Seventh Month (July) 2018

Homewood Friends Meeting Newsletter

3107 North Charles Street Phone: 410.235.4438
Baltimore, Maryland 21218 Email: homewoodfriends@verizon.net
Website: www.homewoodfriends.org
Clerk: George Amoss
(includes calendar, no password required)
Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Seventh Query, Caring for Others

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic condition? In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

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

Prejudice and Discrimination

From its earliest days, the Society of Friends has supported the equal right of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect. The opposition of Friends to slavery is well known. Less well known is their support of the rights of women. Quakers, particularly Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and Alice Paul, were in the forefront of the American suffrage movement. We oppose all forms of prejudice. Prejudice should never be allowed to keep any persons from a chance to develop or use their abilities, or deprive them of their political, economic or social rights. We are called to work creatively for equal opportunity in education, employment, justice, housing and the like.

Since thought and action are reflected in words, we should take care to use language that reflects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. We support an ongoing search for broader language to express the continuing revelation of the nature of God. Use of masculine or feminine forms when referring to God perpetuates gender-specific images. With terms such as the Inner Light, That of God in Everyone, and the Seed, Friends already have a vocabulary which is inclusive.

Those Requiring Special Care

We must be sensitive to the need for an institutional and societal framework within which disadvantaged individuals can achieve dignity and can experience a purposeful life within the limits of their capabilities. Aging is a natural part of human life. At no time should people be considered to be on the periphery of society because of their age. Older persons, who represent an increasingly large portion

of the population, have varied talents, interests and concerns. Friends have a long tradition of appreciation of the gifts of older members, and our Meetings should continue to encourage participation of all ages in Meeting activities.

The same concern for human dignity, and opposition to the use of physical force and violence, has motivated Friends to work toward improvement in institutions and services for the aged, for the mentally or emotionally ill, the retarded, and the handicapped. Employment of members of these groups is encouraged, as well as special education and training.

The Society of Friends has long worked toward improvement in the treatment of offenders. While continuing to press for programs of rehabilitation inside prisons, Friends also recognize a need for pretrial justice and the elimination of police brutality. Friends are led to oppose capital punishment by our belief in the sanctity of life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Anne Beck, who celebrated her graduation from the St. Elizabeth's School in June. Anne participates in Young Friends and was celebrated at the recent "grad con" along other Young Friends. In the fall Anne will be a part of Project Search with the ARC, interning in job placements at Union Memorial Hospital.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

School-aged children who attend meeting with their parent(s) in July and August may join Chris Stadler and Henry Kennison for conversation, reading, and games in the nursery area or may join their parent(s) in meeting for worship. Many children are away for some or all of July and August. There will be no formal program activity. First Day School for the 2018-19 school year will kick off on Sunday, September 16th. We anticipate having one or two formal programs of interest to children in late August and early September as the children transition back to school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John McKusick, Megan Shook, or Susie Higgins.

<u>HYMN SINGING</u>: July 1 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. All are welcome.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, July 1, 12:30 p.m. downstairs. Childcare is available.

<u>YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS (YAF) POTLUCKS</u>: We are meeting on **the first Sunday of the month at about 6:30 with rotating hosts**. Contact Dave Sydlik (484-264-8489) or Maya Muñoz (301-703-0522) for more information.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: QBC will reconvene in September. There will be more information later in the summer.

<u>SIMPLE SIMPLE POTLUCK LUNCH AFTER MEETING</u>: Sunday, July 8. Don't bring anything fancy, just things from the garden.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE: Sunday, July 8, 12:30 - 1:00 in the library. The "Prayer group for ISIS" has changed its focus to "Holding in the Light people touched by murder in Baltimore." The Meeting for Healing format for the group will continue with 2-3 names of persons and a brief biography given into the silence sequentially in three groups: a) Names of those murdered in Baltimore and we hold family and friends in the Light; b) Names of persons arrested or convicted and in prison for murder; c) Unnamed persons touched by violence in Baltimore. If you have questions, please contact Susan Smith, Cathleen Hanson or Stan Becker.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT, Sunday, July 22, 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

QUAKER RECOVERY GROUP

Have a hurt, habit, or hang up? Are you in a twelve step or other recovery program and want to bring together your Quaker faith and practice with your recovery? Working on those steps involving ol' HP? Looking to fellowship with other adult Friends like you? You're invited to a new fellowship of recovering Quakers at our meetinghouse. Presently, the format is reading and worship sharing (subject to change). **Last Wednesday of each month, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** For more information, email Kevin-Douglas Olive (kdolive@hotmail.com) or call 443-930-6277. **Next meeting: Wednesday, July 25.**

<u>PEACE VIGIL</u>: 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."

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM: "GOAT NOAT" FOR JULY by Polly Heninger

Electronic Recycling aka eCycling

If you're like me, you may have found that the change of season and longer daylight hours gave you an extra push to do some cleaning up and clearing out. I got my kayaks out of a friend's garage, hung them on my fence and wrapped them in a tarp, I cleaned out my shed, I went through my filing cabinets and sifted through a stack of boxes--and in some of those boxes were some old electronics.

What to do with the cell phones, computers, screens and more? The most environmentally friendly option for old electronics is to reuse—find a place that refurbishes and squeezes a few more years out of those old devices. What you don't want to do is put electronics in landfills—the toxic metal and flame retardants can cause environmental problems.

Here are some great resources for places that will refurbish and reuse— and there are recycling options listed here for more than just electronics.

Maryland State Government's Department of the Environment:

<u>http://mde.maryland.gov/Pages/index.aspx</u> is a terrific resource. Poke around their webpage and learn about programs, county and city projects, resources, composting (Food Scraps Management), a recycling sculpture contest, and more.

eCycling in Maryland:

http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/recyclingandoperationsprogram/pages/ecycling.aspx will take you to a list of electronic manufacturers that have takeback programs and will recycle your electronics for free, and lists permanent collection sites and eCycling events.

Places who take electronics:

http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/ecycling2.aspx

https://www.mdrecycles.org/recycling-directory/?sec=electronics

Another comprehensive resource for recycling is the Baltimore County's Reuse Directory: http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Public_Works/solidwastemanagement/reusedirectory.pdf.

This brochure lists places from A-Z who will take your Art Supplies, Paint, Printer Cartridges, Sports Equipment, Tools, Toys and much more. Sample Entries in this directory include: Art Supplies (Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Helping Up Mission); Cell Phones (Family, Crisis Center, GRC Wireless Recycling, Lutheran Mission Society, The Salvation Army, Securis Baltimore, Turtle Wings). There's even a guitar exchange listed in this useful directory.

And finally, laptops may be donated to Tyler St. Clare who runs the Tololamos Foundation. Tyler refurbishes old laptops for reuse by people in the Nicaraguan town where he served as a Peace Corps volunteer. Donations are tax deductible. <u>Tololamos Foundation</u> and tyler@tololamos.org. You can give laptops to Gary Gillespie. He will get them to Tyler and get you a receipt.

Committee members: Polly Heninger (clerk), Carol Beck, Caitlyn Behnke, 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 July is Doctors Without Borders or Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international medical non-profit that delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from health care. MSF is impartial and neutral, and their medical services are open to all wounded people, regardless of their affiliation. They are currently one of the few humanitarian organizations working in Yemen, where constant fighting since 2015 has had a devastating effect on the nation's health system. As the conflict intensified, emergency rooms and operating theaters have overflowed with wounded patients from bullets, shrapnel, and landmines. United States military policy and weaponry contribute to the horrific conditions in Yemen. MSF hospital staff have worked tirelessly to stabilize the wounded amidst scenes of despair painful to describe. Despite shortages in blood donations and body bags that highlight the harsh reality, MSF remains committed to working in Yemen and serving this population in need. Please join us in supporting their work.

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.



<u>CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING</u> 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.*"

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE reminds Friends that simple, simple lunches are now in effect for the summer, although you are always welcome to contribute food.

FROM BALTIMORE STRIDE: MINUTE OF APPRECIATION FOR HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

We, the Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE) core group of Baltimore, express our profound gratitude for the financial and moral support that Homewood Friends Meeting gave to Opequon campers this year.

Through your donations of space and funds, you have helped to support campers of color and our whole community as we do the hard work of making the BYM camps a more equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist community.

We know that such generosity is possible only with the wise choices and humble sacrifices of meeting members. Amidst an overwhelming array of philanthropic options, a critical mass of Friends have been led to support STRIDE's important mission.

As we continue working toward authentic and sustainable representation of people from all socioeconomic and racial backgrounds at the BYM camps, we look forward to a continued partnership with the dedicated members of Homewood Friends Meeting.

In gratitude,

STRIDE Core Group Members:

John Beck

Hannah Brown

Rosalie Eck

Laura Grothaus

This minute was approved by the core group of STRIDE on June 13th, 2018.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

BYM SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM: One of the most powerful communal and individual experiences in Quakerism is offered through the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Program. Over a period of nine months, participants meet regularly, in several different settings, to share and grow. Below, Janet Abrams reflects on her Spiritual Formation experiences from the past year. She was asked to write this by last year's leaders of the large group from Stony Run and Homewood. Perhaps it will encourage you to learn more about the program.

TEN THINGS I LEARNED IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION THIS YEAR by Janet Abrams

Last summer I was having some powerful spiritual experiences in Meeting for Worship and at home. I needed to find some other Friends who I could share with and who would be willing to share more deeply with me about their personal spiritual life. I thought that I might be able to find these people in the Spiritual Formation program. I was not disappointed.

I had a taste of what Spiritual Formation might be like at the retreat at BYM Annual Session last summer. The theme of the retreat was spiritual courage. I went to it hoping that I would learn from other Friends about some of their experiences that involved courage. When I got there, I realized that I could not just expect other people to do the sharing and that I would just listen and learn. I decided that I would try to share as openly and honestly as I could, to practice courage. I learned that when one person is willing to go deep, others will feel safer to go there as well. I had my first experience with the exercise of Spiritual Friendship and it was very special. My partner in this exercise and I have become spiritual friends over the last year.

The fall retreat at Priestfield was a wonderful experience for me. Everyone who came was at a different place in their journey. Some Friends had been there many times. Others, like me, were there for the first time. The leaders created a safe place to share openly. I had my second experience with the exercise on Spiritual Friendship. It was totally different, and very powerful. The leaders presented introductions to several different personal spiritual practices to help people choose a practice. Worship sharing was rich. The closing Meeting for Worship was filled with Light.

Choosing a personal spiritual practice that worked took some time. I knew that I needed to try out different practices before committing to one for the year. I started by reading Psalms. Then I experimented with using prayer beads to start a conversation with Spirit. I worked at practicing gratitude. The practice that worked for me turned out to be something I was already doing. I had been working for months on recovering from my broken marriage and seeking answers about what had gone wrong. I had developed the habit of sitting in quiet and listening for something deeper to emerge, a memory, a feeling, an intuition, a vision, words of instruction. I needed to do this work for healing. I later saw that this was also my spiritual work, to allow my center to break through the layers of protection that I had placed around it. The goal of finding emotional wholeness and of finding spiritual holiness is the same for me. The daily practice is the same. I sit, in solitude, in stillness, in quiet, and I listen. The practice "found me," out of my deep need.

The large group that I was in was made up of 26 Friends from Homewood and Stony Run meetings. There were 6 small groups that also met monthly. Each small group took a turn at choosing a reading to share with the larger group, and then wrote queries on the reading. After supper we usually divided into two groups and did worship sharing on the readings and the queries. Our worship sharing often went deep. People were open and honest. They spoke from the heart and not from the head. The highlight of

the large group experience for me came at the opening and closing gatherings, when people brought personal stories to share about where they were in their spiritual journeys.

My small group was composed of six women from Homewood Meeting. We used worship sharing, which often began with confessions of the problems that we were having in sticking with our personal spiritual practices. But we shared much more with each other, always listening quietly to the person who was sharing. We shared what was in our hearts, our joys and our sorrows. We shared our spiritual experiences, our beliefs and our doubts. We shared our challenges with getting older, and our struggles with anxiety and depression. We shared our problems in relationships with our children and our siblings, our hopes for reconciliation, our fears and hopes for young adult children who have not yet fully launched. We shared our need to come to terms with painful ghosts from the past and to find ways to live in the present. We shared our desire to create a greater sense of family in our Meeting. We held each other in the Light. We became spiritual friends.

Everyone in our small group realized that they needed to practice something physical to stay on track and to stay grounded. Some did yoga or tai chi. One swam. Several of us walked. It seems to be a necessary complement to the daily spiritual practice.

I didn't do a lot of reading, but the few things that I did read were very important to me. The blessings in John O'Donohue's *To Bless the Space Between Us* reached deep inside of me and continue to guide me. The words of Thomas Kelly rendered into poetic form by Homewood Friend Kathleen Wilson in *Life from the Center* (www. quakerthomaskelly.org), came as close as I can imagine to describing the ineffable experience of the presence of the Holy. I turned to modern translations and transformations of Psalms by Stephen Mitchell and Nan Merrill when I heard voices from my Jewish past calling to me.

The final retreat at Shepherd's Spring this spring was wonderful. The people who came started to feel like family. Both retreats provided a safe place for me to experience Spirit and to share that experience openly. I am grateful that I was able to go to both.

I need to do the program again. I have grown so much, but I know I have further to go. I will always be a beginner. I am enormously grateful to the people of BYM who put this program together. I know that there is more for me to experience in this setting. I hope that you will consider joining me.

Spiritual Formation is a BYM program whose purpose is to support Friends nurture, and deepen spiritual friendships with other Quakers, both within their monthly meetings and within BYM. Lasting from September through May, the program begins and ends with weekend retreats that invite participants from the entire BYM family. The 2018 fall retreat is scheduled for September 14-16. There are also monthly meetings held, one for a small group from Homewood, and one for a large group from Homewood and Stony Run. If you are interested in learning more about Spiritual Formation in the coming year, you can contact Donna McKusick or Janet Abrams.



mooresmithtrees.com

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC) 2018 GATHERING: July 1-7, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH. With the theme of The Power of Truth, the Gathering will offer compelling speakers and workshops. It holds the potential for deep worship, close fellowship and complex ideas that we can explore together. For details of all the workshops and events planned, go to https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/workshops.

SINGING FOR EVERYONE, Sunday, July 1, 7 - 9 p.m. We will gather at Randy and Jean's, 2028 Girard Avenue. From Randy and Jean: "It's in Woodberry (also known as TV Hill). From Hampden go West on 41st Street over I-83 and the Jones Falls. Fox news is visible on the far side of the bridge. Girard Avenue is the street that turns right immediately after passing Fox. We are about one block up from the Fox (across from a tiny church). Please knock - doorbell not working. Phone: 410-366-2471." Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one.

<u>BLUEBERRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL</u> at Little Falls Meeting, Saturday July 21, 6-8 p.m. More news about this annual legendary event will appear soon on the Little Falls website.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING: Annual Session 2018, July 30 – August 5, Hood College (Frederick, MD). Some of us come to feel at home with Friends through worship first, some through social activism, and some through community. As we continue on our path with Friends, we inevitably encounter the other two and perhaps integrate all three into our Quaker experience. What has your experience been? Have you discovered how all three of these interact with each other as essential elements of the Quaker way? Join us at Annual Session this year to share in our exploration of this question. This year, the theme of our Annual Session is *Radical Listening, Rooted in Love*. Through an exciting variety of plenaries, workshops, interest groups, Junior Yearly Meeting; through fellowship at meals, worship sharing, and other times; and also through our business sessions, we will have an opportunity to live out all three of these core elements of our faith. **Registration is now open.** Go to www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/ for all of the information and online registration.

→FIRST TIME ATTENDER AWARDS are available to send three first time attenders to Annual Session 2018 for two days at no cost (recipients are entitled to up to two free days and nights at the early registration adult occupancy rate). The awards are also available to those who haven't attended in over 10 years. BYM encourages everyone to stay more than two days, but to do so the costs for the additional days will have to be paid for. If you are interested, please notify the office or Clerk George Amoss.

→ You can ask Trustees for additional funding.

<u>COURT WATCH TRAINING</u>: Monday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at Stony Run. It is open to all, and additional observers are needed. You can do as few as 2 observations a month. This special court watch that focuses on women's bail will last until the end of October. If you are interesting in participating, please contact Kathryn Munnell (kathryn_munnell@ hotmail.com).

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### AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA)

Jul 29 - Aug 1, 2018: Beyond Gender-Based Violence: Justice, Vision, and Accountability at the Intersection. A Pendle Hill Conference for inspiration, education, networking, discernment, and action.



To find out more and to check out other events at Pendle Hill, go to <a href="https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/">https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/</a>.

# **QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY**

# FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL)

On their website, FCNL offers many insightful discussions on recent events and makes it easy to contact our representatives. One post examines the effects of the SNAP legislation on those leaving prison. Marina Golan-Vilella observes, "The House just passed a Farm Bill that will force at least two million people off of vital nutrition assistance by making harmful changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is a vital resource for many leaving prisons and jails and returning to communities. Programs like SNAP that help individuals and families meet their basic living standards are particularly useful for weathering the societal barriers and stigma of a criminal record. SNAP should be made even stronger, not weaker, for formerly incarcerated people in the Farm Bill and other legislation." The discussion continues at <a href="https://www.fcnl.org/updates/why-snap-matters-for-formerly-incarcerated-people-1526">https://www.fcnl.org/updates/why-snap-matters-for-formerly-incarcerated-people-1526</a>.

→ If you would like to contact your representatives about the president's discriminatory travel ban, go to <a href="https://cqrcengage.com/fcnl/app/write-a-letter?1&engagementId=422513">https://cqrcengage.com/fcnl/app/write-a-letter?1&engagementId=422513</a>.

### FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM)

From their website: "Did you miss your chance to register for our November trip to visit Cuban Friends? We've extended our registrations deadline, so you can still sign up. The cost for the trip is \$1850, and more details are available at the registration link.... If you have any questions about the trip, please send them to Eden Grace at edeng@fum.org."

## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC)



You can download this poster at <a href="https://www.afsc.org/document/keep-loved-ones-together-stop-ice-and-border-patrol-poster-and-social-media-graphics">https://www.afsc.org/document/keep-loved-ones-together-stop-ice-and-border-patrol-poster-and-social-media-graphics</a>.

# THINKING ABOUT RACE (JULY 2018): New York Yearly Meeting's EAQWER

European-American Quakers Working to End Racism (EAQWER) is roughly equivalent within New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) to the Working Group on Racism (WGR) within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The WGR attempts to keep in touch with its peer groups in other Yearly Meetings. Following is a recent statement from EAQWER:

- "1. With respect to gathering the Yearly Meeting into one body, EAQWER is called to support our community to acknowledge racial divisions and to heal them. We work to remove barriers to the full participation and inclusion of Friends of Color. We labor with ourselves and all European American Friends to overcome white privilege and internalized superiority patterns, so we too may be fully gathered into the Yearly Meeting.
- "2. Our working group attempts to inform and inspire our community to witness for racial justice. We study the roots of racism and its current manifestations and dynamics. We then design projects and activities to support NYYM to speak out and act against racial oppression."

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  $3^{nd}$  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)

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

JULY'S BUSINESS MEETING will be on July 1.

## 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,

(GOAT)-- OPEN 410.366.8360

Hospitality—OPEN As called; contact Ned Worth, 443.600.9380

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

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

Heninger, 410.366.8360

Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice

Committee—OPEN Ministry & Counsel

Religious Education—OPEN

Trustees

4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact Barbara Bezdek, 410.377.4205

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays; contact Ann Walker Kennedy, 410.426.5836

Dates vary; contact John McKusick, 410.377.2797 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays; contact Bess Keller, 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.* 



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