Twelfth Month (December) 2017

Homewood Friends Meeting Newsletter

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Twelfth Query: The Environment

Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations? Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world?

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

Humankind and the Environment

Population growth and technological abuses are threatening the planet. Millions of people are malnourished or starving, unable to obtain food, homeless. Our faith that there is that of God in every person calls us to concern over this tragic situation. Friends are advised to set the example in living simply so that others may have the wherewithal to live. We are called also to work for public policy aimed toward conserving the world's resources on one hand and sharing them fairly among all God's children on the other.

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.

Friends have supported the state as long as its requirements have not opposed the leadings of the Inner Light. They have generally believed that:

...if any be called to serve the commonwealth in any public service, with cheerfulness it be undertaken, and in faithfulness be discharged unto God.

(Meeting of Quaker Elders at Balby, 1656)

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.

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/.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

QUAKER CONCERNS ILLUMINATED IN FILMS: FIRST FRIDAY FILM SERIES

Friday, Dec. 1: I Am Not Your Negro

Friday, Jan. 5: Chasing Coral

If you missed this look at James Baldwin's life when it was in the theaters last spring, come see *I Am Not Your Negro*. This film features interviews and performances by one of America's greatest writers and prophets. There will be snacks and some discussion after the film.

Chasing Coral (postponed from November 3) is an award-winning documentary showing the beauty of undersea gardens and their decline. Enjoy a visual tropical get-away in the middle of winter!

~The Working Group for the Arts at Homewood is offering this series of films to shed new light on Quaker concerns in today's world. Each first Friday through May there will be a different film beginning at **7:15 p.m. in the Meetinghouse lower level**. Everyone is invited to gather at 5 p.m. 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. ~

<u>HYMN SINGING:</u> Dec. 3 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. All are welcome.

<u>MEETING FOR BUSINESS</u>: Sunday, Dec. 3, 12:30 p.m. in the dining room. Childcare is available.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, December 10, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. We will continue discussing the work of Thomas Kelly as organized in the free, online pamphlet *Life from the Center*, available at http://www.quakerthomaskelly.org/uploads/8/9/6/7/89671245/lftc landscape.pdf. We will finish discussing Social Concern on pages 14-15. Participants will also be invited to share their favorite passage from the online pamphlet. Finally, we will also discuss the article, "A Mysticism for our Time" published in *Friends Journal*, at https://www.friendsjournal.org/thomas-kelly-mysticism/. For more information, contact Donna McKusick at dmckusick@icloud.com.

<u>POTLUCK LUNCH DATE CHANGE</u>: The potluck will be on December 17 this month, to follow and celebrate First Day School's Christmas play. Please sign up on the Hospitality bulletin board.

<u>CAMPING PROGRAM VISIT</u>, Dec. 10 at simple lunch. David Hunter, Camp Property Manager, will be available to answer any questions about the BYM Camping Program. This is a great opportunity to get the latest about the camps.

PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS: Sunday, Dec. 10, 12:30 - 1:00 in the Library. 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 sbecker2@jhu.edu.

<u>WEDDING (YES, ANOTHER WEDDING!)</u>: Saturday, December 16, 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room. Homewood Meeting will joyfully preside over and celebrate the marriage of Jack Neill and Mepi Meyers.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

- Dec. 3 Christmas play rehearsal with Susie and Giovanna
- Dec. 10 Christmas play rehearsal with Susie and Giovanna
- **Dec. 17** Christmas play at rise of Meeting. One time only!*
- *There will be no Christmas play at the Dec.15 Peace Vigil.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Crafts with Susie!
- Dec. 31 Service activity with John

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT, Sunday, December 31, 9:15 a.m. in the Library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

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." (NOTE: there will be no Christmas play or special dinner at the Dec. 15 Peace Vigil.)

<u>COURT OBSERVATION</u> 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).

TEENAGE CHILD CARE WORKER NEEDED

The Religious Education Committee is seeking another teenage child care worker to work with Chris Stadler in the Nursery. Potential applicants should contact Mina in the Meeting office or John McKusick. Thanks to Henry Kennison for signing up!

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:"GOAT NOAT" FOR DECEMBER from John McKusick

"You are giving awhat for the holiday?" What would you expect from a Team named GOAT?! Yes, members of GOAT will be taking a collection to purchase one (or more) dairy goat(s) for Heifer International to give to a family in need in Bangladesh or Rwanda or another developing country. According to Heifer International, "a goat can supply several quarts of nutritious milk per day." Additional benefits include use of the milk for making yogurt or cheese, sale of surplus milk to add to the family income, and use of goat manure for fertilizer. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of a goat, members of GOAT will be available to take your donation on the last three Sundays of December.

The E-cycling collection continues through December. Boxes are available near the main floor restroom for electronic media of all types and for electronic devices. In addition to phones, laptops, tablets, and computers, you may include cases for media and cables, jacks, and cords.

We are looking forward to the January 5th showing of *Chasing Coral* by the Homewood Working Group for the Arts. See http://www.chasingcoral.com for information on this documentary which is at once, visual sumptuous and very disturbing. Mark your calendars.

Committee members: Polly Heninger (clerk), Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Cathleen Hanson, John McKusick, and Stephan Rogers. (This is an open committee - please join us!)

IN THE PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CORNER Increasing the Peace

- * Peace-Building Gathering on 8/26/2017: Thirty Baltimore peace workers from across the city met to discuss "Peaceability" -- what it means, how it is and can be practiced, at this time in our city. This multi-generational and interracial gathering proved to be an intensive, constructive and joyful period of introspection and exchange. Representatives from a wide range of civic and community efforts across Baltimore shared testimony, information, fellowship, and personal narratives, and worked to expand our common language for developing the skills required for peacebuilding. One dozen of the participants were Friends from Homewood and Stony Run Meetings in Baltimore. We were hosted by our dear Friend Rosetta Graham, whose challenge to our meeting catalyzed this event, and whose wisdom helped to guide the event itself. Those gathered hope to assemble again, during this year's Baltimore Peace Challenge called in association with Baltimore CeaseFire 365.
- * Learning Peace-ability: The PSJ Committee has also been exploring types of training workshops or series on Peaceability skill-building in Baltimore, to deepen contemporary Quakers' understanding of non-violent action practices, and connect with many other congregations and organizations across the region. Interested to learn more? Have ideas? Get in touch!
- * Baltimore CeaseFire 365: Several Baltimore Quakers participated in the first community-called CeaseFire in Baltimore, held throughout the first weekend in August 2017. PSJ is participating all year in the CeaseFire initiative. For the second weekend, November 3-5, we added to the lengthy array of city-wide peace-celebratory activities, whooping it up at the Friday-evening peace vigil with more than 20 participants proclaiming CeaseFire!, Black Lives Matter, We are All One People, Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions), and No Hate. After a potluck supper for about 30, the video *Brother Outsider* was shown, with about 40 in attendance -- depicting the life and powerful nonviolence witness of Bayard Rustin, mentor to Martin Luther King Jr, designer of the Poor People's March on Washington, African American, gay man, and Quaker. We owe a big thanks to Homewood's Working Group for the Arts.

Healing Justice

The Committee remains committed to ending inequities based on race and class in the state and local practices of mass incarceration.

- * The *Court Watch* initiative continues, often two days a week, in multiple court houses in the Baltimore area. Baltimore Quakers' witness, which originated out of concern for discriminatory bail practices, has since enabled the Public Defender's Office to obtain foundation funding to expand the court observation program, and train additional volunteers for a formal survey. If you are interested to become a Court Watcher, speak with PSJ member Kathryn Munnell.
- * Get ready for the *upcoming Maryland legislative session*. We continue to seek ways to connect the work of the Quaker-founded Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR, http://www.ma4jr.org), and Baltimore city based Black-led groups such as Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, and with other faith-based groups, in actions to dismantle racial injustices in prosecution and sentencing. We expect to alert Friends to steps they may want to take on bills to be proposed during the session this spring.
- * Did you know: The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform grew out of a 7-week discussion of Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, in which Annapolis Friends Meeting and a largely African American Episcopal church read the book together. For more kinds of Quaker responses, check out the Quaker Action Network, see http://organize.afsc.org/programs.
- * Keen to know more about how Quakers can help end mass incarceration? check out American Friend Service Committee, https://www.afsc.org/blogs/acting-in-faith/how-quakers-can-help-end-mass-incarceration

Race among Quakers: the committee led a pop-up study series of four sessions, on the important history, *Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship* (by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye, 2009). This is a sobering corrective history about Quakers, African Americans, and received myths of racial justice. We recommend that the Meeting more broadly take up the book and embrace the challenges it puts to us as individuals and as a body.

In Peace and Light, Barbara Bezdek

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS

The Wicker Basket recipient for December is **Friends Peace Teams**. From their website: "Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. FPT's Initiatives build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution." *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.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE: The Jonathan K. Taylor Swarthmore College Scholarship Fund is administered by Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run to provide support to students attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA. Preference goes to members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting community. For the 2018-2019 academic year, there are funds up to \$15,000 to be distributed among the successful applicants. For more information, or to apply by the April 20 deadline, contact Cindy Maier (cynthiamaier13@gmail.com).

QUAKER HOLIDAY MARKET, Dec. 2, Annapolis Friends Meeting (Annapolis, MD). Come eat, chat, and shop with us! Annapolis Friends will be holding their annual Quaker Holiday Market from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be gourmet baked goods, homemade soups, handmade afghan rugs, jewelry, flowering bulbs, gently used books and clothing, and many other items for sale. Proceeds will benefit the Orphan Grain Train for hurricane relief work in Puerto Rico, the Wamama Wa Sanaa Kenyan Widows' Artisanal Self-Help Group, and the Wellness House of Annapolis.

SINGING FOR EVERYONE, Sunday, Dec. 3, 7 - 9 p.m. We will gather at the home of Mira and Dan Appleby, 2013 Jolly Road, Baltimore, MD 21209 (north of Old Pimlico Rd., off Rockland Hills Dr.). Their phone number is 410-653-3232 if you get lost. Please park on the same side of the street as their house. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one.

<u>YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS WINTERCON 2017</u>, Dec. 15 – 17, Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Sandy Spring, MD). BYM's Young Adult Friends are gathering to celebrate the winter and attend the Meeting's Christmas Pageant on Sunday morning. For details and to RSVP, go to the Facebook Event page:

 $\frac{\text{https://www.facebook.com/events/287722145048699/297337530753827/?notif_t=plan_mall_activity\¬if_id=1509827379077739}.$



AT STONY RUN:

• JOIN IAHR (Interfaith Action for Human Rights) FOR A CONVERSATION, Sunday, Dec. 3, 9:15 a.m. in the Stony Run Dining Room. Learn about criminal justice legislative initiatives in Maryland and simple ways you can be supportive. Volunteer to be a pen pal to a prisoner! Join in conversation with others in attendance to explore informal ways to connect with area Muslims and counter Islamophobia. Sponsored by the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee.

- <u>DEALING WITH DARKNESS</u>, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m. As Friends, we hold each other and the world in the Light. But there also seems to be much that is dark in the world and in ourselves. How do we face dark events and political forces without feeling overwhelmed? How do we avoid being sucked into dark emotional reactivity? And how do we own up to our own "shadow side" rather than demonizing others? If we learn to deal well with darkness we will more effectively let the Light shine through us.
- <u>CAROL SING EVENINGS</u>: Sundays, December 10, 17 & 24, at 7 p.m. Join in for an hour of fun and music for all ages. On the final Carol Sing evening, there will be refreshments after the singing.
- <u>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</u> for all ages Sunday, December 24, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the Library. There will be refreshments afterwards, before the final evening of Carol Sing begins at 7 p.m.



AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

- RIGHT TO REFUSE: WHEN COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND CORPORATE RIGHTS CONFLICT AND WHAT TO DO NEXT, Dec. 1-2, 2017 (Friday 7:30-9 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. 6 p.m.). Whether it is a pipeline, a fracked gas well, or an incinerator, there are countless examples of corporations moving projects forward despite community resistance and environmental impact. Why? How has law evolved to protect corporate interests and what are a community's options? What is a Home Rule campaign and why is it necessary? Explore these questions and more with a weekend with front-line organizers from across Pennsylvania. This is a workshop for those engaged in protecting their community from environmental threats for education and strategic planning. \$140/private room; \$120/shared room; \$85/commuter; \$60/commuter (no meals).
- ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT BASIC WORKSHOP, Dec. 8-10, 2017 (Friday evening through Sunday at 5:30 p.m.). The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) enables participants to deal with potentially violent situations in new and creative ways. Workshops are facilitated by certified facilitators and are fully experiential. All AVP workshops draw on the shared experience of participants, using interactive exercises, discussions, games, and role-plays to examine the ways we respond to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration, and anger can lead to violent behavior. The Basic Workshop explores the five pillars of AVP: affirmation, communication, cooperation, community building, and transforming power.\$395/private room; \$355/shared room; \$235/commuter.
- There are many other events coming up at Pendle Hill; check them out at https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/.

<u>SAVE THE DATE</u>: 2018 WOMEN'S RETREAT, Jan. 26 - 28, at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD: *Leaning into our Light on Gender, Race & Sexuality*. Registration is now open! Young Friends are enthusiastically welcomed (14-17 year olds must have a sponsor on-site). The Women's Retreat seeks to integrate Young Friends into the wider community of women. This is not a BYM Youth Programs event, and there is no separate structure or programming for Young Friends. We joyously invite teens and their caregivers to attend the Women's Retreat together and enjoy an opportunity to embrace the evolution of relationships as Young Friends approach a new life stage. For more information, go to https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/women18.html. Registration closes on January 5, 2018.

BYM CAMPING PROGRAM: Get ready for summer! Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, Teen Adventure...So many choices, so little time. Talk with David Hunter when he visits Homewood on Dec. 10 (see page 3), and go to https://bymcamps.org/ for more information about the camps. **Registration** is coming up: for returning campers, January 15th and for new campers, February 1.

→ Remember that you can apply for a grant from Trustees to help cover retreat and camping fees.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

<u>FCNL WITNESS WEDNESDAYS</u>, December 6, 13, and 20 – FCNL Witness Wednesdays, Quaker Welcome Center (Washington, DC).

Where witness meets advocacy! The Quaker Welcome Center is now offering silent reflection from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. on Witness Wednesdays. We hope you will join us! Quakers bear witness as a direct expression of faith, and the recent opening of FCNL's Quaker Welcome Center helps ground our advocacy work and foster fellowship with others. If you have 45 minutes, come worship with us at the Quaker Welcome Center at 245 2nd Street NE, Washington, DC. (Enter through the FCNL patio.) Help spiritually ground Friends' advocacy work as we communicate our values and vision of the Beloved Community while Friends lobby on the Hill. And as we work on this new project, help us by spreading the word! Without you, this is just a building! For more information, go to fcnl.org/quakerwelcome.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (DECEMBER 2017):

Beyond William Penn and the Lenni Lenape

At the end of the 18th century, Friends were alarmed by continued public detestation of and violence toward Native Americans and feared they would be exterminated as a people. The Quakers' desire for just and humane treatment of the First Americans brought together a collection of Friends who would systematically focus on this matter. The Indian Affairs Committee, a standing committee established in 1795, is Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM's) oldest, continuously operating committee working on a social concern. It was one of the first two committees to which women were appointed.

Since then, Friends from BYM have interacted in various ways — both in-depth and informal — with citizens of the Shawnee, Wyandotte, Miami, Delaware, Iroquois, Seneca, Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Tuscarora, Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Omaho, Nennah, Otoe, Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Lumbee, Navajo, Piscataway, and Rappahannock Native Nations. In early times, relationships were closest with Shawnee, Seneca and Iroquois people, more recently with Navajo, Lumbee, and Piscataway people. (Some of these tribes now use their own, non-western names; for example the Iroquois are actually the Haudenosaunee.)

To get involved in community education or advocacy, contact BYM's Indian Affairs Committee Clerk Sara Horsfall (Patapsco Meeting) at 817-875-4016 or shorsfall99@hotmail.com, or Pat Powers (Sandy Spring Meeting) at 301-460-4939 or patricia_r_powers@yahoo.com. Here in Baltimore, our local Indian Affairs Committee is clerked by Dellie James at Stony Run; you can contact her at 443-501-3535 or delliestarj@gmail.com.

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 3nd Sunday of the month in the Stony Run dining room, except in 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 Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House (under the

care of Stony Run Friends Meeting)

First Sunday of each month 12:30 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House

DECEMBER'S BUSINESS MEETING will be on Dec. 3.

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative **Odd months last Sundays** 12:15 p.m.

Green Organizing Action Team **3rd Sundays** at 9:15 a.m. in the Library; contact Polly Heninger,

410.366.8360 (GOAT)-- OPEN

Hospitality—OPEN **As called**; contact Pat Tracey, 443.846.1036

House & Grounds—OPEN 2nd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., contact Charlie Neill, 410.323-8504

2nd Sundays at 1:00 p.m. in the Library; contact Polly Library—OPEN

Heninger, 410.366.8360

Baltimore Ouaker Peace & Justice

4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.: contact Barbara Bezdek, 410,377,4205 Committee—OPEN 1st Wednesdays; contact Ann Walker Kennedy, 410.426.5836 Ministry & Counsel

Dates vary; contact John McKusick, 410.377.2797 Religious Education—OPEN 3rd Mondays; contact Bess Keller, 410.889.3176 **Trustees**

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.*

