

Ninth Month (September) 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

Email: homewoodfriends@verizon.net

Clerk: George Amoss

Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, the Ninth Query: **The Social Order*

Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing? Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values? Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences? Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged? Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service? Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things?

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

Civic Responsibility

Friends believe that the aim of government is to preserve a community in which justice, peace, good order and individual development are possible. Members of our Society are also citizens of the community and the nation. Quakerism is not intended to be a refuge from the disturbing events of our times, but rather a source of strength and support in facing them. The free institutions under which we live give many of our members a direct share in the responsibilities of government and in forming a healthy public opinion. ...

Whether or not directly involved in government, we need to consider carefully our responsibilities in influencing legislation and educating fellow citizens on public issues. Friends should work with people in other churches and in the community to bring about desirable ends through the institutional resources of society.

From the beginning, Friends have found that loyalty to God results at times in refusal of the demands of the state, as in opposition to war and unjust laws, and have supported decisions of conscience taken by individual Friends. Before deciding on a course which involves civil disobedience, a Friend should consult with persons of trusted judgment who have sympathy with the individual's sense of duty. Clearness committees within the Meeting are valuable in such situations.

Vocational and Financial Decisions

The relationships, decisions, and actions of our working lives should reflect a calling to the service of God. Our witness will be unconvincing unless we seek and heed Divine guidance. Individual leadings vary with differences in talents and interests. Each Friend's talents, however, should be fully used.

Investment of assets and consumption of resources require our careful stewardship. As Friends we can direct our investments toward socially desirable ends, avoiding speculation and activities wasteful or harmful to others. We seek to participate constructively and without greed in the economic life of the community. We should refrain from undue accumulation of wealth as well as irresponsible borrowing.

Friends' Meetings and concerns require money and time. Non-pastoral Meetings do not need as much financial support as churches with paid ministers, but our concerns do call for considerable funding. We are required to give generously of our time, since our way of serving the Spirit depends on our personal efforts. For every Friend, the responsibility to give generously of both money and time is real. Monthly Meetings should provide regular opportunities for us to discuss our practices in the use of money and time. Wills should be made and periodically revised with care. This avoids difficulties for heirs and beneficiaries. The needs of our own family members and the merits of contributions to worthy causes should be considered in a spirit of love. Selection of a capable and understanding executor is encouraged.

Social Responsibility

The basic Quaker trust in the Light within leads to our trust in the inherent dignity and sacredness of each person. This trust, combined with our Society's own history of persecution, underlies our social witness.

Some concerns which once drew the witness of Friends are obsolete today, but still we have many challenges. War, violence in streets and homes, injustice in the justice system, prejudice and discrimination, the plights of starving, homeless and disadvantaged people, and business conduct which involves exploitation of people or nature's resources all these still call us to action in obedience to the Spirit.

TRUSTEES FUNDING TO ATTEND QUAKER EVENTS

Trustees has funds to support children and adults who would like to attend Quaker gatherings, camps, and educational institutions. Members and regular attenders may apply at any time, and may be given 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/>.

A MESSAGE FROM MEMBERS BARB AND DAVE KATZENAPPLE IN BERE A, KY:

[W]e really loved it here enough to want to buy a house (and be able to have a cat again!) so now we're moved into ... the center of town, walking distance to the college campus, and just round the corner from the library! And we have a lovely little tortoise-shell cat named Caramel. ...

There is a small Quaker meeting in town, Berea Friends Meeting, and two larger ones in Lexington and Louisville. (That's all the Friends Meetings in the state of Kentucky.) We know a number of the Quakers

in town, but haven't become active in the Meeting at this point. Maybe at some point we'll want to transfer our memberships, but not yet.

We'd love to hear from Homewood Friends, and especially from any who might be passing this way. Berea is a very pleasant little town, known as the "Folk Art and Crafts Capital of Kentucky" and home of tuition-free Berea College, founded by abolitionists before the Civil War, and the first college in the south to educate males and females, blacks and whites equally.

... Give our best regards to Homewood.

Barb & Dave

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

HYMN SINGING September 3 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

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!

PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS: September 10, 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.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL OPENING - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

Children of all ages, parents, teachers, and interested adults are invited to the ***First Day School Opening Program on Sunday, September 17th at 10:30 AM in the Dining Room.*** During the 2017-18 school year, we will explore Quaker History in developmentally appropriate ways suited to the children. Our focus will be on figures in Friends history, the foundations of our faith, and our calling to work for civil rights, racial justice, and the environment.

The lessons and activities will blend reading, games, discussions, art, and service with a liberal dose of physical movement and fun! Join us on September 17th to learn more about what the Religious Education Committee and our teacher, Gio Selvaggio, have planned for the year for the children, how parents and adults can support and help, a fun game or two, anddrumroll please.....Miss Susie's homemade, just-like-camp Sweet Potato Biscuits.

For further information, please contact John McKusick at john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net or 410-377-2797.

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.**”

MIDWEEK EXPLORATIONS INTO QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE, Fall 2017. Dates vary; 7:00 p.m. in the Homewood Meeting Library. Enrich your fall by joining seasoned Friends to explore what it means to be a Quaker. The series runs through mid-December and covers many topics. The September dates (**Monday, Sept. 11; Monday, Sept. 18; and Monday, Sept. 25**) all focus on Experiment with Light, a guided meditation thought to reflect the worship experience of the Early Friends. These sessions will be led by Susan Russell Walters.

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).

QUAKER CONCERNS ILLUMINATED IN FILMS

The 2017/2018 first Fridays Film series at Homewood Friends Meeting begins October 6 with a showing of *Moral and Safe?: War, Peace, Drone Warfare & the Religious Community*. Local activist Janice Sevre-Duszynska will provide an experience of street theater along with the screening.

The Working Group for the Arts at Homewood is planning this series of films to shed new light on Quaker concerns in today's world. Each first Friday from October through May there will be a different film beginning at **7:15 in the Meetinghouse lower level**. Everyone is invited to gather at 5 pm for the weekly vigil on Charles Street and eat together potluck style from 6-7 before the film. Afterwards the filmmakers or guests will discuss the evening's film.

SAVE THE DATE: Meeting on Priorities & Resources Part 2. A retreat for discernment of Homewood's collective priorities, originally scheduled for Sept. 9, is being rescheduled for November.

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.

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 SEPTEMBER from John McKusick

One Water Partnership (OWP) is a program sponsored by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) to work with congregations in the Jones Falls watershed to cultivate a strong faith-based commitment to pollution reduction and water management. Homewood has joined OWP and has been selected to be one of 15 cohort congregations that will receive a \$1,000 grant and grant writing assistance to fund activities, enhancements, and programs to “green” our Meeting and benefit the health of the Jones Falls watershed. So far, GOAT has hosted a spiritual nature walk in April, completed a congregation self-assessment in May, and participated in visioning workshops for OWP congregations in June and July. After a hiatus in August, we will be bringing proposals to the Meeting in September and October. House and Grounds has already started a garden of fruit trees and flowering plants on the side yard. GOAT hopes to design and install additional water conserving landscaping in that area with the possible addition of one or two rain barrels to further reduce water runoff from the roof. Learn more about OWP at www.interfaithchesapeake.org/one_water_partnership.

What’s in a Name? While the image of a goat is appealing because of the animal’s connection to the health of the environment (not to mention being slightly amusing), many people don’t understand what GOAT stands for. With an eye toward being more audience friendly and meaningful to the Meeting and as the ad hoc group becomes a Meeting Committee we are testing an idea that the name of the group become known as **Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)**. This name seems to describe the group better to the Meeting and address the trend of congregations to have **Green Teams**, while retaining the option to use an image to identify the group. What do you think? Let us know!

Polly Heninger, Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Cathy Hanson, Stephan Rogers, and John McKusick

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS

The Wicker Basket recipient for 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: 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 day of your choosing.

JOIN A COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee invites you to consider joining a committee; it’s a great way to serve the Meeting and to get to know others in the community. Committee descriptions are available on the Homewood website at <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/committees/>. Please contact Mina Brunyate, Gary Gillespie, Kevin-Douglas Olive, or Carol Beck for more information (contact information is in the Homewood directory online).

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

SINGING FOR EVERYONE, Sunday, September 3rd from 7 to 9 PM at the home of Judy Davidoff (6213 Sareva Dr., Baltimore 21209 [Mt. Washington area]), phone number 410-484-3246. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, if you have one.

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.**

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND, September 22 – 24, Shiloh Quaker Camp (Hood, VA).

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! Go to www.bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/.



CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING, Sunday, September 24th at Little Falls Friends Meeting (Fallston, Maryland).

Featured Speaker: [Anthony Wier](#), Friends Committee on National Legislation

Topic: [An Important Fall on Capitol Hill for Pentagon Spending and Nuclear Weapons Policy](#)

Agenda:

9:00 Coffee/Tea & Light Breakfast

9:30 Meeting for Business

11:00 Meeting for Worship

12:15 Lunch (provided by Little Falls)

1:15 Program

RSVP for childcare and lunch to: LittleFalls.Clerk@gmail.com

Please send me any recommended business agenda items.

Friends, this is an important time to come together, to ground ourselves in the life of the Spirit and to discern what it would have us **do.**

Sarah Bur, Clerk, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, ChesapeakeQM@gmail.com



YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE, September 29 – October 1, Goose Creek Friends Meeting (Lincoln, VA). Young Friends should plan to begin arriving at **7:00 p.m. on Friday**. For information, check the Young Friends website (www.bym-rsf.org/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 (September 15)**. Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend.

CATOCTIN QUAKER CAMP 60th ANNIVERSARY, September 29 – October 1, Catoctin Quaker Camp (Thurmont, MD). Mark your calendars! For more information, go to <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/cqcalumni.html>.

AT STONY RUN:

Stony Run's Working Group on Immigration is looking for people to tutor refugee adults and children. Please contact quakerimmigration@gmail.com or call Ann Kehinde (443) 739-7271.

AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

Social Justice through Economic Resistance Conference, September 21-24.

This conference was born out of Pendle Hill's 2016 program on Visioning and Creating a Moral Economy and the lingering questions of participants coming out of that conference—*yes, there are alternatives to extraction and exploitation economies, but how do we actually move from what our system is now to what we want it to be?* This conference gathers union nurses, Quakers, clergy, grassroots organizers, solar activists, journalists and leaders in corporate divestment campaigns. Sliding scale registration \$300-\$850 and scholarships are available! Register online or call 610-566-4507, ext. 137. For more information, go to https://pendlehill.org/events/social-justice-through-economic-resistance/#.WaWm5_iGNQA.

→ Remember that you can apply for a grant from Trustees.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

CENTRE QUAKER DE CONGENIES SEEKS RESIDENT FRIENDS

The Centre Quaker de Congenies, in the south of France, is seeking long term volunteer Resident Friends. Enjoy the region, the garden and the conviviality of visits from (f)Friends around the world. Accommodation at the centre is offered in exchange for managing the house, organizing events and hosting BnB guests (5 rooms). This position is ideal for a retired couple or one who works from home. At least one must speak French. We seek a commitment of at least 2 years. Flexible start date. Send CV or resume to centre.quaker.congenies@gmail.com.

LANGLEY HILL SEEKS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The Communications Committee of Langley Hill Friends Meeting is seeking applications for the Meeting's Communications Coordinator. The job requires an average of 5-6 hours per week, and pays \$25/hour. The person will be an employee of the Meeting, and report to a supervisory committee. Candidates of all ages are welcome to apply, although we think the position might be particularly suitable for a Young Adult Friend, given its technology focus (Website; Online calendar; Database of members of the community; Social Media; List serve; Newsletter; E-mail and voicemail monitoring). If you are interested in applying or for more information, please contact Doug Smith (703-927-9823 or dougsmith51@gmail.com).

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE HIRING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Centrally located in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, DC, William Penn House supports peace and justice activism through hospitality, experiential social justice education programs, and public events. The program coordinator is responsible for the design, management, and facilitation of William Penn House's social justice education and service-learning programs. These programs engage youth (middle-school through college-aged) with social justice issues through hands-on, experiential activities and opportunities to build relationships with activists, community leaders, policy makers, and members of marginalized communities. For more information, see the full job description at tinyurl.com/WPHprogramcoordinator.



BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING: “WHO WE ARE”

VISION STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Vision Statement Approved at Annual Session 2011
(amended at Annual Session 2016)

Dearly beloved friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy may be guided; and so in the Light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. The [Quaker] Elders at Balby: 1656 (quoting 2 Corinthians 3:6)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is a worshipping community, gathered in the presence of the Divine, affirming that of God in every person. The Yearly Meeting knits Friends from the Chesapeake to the Appalachians into the larger Religious Society of Friends. As Quakers, we seek to know and follow God's will for us as a gathered people, to speak the truth that is revealed to us, and to listen to the truth that is revealed to others.

We aspire to listen deeply and inclusively to each other, to actively welcome all, and to attend in joy and faith to the Inward Teacher, whom some call Light, some call Spirit, and some call Christ.

We Friends are of many skin colors, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, stages of life, and socially constructed racial identities. We are all seeking the Spirit's presence in our lives, and in our life together. We recognize that some of us have experienced oppression and marginalization in ways that others have not. We aspire to live as members of the blessed community, which is one of liberation, equity, and great diversity across all differences.

We aspire to teach and nourish Quaker ways of worship and service for this and future generations, to uphold and promote Quaker values and to support Friends Meetings in our region.

We seek to expand opportunities for Friends to meet together and know each other in that which is eternal.

We seek to serve others in love, to share our gifts and resources, to reach out to those in need, both friends and strangers, and to witness in the world to our shared experience of the infinite love of God.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (SEPTEMBER 2017): O.J. Simpson and AVP

At O.J. Simpson's parole hearing in July, he responded to a question about what he had done while incarcerated to improve himself. Here is part of his response, in which he lauds the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). (Note: AVP was created in 1975 in upstate New York at Greenhaven Prison by Quakers in response to requests from inmates for techniques to deal with conflict. It has spread around the world. There are active AVP workshops in prisons in Maryland and efforts to make it available in the wider community.)

O.J. Simpson: "I took two courses that I guess you guys don't give too much credit to. It's called Alternative to Violence. I think it is the most important course anybody in this prison could take because it teaches you how to deal with conflict through conversation. I've been asked many, many times here to mediate conflict between individuals and groups and it gave me so many tools, how to use it, to try to walk these guys through, and not throw punches at one another."

Here is the link for those interested: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rdq8BdlNMIY>. Simpson's statement starts at around the 45-minute mark.

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.

The Baltimore-Area Working Group on Racism usually meets 7 – 9 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the Stony Run dining room, except July and August. We consider issues around racial justice, share personal experiences, and plan and host special events. All are welcome to attend, on a regular or drop-in basis.



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>SEPTEMBER'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on Sept. 3.

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	As called; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.366.8360
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
Library—OPEN	As called; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.366.8360
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.