

## HOMEWOOD FRIENDS ~ At a Glance / Meeting Committees, and some Community Engagement Activities

Did you hear about something in an announcement that was of interest to you? Quakers get things done together – meeting ‘business’ is led by committees appointed to assure that the Meeting as a whole follows through on its Testimonies. Most committees are open to volunteers!

In addition to Meeting committees, Homewood members and attendees are involved in a number of social action projects with other peace-promoting groups in and around Baltimore. This list of activities below is not a formal endorsement, but rather is a way for you to find out more about what many of our members are doing.

### Homewood Committees

**Hospitality.** Organizes Simple Lunch on Sundays and organizes refreshments for some other events. Contact: Ned Worth, [worthnediii@gmail.com](mailto:worthnediii@gmail.com) or 443-600-9380.

**House and Grounds.** Oversees the care, cleaning and maintenance of the meetinghouse. Contact: Charlie Neill, [cwneill@yahoo.com](mailto:cwneill@yahoo.com) or 410-428-3371.

**Library Committee.** Maintains the library books and facility and selects and reviews additions to the library. Contact: Polly Heninger, [peh616@msn.com](mailto:peh616@msn.com) or 410-419-2305.

**Ministry and Counsel.** Nurtures and oversees the spiritual life of the meeting. Also oversees adult religious education. Contact: Ann Walker Kennedy, [annwalk@gmail.com](mailto:annwalk@gmail.com) or 410-967-7414.

**Peace and Justice.** A joint committee with Stony Run Meeting. Contact: Barbara Bezdek, [blbinbmore@gmail.com](mailto:blbinbmore@gmail.com) or 410-925-0445.

**Religious Education.** Considers the spiritual education of the children. Contact: John McKusick, [john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net](mailto:john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net) or 410-830-9225.

**GOAT (Green Action Organizing Team).** Contact: Polly Heninger, [peh616@msn.com](mailto:peh616@msn.com) or 410-419-2305.

**Working Group for the Arts.** Encourages the artists in our midst to share their gifts with the Meeting community. Contact: Megan Shook, [mega330@comcast.net](mailto:mega330@comcast.net) or 410-419-0099.

**Working Group on Outreach.** Focuses on building the Homewood community as a welcoming place for members and attenders as well as for those who are visiting the Meeting. Contact: Kevin-Douglas Olive, [kdolive@hotmail.com](mailto:kdolive@hotmail.com) or 443-930-6277.

## Some Community Connections

**Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)**, <http://www.avpmd.org>, is a volunteer-run conflict transformation program. Programs are conducted in prisons where volunteers from the “outside” of the prison population are trained with inmates from the “inside.” Facilitators are from both the inside and outside. Workshops take place on weekends. Homewood Contact: Cathy Hanson, [hanson.cathleen@gmail.com](mailto:hanson.cathleen@gmail.com). 410-598-6285 (texts are responded to quickly).

**Baltimore Ceasefire - Baltimore Peace Challenge - Ceasefire 365.** Founded by two Baltimore women, Erricka Bridgeford and Ellen Gee, Baltimore Ceasefire began as an effort to halt violence in Baltimore initially for a 72-hour period, now quarterly. We look forward to demonstrating that peace is possible all year round. Erricka Bridgeford is the Director of Training for Community Mediation Maryland, a nonprofit that helps people resolve conflicts peacefully. When she lost her brother to gun violence, her family turned to the Baltimore Family Bereavement Center, founded by longtime Homewood Friends member Rosetta Graham. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/baltimoreceasefire>. Jo Brown is a Baltimore Ceasefire ‘ambassador.’ Contact her: [jobrownbluesky@gmail.com](mailto:jobrownbluesky@gmail.com), 717-385-5813 (text preferred).

**Baltimore STRIDE.** A working group to increase genuine diversity in BYM camps and access to nature for all by creating opportunities for Baltimore youth to attend camp. For more information: [http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/campdiversity/campdiversityhome.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/campdiversity/campdiversityhome.html). Homewood Contact: Hannah Brown, [hazbrown@gmail.com](mailto:hazbrown@gmail.com).

**Baltimore Transgender Alliance.** An organization that serves transgender individuals and their allies, providing information, support and volunteer opportunities. For more information <https://www.facebook.com/bmoretransalliance>. Homewood Contact: Stephan Rogers, [rogers.stephan.g@gmail.com](mailto:rogers.stephan.g@gmail.com) or 443-854-0338 (text preferred).

**Court Watch** was formed by Friends in response to the Freddie Gray uprising in April 2015. Initially we visited every court in the city (criminal, abuse and mental health, rent, expungement, bail hearings for men and women) on multiple occasions to get an understanding of how the district and circuit court works. Then we began to observe bail hearings to assist the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR, [www.ma4jr.org](http://www.ma4jr.org)), a state-wide group started by the Annapolis Friends Meeting, in their effort to prepare legislation to eliminate money bail. As a result of our weekly observations, the Public Defenders’ office in Baltimore City launched a formal study with support from the Open Society Institute to monitor if changes in the law to increase racial equity in the bail system are being followed by judges. In summer 2018 a statewide follow-up is planned on the treatment of women defendants. Contact: Kathryn Munnell, [Kathryn\\_Munnell@hotmail.com](mailto:Kathryn_Munnell@hotmail.com) or 443-257-6494.

**Esperanza Center.** Esperanza Center is an immigrant integration center in Baltimore that serves immigrants from all over Maryland, as a program of Catholic Charities of Baltimore. It offers education, family reunification, services to address human trafficking and health needs, and immigration legal services. The mission is to provide individuals with hope, compassionate services, and the power to improve their lives. For more information visit <http://www.cc-md.org/esperanza>. Homewood Contact: Ouranitsa Abbas, [oabbas@cc-md.org](mailto:oabbas@cc-md.org) or 667-600-2931 (phone is best).

**GEDCO** (Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation) provides affordable housing, supportive services, and emergency assistance to residents in the Govans neighborhood. Programs include senior housing at Stadium Place, Gallagher Mansion, and Epiphany House; housing for formerly homeless men and women at Micah House and Harford House; and a food pantry, emergency financial assistance center and job search program at CARES on York Road. For information see [gedco.org](http://gedco.org) or contact Rachael Neill, [rneill@gedco.org](mailto:rneill@gedco.org).

**Jews United For Justice.** "Our mission is to lead greater Washington-area Jews (in DC, Montgomery County, Baltimore, and beyond) to act on our shared Jewish values by pursuing justice and equality in our local community." Great organizing all around; plenty of people involved who are not Jewish. For more information <http://www.jufj.org>. Homewood Contact: Maya Muñoz, [mayapamela@gmail.com](mailto:mayapamela@gmail.com) or 301-703-0522

**New Wave Singers of Baltimore.** A community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and straight people making music that matters. Contact Jeanette Rickman, [acheznette@earthlink.net](mailto:acheznette@earthlink.net) or 443-791-9112.

**Peaceable City.** An outgrowth of the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee, Peaceable City is an occasional study group devoted to understanding and acting upon both the tributaries of violence, and its remedies. Find us on Facebook.

**Unified Efforts, Inc.** Out of School Time and Youth Violence Prevention Program, Free, K-12. Located in West Baltimore's PennNorth Community. Contact Debbie Ramsey who is Executive Director, Member of Stony Run, and an Open Society Institute Fellow. 443-800-0566. Minute of Support by Stony Run Religious Society of Friends <http://unifiedefforts.com> [unifiedefforts@comcast.net](mailto:unifiedefforts@comcast.net). Unified Efforts is nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

**Wednesday Night Blues Jam.** The Wednesday Night Blues Jam meets monthly at The Polish Home Club, 512 S. Broadway in Fells Point on first Wednesdays, 8-11pm. All are welcome over age 21. Live blues music and blues dancing, all ages. Note: July meeting is on July 11th due to holiday. Contact: Jo Brown <https://jobrownbluesky.wixsite.com/weds-nite-blues-jam>, [jobrownbluesky@gmail.com](mailto:jobrownbluesky@gmail.com), 717-385-5813 (text preferred).