

Tenth Month (October) 2017

# Homewood Friends Meeting

## *Newsletter*

3107 North Charles Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Website: [www.homewoodfriends.org](http://www.homewoodfriends.org)

(includes calendar, no password required)

Phone: 410.235.4438

Email: [homewoodfriends@verizon.net](mailto:homewoodfriends@verizon.net)

Clerk: George Amoss

Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting***, the Tenth Query: **The Peace Testimony**

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

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

Since their beginnings over 300 years ago, Friends have been led by their commitment to the ideal of peace to renounce wars and violence, as in the declaration made to Charles II by George Fox and other Friends on November 21, 1660:

*We...utterly...deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. ... The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world.*

(George Fox, 1660)

God's law of love, as taught and lived by Jesus Christ, applies to all the levels of society. Wars break the law of love as do violence in communities and families and fighting between individuals. Friends have a settled intention to practice love and to make peace.

As peacemakers we hold that attitudes of justice and compassion are basic. A peacemaker must be able to identify with others. Peace cannot be attained at the expense of others. "Do to others as you would be done by" is indeed a Golden Rule.

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple life style is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments

and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace.

Friends need to wage peace boldly and positively. The promotion of peaceful methods of conflict resolution, of international exchanges, of peace education and research, of world law and world-wide standards of human rights all are positive ways.

One important aspect of our peace witness is refusal to serve in the military or in activities contributing to military preparedness. Friends who face the draft or registration for it should consider prayerfully their alternatives. Their Meetings should stand ready to counsel and support them. Friends of all ages may witness by acts ranging from refusal to pay war taxes to non-participation in war-related work to demonstrations and other public witness. All should be aware of the tragic consequences of indifference, timidity and procrastination.

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

**HYMN SINGING:** **October 1 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m.** in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

**POTLUCK LUNCH:** **Sunday, October 8.**

**QUAKER BOOK CLUB:** **Sunday, October 15 (not the regularly scheduled 2nd Sunday), 9:15 a.m. in the dining room.** We will begin a discussion of the work of Thomas Kelly, as organized by Kathleen Wilson. Materials will be available in early October. For more information, contact Donna McKusick at [dmckusick@icloud.com](mailto:dmckusick@icloud.com).

**PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS:** **Sunday, October 8, 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 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 [sbecker2@jhu.edu](mailto:sbecker2@jhu.edu).

### **FIRST DAY SCHOOL**

School aged children are welcome to join Giovanna for a Quaker History lesson and activities. The children start with 20 minutes in Meeting for Worship and then go with Giovanna to the upstairs classroom. Parents should pick up their children from the classroom by 11:45 AM.

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**PEACE VIGIL:** 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:** October 11, October 18, and October 25; 7:00 p.m. in the Homewood Meeting Library. The series continues on Wednesdays this month, with a 3-session introduction to Quakerism. Kevin-Douglas Olive leads the first session. Newcomers and seasoned Friends are encouraged to attend.

**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: FIRST FRIDAY FILM SERIES**

The 2017/2018 First Friday Film Series at Homewood Friends Meeting begins October 6 with a showing of *Drone* and *Moral and Safe?: War, Peace, Drone Warfare & the Religious Community*. These videos are from the Interfaith Network On Drone Warfare. 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.

On November 3, the feature film will be "Chasing Coral," a gorgeous exploration of the changes being observed in the earth's undersea gardens. It won the Audience Award at this year's Sundance Festival.

**EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT,** Sunday, October 22, 9:15 a.m. in the Library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

**WHAT IS HOMEWOOD MEETING FOR? A DISCUSSION IN THE SPIRIT:** Sunday, October 29. Meeting for worship will begin an hour early, at 9:30 a.m., so that the discussion can begin at 10:30 a.m.

Be a part of discerning Homewood's priorities! Join us on **Sunday, October 29, 2017** for **What is Homewood Friends Meeting For? A Discussion in the Spirit**. After worship at 9:30 a.m. (note the early start time), we will be led in small and large groups to consider the query "What is Homewood Friends Meeting For?" from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Trustees envision that a spiritual discerning of the meeting's collective priorities will guide us in the future handling of our resources. Joan Liversidge from Sandy Spring Meeting will facilitate our process.

All members and attenders are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided. **At 12:15, we will conclude our discussion and enjoy a catered lunch.** The October 29 discussion follows from our April 30th threshing session on the use of our resources. During the April 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 collectively 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 discussion is an opportunity to make this discernment happen.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Trustees (Bess Keller, Debbie Kennison, Molly Mitchell, Susan Russell Walters).

### **TEENAGE CHILD CARE WORKERS NEEDED**

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

### **"GOAT NOAT" FOR OCTOBER from Stephan Rogers**

The GREEN Organizing Action TEAM (GOAT) will offer a screening of "Dimming the Sun" in November. This NOVA documentary points to findings that the amount of sunlight reaching Earth is dropping. The film highlights research during the 1990s and early 2000s that present a paradox in climate findings. Mark your calendars for **November 7 at 7 p.m. in the meeting house**. Additional information will follow.

**Help is needed for Puerto Rico right now.** Below are two green fundraising efforts to supply power. Both of these are good, practical options for providing the kind of help that's needed immediately.

The first option, sponsored by Azimuth Solar Products, will provide solar+battery stand-alone generators that are capable of running small to medium sized appliances including refrigerators & power tools. To contribute, go to <https://www.generosity.com/emergencies-fundraising/send-solar-power-to-victims-of-hurricane-irma>.

The second, PowerPuertoRico "Portable Solar Panels 4 Puerto Rico," will provide handheld waterproof chargers for small electronic devices like smartphones and laptops. Apparently some cell phone towers are intact, but with the electric grid still mostly disabled, the challenge is keeping devices charged. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/PowerPuertoRico>.

Both outfits promise that 100% of donations will go to provision of supplies / 0% associated administrative costs.

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

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### **FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL) ALERTS**

Our FCNL liaisons, Sarah Bur and Gary Gillespie, have so far sent out three alerts to the Homewood community and asked that the Homewood office be notified when calls or emails have been placed. How are we doing?

- Military funding bill - 11 people responded
- North Korea - 9 people responded
- DACA - 8 people responded

### **WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Wicker Basket recipient for October is **Baltimore Community Mediation Center**. From their website: "The Center teaches conflict resolution skills in families, neighborhoods, schools and businesses; and it provides non-judgmental process for individuals and groups to be heard and to listen, to make decisions, and to peacefully changes their lives, families and communities."

*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. Remember to bring food for potluck Sundays (2nd Sunday of each month) - but join us even if you forget.

**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 Carol Beck, Mina Brunyate, Gary Gillespie, or Kevin-Douglas Olive for more information (contact information is in the Homewood directory online).

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

**WORLD QUAKER DAY, Sunday, October 1 - #WorldQuakerDay2017.**

This is the day when we Friends celebrate worldwide our different ways of worship, traditions, and practices. This year's theme is Gathering in Worship around the World. For more information, visit [www.worldquakerday.org](http://www.worldquakerday.org).

**SINGING FOR EVERYONE** has been cancelled for Sunday, October 1 (no one to host). We will resume in November.

**DAYSPRING SILENT RETREAT, October 6 - 9,** Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 (301-916-1131).

At the Silent Retreat at Dayspring for Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends, we will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in meadows and woods, walking, resting, praying, reading, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice. FACILITATOR: Jean Christianson, Member of Annapolis Friends Meeting. ARRIVAL: 3:30 -7:00 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.) DEPARTURE: 2:00 p.m. Monday. ACCOMMODATIONS: Individual room in the Inn with Bible, bed, desk, sink, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth. 9 vegetarian

meals in the Lodge dining room. Gatherings in the Yoke Room for community worship and shared solitude by the fireplace. 200 acres for roaming. COST: \$300.

**FRIENDS WILDERNESS CENTER FALL WORK DAY, Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Friends Wilderness Center (Harpers Ferry, WV).**

Enjoy the special fellowship that is part and parcel of shared work. Donate your time and effort and receive in return a great home-cooked lunch (free of charge) and the special gifts of the Blue Ridge beauty in Fall. RSVP to Sheila Bach (snback@earthlink.net) to assist her in meal planning. Note: If this will be your first time visiting FWC, please be sure to read the Directions page on our website - [www.friendswilderness.org](http://www.friendswilderness.org) - to avoid getting lost or arriving later than intended. If you download the free WAZE directions system, it will bring you directly to our door.

**INTERIM MEETING, Saturday, October 14, here at Homewood Meeting.** 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. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/interim/tenth17.html>.

**FAMILY CAMP WEEKENDS: October 20 – 22, 2017 at Catocin Quaker Camp (Thurmont, MD) and October 27 – 29 at Opequon Quaker Camp (Brucetown, VA).**

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us 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! Participants are asked to contribute according to their ability – \$25-50 per person. For more information, see [www.bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/](http://www.bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/). To register, contact David Hunter, Camp Property Manager (davidhunter@bym-rsf.org or 301-774-7663).

**GOOSE CREEK MEETING HOUSE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, Saturday, October 21, Goose Creek Friends Meeting (Lincoln, VA).**

Two hundred years ago, Goose Creek Friends began building our brick Meeting House. The Bicentennial Committee has been planning a day of family-friendly activities to celebrate the Meeting House's bicentenary and the legacy of Goose Creek and Friends' presence here in this part of Loudoun County. We invite past, present, and future members and attenders, families, and the greater community to help us celebrate. The activities will begin at 10 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch and other activities. Please RSVP to Sara Brown (540-338-7628 or [sarabrown8@aol.com](mailto:sarabrown8@aol.com)).

**FALL RETREAT AT THE CLEARING, Saturday, October 28, The Clearing (Richmond, VA).**

Richmond Friends Meeting invites you to attend their fall retreat at The Clearing. Rita Willet will lead the two-hour workshop *Sabbath for Everyone: A Radical Practice for Challenging Times*. In the afternoon, there will be sessions on mindfulness and group singing. To indicate your plan to attend and arrange overnight hospitality, please contact Julia Hebner (804-615-7529 or [juliabhebner@verizon.net](mailto:juliabhebner@verizon.net)). For more information about The Clearing, see the website ([www.richmondfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.richmondfriendsmeeting.org)).

### **AT STONY RUN:**

**Saturday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.: The Lao Tizer Trio Concert, [www.stonyrunfriends.org](http://www.stonyrunfriends.org)**

Join us for a dynamic concert by the renowned Lao Tizer Trio from Los Angeles, featuring an electrifying mix of jazz, rock, classical and jam band influences infused with Afro-Cuban and World Rhythms. Tickets are \$25.00 at the door, \$20 in advance (\$10 for kids 12 and under).

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

Many events are happening this fall. For a list, go to <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>.

### **FROM FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC):**

Racial, ethnic and gender bias affect the spiritual health of our families, communities, and our own hearts. To support Friends in exploring these issues, FGC offers the following initiatives:

- [Regional Retreat for Friends of Color](https://www.fgcquaker.org/2017-retreat-friends-color), **November 3—5**, in Stony Point, New York. The Retreat helps attendees reaffirm their Quaker identity and find mutual support for being a person of color and Quaker. For more information and registration, go to <https://www.fgcquaker.org/2017-retreat-friends-color>. **Registration deadline is October 15.**



- [White Privilege Conference](#) (WPC), **April 4—7, 2018** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. WPC looks at issues of privilege (race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc.), how we experience privilege, and how we're affected by privilege.

→ Remember that you can apply for a grant from Trustees to help cover the conference fees.

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

### **FROM FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM):**

**Kenyan Friends** have written a letter to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta and Hon. Raila Odinga expressing their “grave concern about the rapidly deteriorating and poisoned political climate created by the two of you.” To read the full text, go to <http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/news/2017/09/13/kenyan-quakers-appeal-for-restraint/>.

From the **Ramallah Friends Meeting** Annual Newsletter 2017 is this announcement: “Brummana Monthly Meeting in Lebanon and Ramallah Monthly Meeting are on the road to renewing regular



gatherings! Together, these two meetings comprise the Middle East Yearly Meeting. Due to war and travel restrictions, they have unfortunately not met face-to-face for over 25 years. ... An exciting way has opened which we hope leads to a full gathering of the Middle East Yearly Meeting in the near future!”

### **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](mailto: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](http://tinyurl.com/WPHprogramcoordinator).



### **THINKING ABOUT RACE (OCTOBER 2017): Racism and Classism**

“The racism and classism that are deeply rooted in our society are also the foundation of the prison system in the United States. This helps explain why as a nation we are largely untroubled by the fact that 12 percent of black men between the ages of twenty-five and twenty-nine are imprisoned. After release, these men will suffer lifelong disenfranchisement and other civil disabilities, severely curtailing their ability to participate as citizens and their right to apply for work, thus diminishing the well-being of their families and their communities. Even though poor whites are also deeply affected by prison, there is little solidarity across color lines. White prisoners are more likely to receive shorter sentences, to have increased access to programming and resources, and to be released earlier on parole. They are less likely to be unfairly identified as gang members. Once paroled, they have an easier transition into their communities of origin. If we are sincere about ending the evils of the criminal justice system in our society, we must address the issues of racism and classism.”

From **Beyond Prisons. A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System** by Laura Magnani and Harmon L. Wray, © 2006 American Friends Service Committee, published by Fortress Press, Minneapolis

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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                                                |
|                            | <b><u>OCTOBER'S BUSINESS MEETING</u></b> will be on Oct. 1.                                            |

### ***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> , 410.366.8360                                                                                           |
| 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>As called;</b> contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.366.8360                                                                                           |
| Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b> at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood ( <b>odd months</b> ) & Stony Run.; contact <u>Barbara Bezdek</u> , 410.377.4205 |
| Ministry & Counsel                              | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays;</b> contact <u>Ann Walker Kennedy</u> , 410.426.5836                                                                       |
| Religious Education—OPEN                        | <b>Dates vary;</b> contact <u>John McKusick</u> , 410.377.2797                                                                                           |
| Trustees                                        | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays;</b> contact <u>Bess Keller</u> , 410.889.3176                                                                                 |

*These are the regularly scheduled meeting times for each committee or group. Changes and special meeting times will be announced and/or committee members will be notified (see calendar at [homewoodfriends.org](http://homewoodfriends.org)). Location is at the Meeting House unless noted. Committees so marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk if you'd like to attend.*