

Eighth Month (August) 2017

# Homewood Friends Meeting

## *Newsletter*

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### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, the Eighth Query: Outreach**

Do you, as the way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance?

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

#### **A. Within the Local Meeting**

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.

#### **B. Within the Society of Friends**

Friends who restrict their experience of the Society to their local Meeting are missing rich experiences of fellowship in the wider community. Quarterly, Half-yearly and Yearly Meetings as well as larger gatherings provide opportunities for Friends of all ages to broaden their experience of the Society and the circle of their spiritually-based friendships. Attendance at such larger Meetings should be seriously considered by each of us as a benefit of membership, an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and a means of widening our community.

Another rich resource within the Society which provides opportunities for fellowship and community is the variety of service committees and action organizations established to further our testimonies. Involvement in these endeavors can help to knit us one to another in common effort. The Society also

sponsors study, conference and retreat opportunities at various centers. Meetings should assist the attendance of members and provide opportunity to share the fruits of such experiences in the local Meeting.

Finally, the Friendly tradition of intervisitation, whether under the weight of specific concern or in the interest of wider Quaker fellowship, should be fostered among our local Meetings.

### **C. With Other Religious Bodies and Persons**

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.

### **D. With All Humanity**

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.

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## ***UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD***

**HYMN SINGING:** August 6 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

**PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS:** August 13, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. 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 Becker at 410-366-6923 or [sbecker@jhsph.edu](mailto:sbecker@jhsph.edu).

**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."

**COURT OBSERVATION** every **Thursday and Friday, 10:30 a.m.** Observe Baltimore City district court in action. Join the carpool that leaves from Stony Run. For more information, contact Kathryn Munnell (kathryn\_munnell@hotmail.com).

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

**August through Sept. 10:** We still need volunteers to provide recreation, games, sports, nature walks, art, music, etc. for children during Meeting for Worship this summer. The adults will care for the children from 10:50 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. The RE Committee will provide materials, snacks, and ideas. For further information or to sign up, please contact John McKusick at 410-377-2797 or john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net.

**Sept. 17:** Anticipated First Day School opening.

**SAVE THE DATE: Meeting on Priorities & Resources Part 2.** A retreat for discernment of Homewood's collective priorities will be held on **Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** All members and attenders are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. A Quaker facilitator will be part of our process. Trustees envision that a spiritual discerning of our priorities will guide us in the future handling of our resources.

The retreat follows from our April 30th threshing session on the use of our resources. During the session we heard from the gathered 22 people about what activities, in their view, the Meeting should support. Participants also named a score of activities that we were already undertaking individually, in groups, or formally as a Meeting to fulfill our mission. Members of Trustees, the committee that organized the session at the direction of the monthly business meeting, gave us a picture of the Meeting's finances and of meetinghouse use. We agreed at the threshing session that we needed more dedicated time together to discern the Meeting's priorities and that a facilitator would be helpful. This retreat is an opportunity to make this discernment happen.

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

The next Quaker Book Club discussion will take place on **September 10** and will be on the section called "Perfection" in *Our Life Is Love*, pages 160 to 177. Friends might also want to read the ending sections called "One Friend's Spiritual Journey" (a spiritual autobiography of the author) and "The Spiritual Journey in Our Time." Finally, we will be discussing what book to read next. Come with ideas!

**TEENAGE CHILD CARE WORKERS NEEDED**

The Religious Education Committee is seeking one or two teenage child care workers to replace Beatrice Kennison and work with Chris Stadler in the Nursery. Potential applicants should contact Mina in the Meeting office or John McKusick.

**"GOAT NOAT" FOR AUGUST** from Gary Gillespie

Members of the Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) participated in three envisioning sessions sponsored by the One Water Partnership. The Partnership is a project of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Interfaith Power and Light, Blue Water Baltimore, and 15 congregations in the Jones Falls Watershed area. Our actions could include native gardens, rain barrels, films and educational events. There also is the possibility of funding from several sources for our actions. At our next meeting we will decide on potential actions, and we will present our recommendations to the Meeting at our October business meeting.

## **IN THE PEACE COMMITTEE CORNER**

International Soccer Festival on **Sat., August 26 from 1 to 5 p.m.**: Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice and the Stony Run Working Group on Immigration are sponsoring the Festival to raise money for the SR Fund for Refugees, Asylees and Asylum Seekers. In addition to the game, there will be international food for sale, live music (African drumming and the band Once Around the Horn), as well as children's activities. Please bring your family, friends and neighbors. Rain date is Sun., August 27th. We still need volunteers to bring coolers with ice, water, or Gatorade. Do you have a pop-up canopy? Can you help the food vendors or with the children's activities? Please email [quakerimmigration@gmail.com](mailto:quakerimmigration@gmail.com) for more information.

We also need new or gently used soccer equipment for male adult refugees participating in the game: cleats, soccer socks, jerseys and shorts.

## **WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Wicker Basket recipient for August and September is **Amnesty International**. For those of you unfamiliar with this influential organization, they note on their website, "Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. We are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all."

*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:** During August, lunch will be pared down to PB&J sandwiches and juice. You may bring additional food, but please clean up whatever is left afterwards.

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

### **BYM 2017 ANNUAL SESSION**

**July 31 - August 6, at Hood College in Frederick, MD.** This year, the theme of our Annual Session is *Growing Towards Justice – Acting on Faith*. Through an exciting variety of plenaries, workshops, interest groups, Junior Yearly Meeting; through fellowship at meals, worship sharing, and other times; and also through our business sessions, we will have an opportunity to live out all three of these core elements of our faith. For more information, go to <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/ashome.html>.

**SINGING FOR EVERYONE**, **Sunday, August 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at the home of Judy Fulton and Mark Howard (1903 Indian Head Road, Baltimore, MD 21204), phone number 410-337-3701. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, if you have one.

## **BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING: “WHO WE ARE”**

*If you are attending Annual Session at the beginning of August, you will experience the vitality of what is said below. If you miss Annual Session, you will be able to enjoy Interim Meeting in October here at Homewood. From the Baltimore Yearly Meeting website, here is an introduction to what a Yearly Meeting is:*

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is a regional Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends that has existed for more than 300 years. Geographically, it includes most of Virginia, the portion of Maryland west of the Chesapeake Bay, central Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and parts of West Virginia. It has about 4,740 members--Friends of all ages--organized into 40 established Monthly Meetings plus 13 Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups. Like any Friends Meeting, the Baltimore Yearly Meeting comes together for gathered worship and corporate discernment, seeking to know God's will.

In many ways a Yearly Meeting is the central organizing unit of the Religious Society of Friends. No larger Quaker body has authority over the Yearly Meeting. Books of discipline, defining the faith and practice of Friends, are developed and approved at the Yearly Meeting level. It is the Yearly Meeting that knits local Meetings into the Religious Society of Friends; recognition by a Yearly Meeting distinguishes a Quaker Monthly Meeting from a non-denominational worship group. Friends ask for membership at the local level, and may not realize that they are also joining a Yearly Meeting, but their Yearly Meeting membership is what makes them part of the Quaker movement.

Like a Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting exists to build community, to support the life of the spirit, to discern right action, and to bear witness in the world. Like a Monthly Meeting, it carries out these responsibilities through shared worship, regular Meetings with a Concern for Business, ongoing committee work, and sponsored projects. A Yearly Meeting, in other words, can best be understood as an ordinary Friends Meeting, on a much larger scale.

The central responsibility of Baltimore Yearly Meeting is corporate discernment. Much of this takes place during the week-long Annual Session held each summer, to which all members of the Yearly Meeting are invited. Annual Session offers programs for children, worship and Bible study, workshops, interest groups, plenary speakers, and daily business sessions. Between Annual Sessions, the work of our Yearly Meeting is carried forward by Interim Meeting, which meets in October, March and June. Again, all Friends are welcome to attend. Yearly Meeting committees are encouraged to meet on Interim Meeting days, and may meet at other times during the year as needed. Local Meetings or individual Friends can bring their ideas, concerns and proposals to a Yearly Meeting committee, which may bring these forward to Interim Meeting or to the Annual Session for further discernment, thus enabling BYM to speak with a corporate voice in the world. Friends are encouraged to let Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee know if they would like to serve on a particular committee. Many hands are needed to do the work of the Yearly Meeting.



**SPIRITUAL FORMATION** begins this fall with a retreat entitled “Pilgrims on the Journey.” You are invited to join Friends from across Baltimore Yearly Meeting at the beautiful Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, West Virginia (<http://priestfield.org>), **Friday, September 8 - Sunday, September 10.**

The fall retreat is a welcome respite from one's busy life and offers plenty of time and space for spiritual reflection, renewal, and revelation. Though we are all pilgrims taking different roots to the same destination, it is nice to occasionally share the experience with others. The fall retreat is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

**To register visit:** <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/>. **Registration Deadline: August 28, 2017**

Friends who are interested in learning more about the Spiritual Formation Program and its retreats are also invited to come to an **Interest Group on Thursday, afternoon, August 3rd, during the BYM Annual Session** week.



*Below, Melanie Haynes shares her personal experiences with Spiritual Formation:*

***What is Spiritual Formation to me?***

I participated in the Spiritual Formation program for the first time during the past year. I committed to practicing a daily spiritual discipline. Each month, I attended one weeknight gathering and was also part of a small group meeting. (I missed the opening and closing retreats but hope to be at the retreats during the coming year.) I'd like to share my experience with you, and invite you to consider being a “Former” this coming year.

So what has Spiritual Formation been to me?

*A community:*

On First Days, we Quakers talk (after our silent worship) about committee work, the weather, simple lunch menus, and maybe a bit of ordinary happenings in our lives. But in my first years at Stony Run, I found it hard to connect to others on an intimate level. And face it, how many people are there out there you can talk to about spiritual topics? At Spiritual Formation gatherings, I found people I could talk with about topics like prayer, discernment, and the relationship between different religious traditions. I broadened acquaintances, and made friendships that I know will endure long past this year.

*An oasis:*

After a busy day full of the crises on a mental health unit, it was always hard to tear myself away from work and into a different mindset. But driving down Charles Street to the meeting-house on those Wednesday evenings soon began to feel like journeying toward an oasis of refreshment and quiet in this dry and sometimes hectic world. Here I would find nourishment, regain a sense of stillness, and return home wondering where the time had gone. (Also the food was pretty good.)

*A deepening:*

Although I've recognized the presence of Spirit through most of my life, at times life and belief become disconnected, and the Divine becomes a concept that seems far away. Through Spiritual Formation, I've found new ways of looking at deeper questions—

What is the relationship between Buddhism and Christianity? Do Quakers really have to quake? What motivates the seasoned Friends and spiritual giants I've come to admire? I've experienced the Light of God in music, poetry, and story, renewed my sense of connection to the Divine, and shared the days when God does—or doesn't—seem present, when I have—or have not—been faithful to my spiritual Practice. ...

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**AT STONY RUN:**

Stony Run's Working Group on Immigration is looking for people to tutor refugee adults and children. For more information, please contact [quakerimmigration@gmail.com](mailto:quakerimmigration@gmail.com) or call Ann Kehinde (443) 739-7271.

**AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):**

**FEATURED WORKSHOP: ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT**

**August 18-20:** Strengthen your capacity to respond nonviolently with Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Originally devised by Quakers and imprisoned people in the early 1970s, AVP helps build habits and ways of thinking that make nonviolence a practical way of life. Pendle Hill will be offering a full set of three AVP workshops over the course of the next year, beginning with Basic AVP. For more information, go to <https://pendlehill.org/events/alternatives-violence-project-basic-workshop/#.WYCAh7aQxld>.

## ***QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY***

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**HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION:** The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Committee will continue its annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations at the Homewood Meeting House on **Sunday, August 6**, beginning with a demonstration commemorating Hiroshima in front of the Meeting House at **5:30 p.m.**, a potluck at **6:30 p.m.** and culminating with a talk at **7:15 p.m.** by **Dr. Gwen DuBois, of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility**, who will discuss her work in New York City during the gathering at the United Nations to ban nuclear weapons. A statement will be read in absentia from **Rev. Dr. Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo**, who will share her thoughts about living in apartheid South Africa.

**Wednesday's** events to commemorate Nagasaki begin with a demonstration at **5:30 p.m.** at 33rd and N. Charles Streets to protest against Johns Hopkins University's weapons contracts, including research on killer drones; to commemorate the atomic bombing of Nagasaki; and to remember Fukushima, Japan. At **6:30 p.m.**, participants will march to the Homewood Meetinghouse, where **John Steinbach and Kio Kanda of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area** will speak at **7:00 p.m.** Hiroshima bombing victim, Korean Ms. Jon Sung Lee, will also speak, as well as **Sister Megan Rice of the Transform Now Plowshares**. Musician **David Sawyer** will perform, before the evening ends at **8:30 p.m.** with **dinner at Niwana Restaurant**, 3 E. 33rd Street. For more information, email Max Obuszewski at [mobuszewski2001@comcast.net](mailto:mobuszewski2001@comcast.net).

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**MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE**, from Homewood member Vinny DeMarco:

*On the failed vote by US Senate Republicans:*

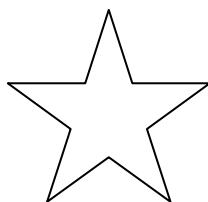
Today is an incredible day for the health of Marylanders and all Americans. We can all be thankful that the US Senate Republicans leaders failed to strip life-saving health coverage from millions upon millions of Americans. Now, instead of trying to repeal the life-saving Affordable Care Act, they should work with Democrats in a bipartisan fashion to build on the strengths of the Affordable Care Act and make it better. The Affordable Care Act is here to stay.

It is now time to come together. We at the Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition will continue to work hard to protect the progress of the Affordable Care Act, and remain vigilant as Maryland fights to move forward. I will work hard as a member of the new Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission to monitor any efforts by the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans to undermine the ACA and to protect and improve the health care of all Marylanders. The first meeting of this Commission will be on August 1 at 1pm at the House Health and Government Operations Committee Room of the Maryland House of Delegates.

We at the Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition commend Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Representatives Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes, Anthony Brown, Steny Hoyer, John Delaney, Elijah Cummings, and Jamie Raskin for their steadfast leadership standing firm in their rejection of the Senate Republicans' heinous proposals, and will work with them to continue the fight to ensure all Marylanders have access to quality, affordable health care.

*The **Health Care for All! Coalition** is a broad-based coalition of over 1200 faith, labor, business and community groups that have been working to guarantee all Marylanders access to quality, affordable health care. To learn more, visit <http://www.healthcareforall.com>.*

**FRIENDS HOUSE MOSCOW** does amazing work in a difficult area of the world. The group has two staff members who oversee projects in and around Moscow and in Ukraine, projects that often involve children. Some of their work has assisted orphans, and one project addressed children with disabilities. (The government finally undertook this concern.) Friends House Moscow creates a stable foundation for the groups that they help, so that those groups are then able to assume responsibility for themselves. More information is available on the table in the hall outside of the library and at their website, <https://friendshousemoscow.org/>. Contributions can be sent to *Friends House Moscow Support Association*, P.O. Box 60253, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



### *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 <b><u>NO BUSINESS MEETING</u></b> in August.

### *Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings*

Administrative	<b>Odd months last Sundays</b> 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	<b>As called;</b> contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
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
Library—OPEN	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sundays</b> at 9:00 a.m., contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
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>As called;</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.*