they have some available studios in Independent Living** that they would like to make Friends aware of, *as Broadmead also has a healthy fund that could be used to financially assist age and medically appropriate Quakers with obtaining residency at Broadmead.* Their residency would include the on-site higher levels of care if needed as they age. This is an excellent opportunity. For more information, contact Alycia Edwards. (443-578-8008 or aedwards@broadmead.org)



THINKING ABOUT RACE (MAY 2017): Mychal Denzel Smith

In his recent (2016) book, *Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching: A Young Black Man's Education*, writer Mychal Denzel Smith includes a chapter about his personal struggles with depression. He goes deeply into how difficult it is for black men, whose collective persona is generally supposed to be macho, to acknowledge mental health problems and any need for – or access to -- mental health treatment.

“What would happen if we reframed the way we understand black male life in a way that took mental health seriously? If we looked outside and didn't see ruthless gangbangers but teenage boys left hopeless and giving themselves suicide missions. If instead of chastising young men for fighting over sneakers we asked why they feel worthless and unseen without them. If we didn't label them junkies but rather recognized their need for affirmation. If we held our boys close when they cried instead of turning them away to face the frustration, pain, and sadness 'like a man.' If we believed black boys were worthy of second chances that didn't involve prison cells. What if?”

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.

§§§§§§

REGISTER FOR SUMMER GATHERINGS

FGC GATHERING REGISTRATION: 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 has begun. 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**. For more information, go to <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/ashome.html>.

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 <u>MAY'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on May 7 .

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 p.m.
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Pat Tracey</u> , 443.846.1036
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Tuesdays 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 <u>Dellie James</u> 443.501.3535
Library—OPEN	1st Sundays at 9:00 a.m., contact <u>Chris Rutkowski</u> 443.310.0863
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact <u>Barbara Bezdek</u> , 410.377.4205
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact <u>Ann Walker Kennedy</u> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	Dates vary ; contact <u>John McKusick</u> , 410.377.2797
Trustees	3rd Mondays , 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). 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.