

Second Month (February) 2018

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Second Query, Meetings for Business:

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding, and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Advices for the Second Query: Meetings for Business

As we approach our business we need to put aside how the world reaches decisions in temporal affairs and to recollect that we have come together to seek not equity, nor compromise, nor even the most "democratic" solution to the matter at hand but the Truth as God gives us to see the Truth. We believe that God is revealed and gives guidance to all who seek. Thus, in business meeting, we should listen to the views of all, just as we do in meeting for worship. We further believe that as Truth emerges we will have substantial unity in recognizing it, for Truth is undivided and that of God within each person responds to its presence.

We need to allow sufficient time for the conduct of the affairs of our Society. In our modern hurried life it may be hard to take time to search thoroughly for a right course of action. Failing unity, we may defer action until we can all see the Light together. Yet the practical business concerns we address in monthly meeting are as important to our individual and corporate life as the more directly spiritual concerns addressed in our meetings for worship.

Major items of business to be submitted to the Meeting should be prepared as carefully as possible by a Meeting committee or by preparatory work on the part of the Clerk so that pertinent facts and records of previous Meeting actions will be available to facilitate the discussion. Members not involved in the preparatory work should trust and value the work of preparation. Care should be taken to avoid re-working in a way that belittles the work already done.

When a matter requiring decision is placed before the Meeting by the Clerk or any other member, all who feel concerned to express their views should be heard. The Clerk should make sure that all points of view are clearly stated so that the Meeting may have all it needs to arrive at a right decision. Words and spirit should be those of loving helpfulness in search for the right way, the Truth, the best solution to a problem, rather than a position dogmatically asserted and adamantly held. All the time needed for deliberate consideration, including silences for prayerful reflection as needed, should be allowed. When it appears that there is general unity in the Meeting, the Clerk states what appears to be the sense of the Meeting. If the members approve, a minute expressing the sense of the Meeting is immediately written and is read and approved before the close of the session. In matters which are particularly important or complex it is best for the Meeting to compose, and request approval of, a minute before passing to other business. ...

Members should exercise forbearance in discussion and should seek Divine guidance, realizing that Truth will often transcend the understanding of any single individual. When the judgment of the Meeting appears to be tending away from the opinion of a member, that Friend should consider whether to stand aside or to prevent the consensus required for the Meeting's action. When the Meeting cannot unite upon a minute, no action is taken on the matter, which may be postponed for further consideration. Any previous action or policy of the Meeting in the same area stands in the absence of a specific Meeting decision to change it. Friends are reminded that failure to act is also a form of judgment and are urged to consider seriously the nature of their guidance to stand opposed to a view which has clearly received the assent of most Friends in the Meeting. At the same time Friends are mindful of the many occasions when the leading of one or a few has proven to be the way of Truth. When action appears to be blocked by one or a few Friends, the Meeting may find it useful to appoint a special committee to labor with all concerned for a resolution of the impasse.

Longtime Member Dave Greene writes from Sandy Spring:

Always good to hear of dear friends at Homewood. All is well with the Greens in Sandy Spring. Anne is recovering, as well as can be expected, from a knee replacement. It is a painful time for many months. David still dances at JHU on Fridays (except will be in Mexico on the 9th & 16th of February); he has shrunk about 1 1/2 inches!!

Does anyone want to illustrate a book of poems about bears? more than 600 like:

When the bear has nothing to do
And no one to do it with,
He sits at home
On the telephone
Calling his kin & kith.

all starting with "When the bear.....".

All my bears look like dogs - I need lots of helpers.

Love to all, Dave

~ ~

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

QUAKER CONCERNS ILLUMINATED IN FILMS: FIRST FRIDAY FILM SERIES

Friday, Feb. 3: 13th.

This event, co-sponsored by the Working Group for the Arts and the Peace and Justice Committee, is offered as part of **Baltimore Ceasefire 365 Peace Challenge (Feb. 2 - Feb. 4)**. The vigil and potluck preceding the film will celebrate the ceasefire.

13th is a 2016 documentary film directed by Ava DuVernay that explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the U.S. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which freed slaves and prohibited slavery (except as punishment for a crime). Discussion moderator is J.C. Faulk.

For **March First Friday movie**, the Working Group for the Arts will showcase the talents of Homewood artists. On **March 2** there will be a movie by Homewood attendee **Exsul Van Helden**, which sheds light on the experience of immigration, plus some short videos by member **Dominique Zeltzman**.

Titled *Women between Worlds*, Exsul's movie "is a 30 minute documentary concerning the challenges faced by women who have immigrated to the United States and find themselves between cultures." Dominique's shorts have won her recognition in the Baker Awards.

~The Working Group for the Arts at Homewood offers 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 **7:00 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.~

HYMN SINGING: Feb. 4 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. All are welcome.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, Feb. 4, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room (note change of location). Childcare is available.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, Feb. 11, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. At this QBC discussion, we will continue to focus on the Sermon on the Mount, starting at Matthew, Chapter 5.

POTLUCK LUNCH: Sunday, Feb. 11.

PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS: Sunday, Feb. 11, 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.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

First Day School Volunteers Needed. Second adults are needed to assist with First Day School in February. If you can assist or would like more information, please contact John McKusick (john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net or 410-830-9225).

2/4: Quaker History Lesson with Giovanna Selvaggio

2/11: Quaker History Lesson with Giovanna

2/18: Service Project with John McKusick

2/25: TBA, due to Spiritual State of the Meeting changes in schedule

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT, Sunday, Feb. 25, 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING: On **Sunday, February 25** will be the discernment of the **Spiritual State of the Meeting**. Regular meeting for worship will be from 10:30-10:50, then from 10:50 - 12:00 will be Spiritual State worship sharing. A catered lunch will follow.

SAVE THE DATE: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CAMPING TRIP, Friday, April 13th through breakfast/brunch on Sunday, April 15th.

- Intergenerational group
- Catoctin Quaker Camp
- All are welcome
- Stay two nights, stay one night, or come for the day on Saturday

More details are coming up in February with sign up to follow in March.

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.**”

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).

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:

“GOAT NOAT” FOR FEBRUARY from John McKusick

E-cycling Update: Thank you to everyone who donated old electronics for recycling through GreenDisk <http://www.greendisk.com>. We filled and shipped two boxes of e-media and equipment weighing a total of 50 pounds. When these arrive at GreenDisk, data will be scrubbed, equipment disassembled, and material recycled. We still have several laptops that did not fit in the boxes. GOAT is deciding whether to recommend local e-cycling options or purchase another TechnoTrash box. Although this campaign is over, GOAT will keep the community posted on further opportunities to e-cycle and, perhaps, a new campaign.

With a Cold Month Ahead, Things are Heating Up in Annapolis: Several important pieces of environmental legislation are starting on the pathway toward votes in the Maryland Assembly in the session running from now until mid-April. GOAT will be watching the progress of the bills and asking for your support. Very briefly, these bills include the following:

- Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act to increase renewable energy to be the source for at least 50% of the state's energy portfolio by 2030; to exclude trash incineration from the renewable energy portfolio; and create opportunities for workforce development in the renewable energy industry especially for women, people of color, and veterans. This bill addresses health, economic, and social justice issues as well as the environment.
- Amendments to the Forest Conversation Act (original legislation enacted in 1994) will address a dramatic loss of forest canopy in the past eight years by enacting measures to retain existing forests and mitigate future loss.
- Prohibition of Polystyrene Foam Packaging will prohibit the sale of this packaging in the state as well as the use by food services and restaurants. Two counties and three cities in Maryland have already instituted bans against this material which is a pollutant and a carcinogen.
- U.S. Climate Alliance Membership is legislation supporting Maryland's entry into this alliance, which is a response to the Trump Administration's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Change Accords. Governor Hogan has approved Maryland's participation, so there is not an immediate issue. This legislation, known as HB 3, would prevent Maryland from withdrawing without approval by the state's Assembly.

Look for action updates in the Silent Announcements and the Monthly Newsletters starting February 11th and continuing through the end of this year's Session on Monday, April 9th.

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

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: The Wicker Basket recipient for February is **Baltimore Ceasefire 365**. Jo Brown, member of the Peace and Justice Committee, explains, "Baltimore Ceasefire serves as a hub for citizens and organizations to support one another, to work together, and share resources, with the goal of seeing an end to murder in Baltimore City. The complementary Baltimore Peace Challenge refers to the positive cultural, social, and spiritual work involved in building a culture of peace.

"During the Ceasefire Weekends, Baltimore residents help each other access the resources they need, such as legal aid, expungement clinics, and employment counseling; we hold conversations with each other about how to resolve conflict peaceably; and we make commitments to one another to be nonviolent in thought, word, and deed. The Ceasefire weekends are held quarterly in August, November, February, and May. After the upcoming weekend of February 2-4, the next Ceasefire is scheduled for Mother's Day weekend.

"Baltimore Ceasefire has a direct connection to Quaker endeavor in Baltimore. When Erricka Bridgeford lost her brother David Thomas to gun violence eleven years ago, she and her mother went to the Baltimore Family Bereavement Center, founded and directed by Friend Rosetta Graham, one of our longest-standing members of Homewood Friends Meeting.

"The Baltimore Ceasefire/Peace Challenge organizing team includes Erricka Bridgeford, Letrice Gant, Michelle Shellers, Ogun Gordy, Darnyle Wharton, and Jakia Jason. Inasmuch as Baltimore Ceasefire is an inclusive movement comprising Baltimore residents, rather than an organization, it has entered into a relationship with Fusion, Inc. as a vehicle for its accepting charitable donations. This is the same vehicle used by other Baltimore organizations such as Unified Efforts. Erricka Bridgeford, the Director of Training for Maryland Community Mediation, was recently named Marylander of the year by *The Baltimore Sun*. Her recent 2017 TEDTalk will soon be available online.

“There has been extensive national and worldwide press coverage of the Baltimore Ceasefire movement. Here is a BBC story: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40866111>.

“For more information please go to www.baltimoreceasefire.com.”

Please consider making a regular Wicker Basket contribution. Recipients are chosen by the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee (BQPJC), which meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend. Find BQPJC on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/BQPJC>.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING are needed and gratefully accepted; they support the maintenance of the Meeting and our contributions to designated service organizations. It is very helpful for contributors to make arrangements for their banks to send regular checks. This regularity provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow. *Please make checks payable to “Homewood Friends Meeting.”*

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).
- “The Educational Grants Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting will be awarding a limited number of grants for the school year 2018-2019. Grants will be made to enable members and regular attenders of Meetings associated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting (or their children) to pursue their educational goals. Grants may be applied to expenses associated with undergraduate attendance at accredited post-secondary educational institutions such as universities, colleges, professional and vocational schools. Attendance may be either full- or part-time. ... Grants will not exceed \$2,000 per grantee per year” (Winter 2018 *Interchange*). Application deadline is **April 15, 2018**. For more information, go to [www.bym-rsf.org/what we do/committees/edloan](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/edloan).
- “The Miles White Beneficial Society, a charitable organization affiliated with [BYM]...is accepting applications for scholarships for college undergraduate students and grants up to \$5000 to non-profits 501(c)3 educational organizations in the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan

area. Preference for awarding educational grants will be given to those organizations that are associated with the Society of Friends and that are providing educational opportunities, including books and instructional materials, for young people..." (Winter 2018 *Interchange*). Application deadline is **March 15, 2018**. Please write to the electronic mailbox mileswhite@stonyrunfriends.org, if you have questions.

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AT STONY RUN:

- **ART INSTALLATION FOR BALTIMORE CeaseFire 365, Friday through Sunday, February 2 - 4.** Barbara Treasure will build PeaceFire, an installation of banners and prayer flags, on Stony Run's porch. Stop by to watch, schmooze or help on Friday or Saturday morning.
- **2018 SOUPER BOWL, TO BENEFIT GEDCO'S CARES: Sunday, February 4, at 6 p.m.** Bring a dish to share and a financial contribution for CARES. We will gather at the home of Alice Cherbonnier; she has a large television screen for those who want to watch the game, while others can concentrate on socializing. Please RSVP to sroffice@stonyrunfriends.org by Wednesday, January 31. If you cannot attend our Souper Bowl party, please bring a financial contribution to the pep rally that morning.

AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

- There are many other events coming up at Pendle Hill; check them out at <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>.

HOW SWEET IT IS! CONCERTS: Well-known and loved Quaker musician and songwriter **Annie Patterson is coming to the Baltimore YM area!** She will be holding a series of singalong concerts.* Those present will have the chance to join her in singing songs of the heart from a wide variety of genres from folk to jazz standards, and from Beatles to Broadway. Annie is the co-creator (with her husband Peter Blood) of the songbooks *Rise Up Singing* and their 2015 sequel *Rise Again*. This is a great opportunity to celebrate what's important to us during challenging times. Annie & Peter do their music work under the care of Mt. Toby Monthly Meeting in New England Yearly Meeting.

***Feb. 9**, Church of the Incarnation (in collaboration with Valley Friends Meeting), Harrisonburg, VA; **Feb. 10**, Adelphi Friends Meeting, Adelphi, MD; **Feb. 11**, Towson Unitarian Universalist Church (see flyers in meeting house); **Feb. 13**, Friends Meeting School, Ijamsville, MD. For more information, go to <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events>.

FOSTERING DIVERSITY IN QUAKER CAMPS, Saturday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. at Stony Run Friends Meeting. Quaker camps provide enrichment and build leadership in a wilderness environment. Their self-sustaining programs have led many young people to become life-long Quakers. Within Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), a group called **STRIDE*** is taking the lead in an additional push to ensure that young people from all racial, geographical, and economic backgrounds have the opportunity to benefit from the camps.

The Baltimore-area Working Group on Racism is sponsoring a **potluck and in-depth discussion at Stony Run Friends Meeting**. The discussion will focus on how STRIDE and the BYM Camping Program are working together to make racial and economic diversity a lasting reality at our Quaker camps. For many decades, Quaker camps have been incubators for young Friends' faith and vibrant commitment to Quakerism.

Come share a meal, and join in the discussion led by Dyresha Harris, BYM Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator and co-director of Catoctin Quaker Camp, and by members of STRIDE. We invite past and present campers, camp staff and volunteers, and families of present and past and future campers to share their personal experiences and hopes for the Quaker camps.

Childcare will be provided if requested by Wednesday Feb 7 by emailing Martha Barss at martha.barss@gmail.com. Bring something to share at the potluck, if it is convenient. Ample parking is available beside the Meeting house. For more information about STRIDE and the Growing Diverse Leadership Initiative, see *The Shape We Take*, Dyresha Harris, Friends Journal, May 2017.

* STRIDE stands for "Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments"

WORKSHOP ON IMPLICIT BIAS, Feb. 11, 9:00 a.m. in the Music Room (in the basement of the SAM Building, across the patio from the Meeting Room), Bethesda Friends Meeting (Bethesda, MD). A few people from the Bethesda Friends Meeting community were able to participate in the Yearly Meeting's workshop on implicit bias in November and were so impressed by the learning experience that they wanted others in BFM to experience it. And it may be even more powerful the second time around! It is an opportunity to learn how we are imbued with assumptions which skew our actions in ways we may no longer even be aware of. We can become more aware of them by taking time to pause and look them anew. Please come if you possibly can. For details, Jane Meleney Coe (bethesdafm@igc.org, 301-320-5083).

YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE, Feb. 16 – 18, Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Sandy Spring, MD). 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). Remember that **the deadline to register at the discounted rate and be guaranteed a slot is two weeks before the conference (February 2)**. Any one registering after that date may be placed on a waiting list.

RELAYS-ONLY SWIM MEET FUNDRAISER FOR UNIFIED EFFORTS, Saturday, February 17, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Loyola's Fitness & Aquatic Center, 4900 N. Charles (inclement weather: Sunday, 2/18, from 5 to 8 pm), to raise funds for swimming lessons for youths in Unified Efforts' free programs this summer.

Volunteers are needed, as are sponsors for the event program. For more information, contact Ann Kehinde (443-739-7271 or annkehende@gmail.com).

NEW SENIOR LIVING UNITS AT FRIENDS HOUSE: Friends House Retirement Community is a continuing care retirement community in Sandy Spring, Maryland that includes cottages, moderately priced apartment homes, assisted living, and skilled nursing beds. This year Friends House will build 33 lodge apartments and 14 duplex cottages for late-2019 occupancy. Groups of 10 to 13 lodge apartments are arranged around a common living space. There are one-bedroom (with and without den) and two-bedroom apartments. The cottages each have one or two bedrooms and a central garage. Cottages allow for more independence while positioned to still feel a part of the Friends House

community. About 20 more firm contracts are needed by March 31 for construction to begin in July. If you or anyone you know is interested, please don't delay contacting Barbara Brubeck for more at [301-804-4167](tel:301-804-4167) or bbrubeck@friendshouse.com or at www.friendshouse.com.

QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE for YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS: “Quaker Voluntary Service is an experiment at the intersection of spirituality and activism, a year-long program for **young adults (21-30)**. ...At the end of this service year, nearly 130 young adults will have served in this intensive program.... Each of our Fellows live in intentional community, serve marginalized communities within their city, work actively for a just and equitable society, and explore the Quaker Way.” **Registration deadline is March 15.** For more information, go to <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/>.



BYM CAMPING PROGRAM: Get ready for summer! Catocin, Opequon, Shiloh, Teen Adventure.... So many choices, so little time. Go to <https://bymcamps.org/> for more information about the camps. **Registration is open** for both returning and new campers.

→ Yes, you can apply for a grant from Trustees to help cover the camping fees.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM):

- **Living Letters Trip to Ramallah.** Space is still available for Friends United Meeting's Summer 2018 Living Letters trip to Ramallah! Dates are **June 22 through July 10, 2018** for this trip to Palestine/Israel, led by Max and Jane Carter. Max and Jane have led two dozen trips to Palestine/Israel since 1979. Although the official registration deadline was January 15, there is still space for a few more folks. Contact Max and Jane directly at mcarter@guilford.edu and janedeichler@gmail.com ASAP to apply join the trip.
- **Cuba Living Letters Work Trip, June 2018.** Cuban Quakers are busy constructing buildings for their growing ministries. In Holguin, the old “Quaker ruins” are being transformed into a conference center that will house, among other things, a satellite campus of the theological seminary in Matanzas. In Puerto Padre, Friends have regained the right to use the historic Wilmington School building and are preparing to turn it into a community ministry center. The Living Letters team from June 16-28, 2018 will participate in the building project that is highest priority at that time, working alongside Cuban Friends and skilled professionals. There will also be plenty of time for worship and fellowship beginning with an intervisitation at Miami Friends Church followed by continuing to share and engage with Friends in Cuba. The Total Cost for this trip is: \$2,300. This is a small group trip. The minimum number of participants is 6 and the maximum is 15. If the trip fills up, we will maintain a wait-list in case of cancellations. **To register or learn more, email lisas@fum.org or call 765-962-7573. Registration closes on February 8.**

MARYLAND HEALTH INITIATIVE NEWS

From MHI President and Homewood member Vinny DeMarco:

“Here's what you need to know about our top priorities for the 2018 Maryland General Assembly Session:

- Health Insurance Down Payment Proposal- Yesterday we announced a proposal that would replace the ACA's individual mandate with a health insurance down payment plan. If a tax payer was faced with a fine for not having qualifying coverage at tax time, they would have the option to have their money go toward health care coverage in the Maryland Health Connection....
- Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative- Health care is expensive and the extreme cost of prescription drugs is the single greatest contributor to rising rates. Last year, with your help, Maryland enacted a first-in-the-nation law that prohibits price gouging on generic and off-patent drugs. The law has weathered the first court challenge and went into effect October 1st. The appeal is being heard in the fourth circuit later this month. ...
- Also, we are proposing another measure during this upcoming legislative session to address the high cost of brand-name prescription drugs. The first will be to prohibit "gag rules" that prevent pharmacists from telling customers cheaper ways to get their drugs. Senator Kathy Klausmeier and Delegate Eric Bromwell are the lead sponsors for this measure. The second is to create a drug cost review commission that would establish reasonable costs for critical life saving drugs to maximize the public health benefit in Maryland. Senator Joan Carter Conway and Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk are our lead sponsors and the Legislative Black Caucus, led by Delegate Cheryl Glenn have put this issue at the top of their agenda! ...
- Strengthening Medicaid- Medicaid covers 1 in 5 people and, as we've heard across the state at our public forums, this program is essential to the lives and livelihoods of many more than those who are direct beneficiaries. We are working with Delegate Robbyn Lewis to propose a measure to further expand access to Medicaid to Marylanders making up to 200% FPL through the creation of a Basic Health Plan. Similar programs help working low and moderate income families in Minnesota and New York and could help tens of thousands of Marylanders if we implemented it here. Now is the time.”

THINKING ABOUT RACE (FEBRUARY 2018): Service to the Cause of Racial Equality

“It does no service to the cause of racial equality for white people to content themselves with judging themselves to be nonracist. Few people outside the Klan or skinhead movements own up to all-out racism these days. White people must take the extra step – they must become anti-racist.”

-- Clarence Page, 1996

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 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 <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>FEBRUARY'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on Feb. 4.

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	3rd Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Library; 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	2nd Sundays at 1:00 p.m. in the Library; 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.