

Tenth Month (October) 2018

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

3107 North Charles Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Website: www.homewoodfriends.org

(includes calendar, no password required)

Phone: 410.235.4438

Email: homewoodfriends@verizon.net

Clerk: George Amoss

Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

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

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

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

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

We...utterly...deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. ... The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world. (George Fox, 1660)

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

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

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple life style is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments 2 and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

HYMN SINGING: October 7, 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, October 7, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Childcare is available.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, October 14, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. We will discuss the recent Pendle Hill Pamphlet "Living in Dark Times" by Rex Ambler. Copies are available; contact the office if you would like to purchase a copy (\$7 each). All are welcome.

HOMEcoming: Sunday, October 14. Greet old Friends and meet new Friends! Following worship at 10:30, we will gather downstairs to enjoy a potluck meal and share news and memories.



POTLUCK LUNCH: Homecoming Sunday, October 14.

Please bring extra food so that we will have enough to share on this joyful occasion.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE: Sunday, October 14, 12:30 - 1:00 in the library. 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.

VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND FILM SERIES continues. Homewood hosts the next screening, on **Sunday, October 14, 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room.** The film is *Gaza in Context/Gaza: A Gaping Wound*, “which ... upend[s] the ahistorical narrative that has cast the Gaza Strip as a national security issue” (website). First and St. Stephen’s UCC hosts the screening of *Occupation of the American Mind: Israel’s Public Relations War in the United States* on **Sunday, October 21, 2:30 at 6915 York Road.** For more information, go to www.voicesfromtheholylan.org.

COME JOIN US FOR AN LGBTQ EVENING, Saturday, October 20, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Homewood. LGBTQ Friends of Homewood Meeting invite all LGBTQ members and attenders to join us for fellowship, at potluck supper*, and worship. Bring a F(f)riend! We have invited Friends from the entire Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting to join us. This is an all-age event. Questions? Please contact KD Olive (443-930-6277) or Janet Abrams (443-980-1615).

**Please bring a dish to contribute to the meal. Vegan and gluten-free dishes are especially welcome; please consider writing a card with the ingredients of your dish. Thank you!*

QUAKERSPEAK SERIES, Mondays in October, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Susan B. Anthony Room, beginning Monday, October 1. Homewood Friends’ Outreach Team presents a series of five *QuakerSpeak* videos that are produced by *Friends Journal*. Join us for video, conversation, snacks, and an introduction to the silence-based worship of Friends. Our series will include these videos:

- *9 Core Quaker Beliefs*
- *What do Quakers do in Silent Worship?*
- *Student Activism in Prophetic Ministry*
- *Every Murder is Real*
- *If the Church Were Christian*



FIRST DAY SCHOOL

- 10/7 Old Testament lesson with Rory and Meri or Megan
- 10/14 Service Sunday (also Homecoming) with Susie and John
- 10/21 Old Testament Lesson with Rory and Meri
- 10/28 Arts Sunday with Rory

Parents, please bring your school aged children to worship rather than the nursery. The instructors will lead the children out of meeting at 10:50.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT: Sunday, October 28, 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

QUAKERS IN 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? Please join our fellowship of recovering Quakers at our meetinghouse. **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, October 31.**

FRIENDLY 8s SECOND ROUND SIGN-UP! Several of us have enjoyed getting to know each other in these intimate potluck gatherings that were organized by our Outreach Team. If you want to get to know more people in the Meeting, or if you missed the first round and want to join the fun, please sign up on the sheets in the meeting room. The potlucks will resume in November.

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM: ***“GOAT NOAT” FOR OCTOBER 2018***

- The Homewood GOAT logo will be unveiled at the October Meeting for Business. She (?) is a playful and feisty looking prancing goat who will be used for a number of purposes.
- “Inch-by-Inch: A Native Garden to Welcome Birds, Pollinators, and Seekers” is the title of the Meeting’s proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to support installation of the side yard garden. The proposal will be submitted to CBT in early October. Installation has been postponed from fall 2018 to early spring 2019. We should hear from CBT by mid-November. In the meantime, GOAT is moving ahead with installation of two water-collecting cisterns adjacent to the building. Both of these components reduce stormwater run-off from the meetinghouse and the property.
- As a P.S. to Homewood's garden, Bess Keller’s yard was certified recently as "bay-wise" by the University of Maryland Master Gardeners' program (see photo below). The program is described here: <https://extension.umd.edu/baywise>. Bess has offered to talk to anyone in the meeting about the program. It's more extensive than the Audubon certification that Homewood will seek, but similar.
- GOAT will be asking Friends to complete a survey in October to help the team plan workshops and other events of interest for the Meeting as well as other local organizations. Look for the survey in mid October. We look forward to the Meeting’s input!
- Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and we were unable to have the Harmony Herd goats visit us on September 9th. No make up date has been set as the goats are very busy at this time of year. However, we do hope to have a goat-oriented event, perhaps a field trip, sometime during the school year. In the meantime, you might test and expand your knowledge of goats with Facts about Goats - Florida A & M published by Florida A and M's Cooperative Extension Program.

GOAT is an open committee/team and welcomes interested members and attenders. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 21st at 9:15 AM in the Homewood Library.

Committee members: Carol Beck, Caitlyn Behnke, Gary Gillespie, Cathy Hanson, Polly Heninger (clerk), John McKusick, and Stephan Rogers.



Bess Keller's "bay-wise" garden

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS The Wicker Basket recipient for October is to be determined. Please see upcoming weekly announcements for updates.

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. **PayPal is now available on the Homewood Meeting website.** Look for the word "Donate" in our Website's menu bar, which is near the top of every page. If you prefer to pay by check, it is very helpful for you to make arrangements for your bank to send regular checks. This method provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow. *Please make all checks payable to "Homewood Friends Meeting."*

SIMPLE LUNCH: Everyone is welcome to lunch after meeting for worship; there is no charge. **Please sign up on the Hospitality bulletin board** in the dining room if you can provide simple lunch between now and December.

JOIN A COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee invites you to consider joining a committee; it's a great way to serve the Meeting and to get to know others in the community. Committee descriptions are available on the Homewood website at <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/committees/>. Please contact Carol Beck, Mina Brunyate, Gary Gillespie, or Kevin-Douglas Olive for more information (contact information is in the Homewood directory online).



SAVE THE DATE!

Homewood Friends Meeting Retreat “Opening to the Heart of Worship”

Friday, November 9th from 7-9 PM and

Saturday, November 10th from 9:30-5:30 (light breakfast @ 9; lunch @ noon)

Concluding Homewood Community Supper @ 5:30 PM

(ALL WELCOME even if not attending retreat – but please RSVP)

This spiritual deepening workshop will take us more deeply into the experience of worship as individuals and together as a community.

Christopher Sammond, our retreat facilitator, is a member of Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting. For over twenty-five years he has led workshops and retreats in a wide variety of Friends' contexts. He is trained in spiritual direction and the spiritual formation of whole congregations and has served as a chaplain in hospice, hospital, and drug and alcohol treatment center settings. He carries concerns for faithfulness and the deepening of our practice of worship, and has traveled extensively in the ministry. Christopher lives in central New York with his wife Barbara, their dog, Gabe, and cats Harriet and Lil.

Retreat Description

Enlightenment is an accident. Practice makes us accident prone.~ ZenProverb

Worship is at the heart of our practice as Friends. And we mostly leave each other to find our own way in this crucial part of our lives. This need not be the case. While Spirit-filled worship is something we can't make happen, there are practical skills we can learn which will enhance our ability to enter into deep, transformative worship. This retreat will focus on practices which can make us more ready to receive that blessed gift of powerful worship which can nurture, heal, and transform us and our lives; and draw us closer together as a community.

In our time together we will explore how we prepare for worship, how we center down, how to listen to each other with our whole being- body, mind and spirit, and how we open more to each other and to the Divine during worship. We will also work on accessing the place within us from which discernment arises, and, as time allows, how to practice discerning between vocal ministry and an impetus to speak that comes from ourselves alone. We will use these processes as a group to create a deeper sense of community from which it is easier to access our individual and collective wellsprings of the Source. Please join Christopher for this special retreat and workshop - a rich opportunity for us to draw closer and more supportive as a community and open more deeply to the Inner Teacher, the Source, the Divine.

RSVP by November 2nd at homewoodfriends@verizon.net or via sign-up sheet

Childcare provided upon request. Need RSVP by **October 26th** to arrange.

Donations to help pay for the food provided at the retreat will be gratefully accepted

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

SINGING FOR EVERYONE: Sunday, October 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the home of Judy Davidoff, 6213 Sareva Drive, Baltimore 21209 (410-484-3246). Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, if you have one.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND: October 5 - 7, Catoctin Quaker Camp (Thurmont, MD); and October 26 - 28, Opequon Quaker Camp (Brucetown, VA).

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful camp properties. Individuals and families are invited to enjoy the camps for a day or for the weekend. There will also be plenty of work projects, which offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to enjoy some meaningful and satisfying service. We will savor meals together, have time to explore and even spend time around a camp fire in the evening. We invite you to join us for a BYM Quaker Camp experience, give the gift of your time, participate with children in activities and find yourself rejuvenated. Participants are asked to contribute according to their ability – \$25-50 per person. To register please contact David Hunter, Camp Property Manager. (301-774-7663 or davidhunter@bym-rsf.org) For more information, see the BYM Camps web-site at bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/.

WORLD QUAKER DAY: Sunday, October 7. FWCC invites you to join the Quaker family around the world in worship and celebration! ... The theme, *Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories* draws us into our shared experience of worship, celebrating our wonderful diversity of expression. Church to church, meeting to meeting, country to country, and section to section, we feel the power of God collecting us into a faithful family. We welcome **all** expressions of Quaker worship! How will you celebrate World Quaker Day? Ideas about how to work with the theme can be found on the website. Whatever you do as a worshipping community, we hope you will share this with others through FWCC. It can be very simple – a description, a poem, a short video from a mobile phone, a few photos – we will post them on this web site so that you can see what other churches and meetings were doing on the same day. We welcome your participation in World Quaker Day. We are grateful for all you bring to the Quaker world.

CLIMATE PRESENTATIONS, Tuesday, October 9, Bethesda Library (Bethesda, MD). Sponsored by Bethesda Friends Meeting's Environmental Sustainability Group. *Beyond Reducing Carbon Emissions: Active Climate Restoration—Can it Work? What Should Citizens Do?* Short films and 3 speakers: Peter Fiekowsky, founder of the Healthy Climate Alliance (invited), or alternate Susan Lee: Climate Restoration: what is it? Goals and methods; Philip Bogdonoff, Biodiversity for a Living Climate, on biological means to climate restoration; Michael Thompson, Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance Initiative, covering governance issues for climate restoration. Will include a panel discussion, including what citizens can do. Free.

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICANS TODAY, Saturday, October 13, Sandy Spring Friends School (Sandy Spring, MD). Join Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Indian Affairs Committee for a festival of information, dance, food, and more. This event is for people of all ages, and seeks to raise awareness of indigenous peoples who once were the sole residents of this land. 220,000 people in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania are Native Americans – 1% of the population. There are 11 recognized tribes in Virginia (7 are federally recognized) and 3 state recognized tribes in Maryland.

To download a copy of the event flyer, go to https://www.bym-rsf.org/file_download/70ccc570-c9ae-499d-a0ab-b32e2c9a7784. For more information, contact the Indian Affairs Committee at indianaffairs@bym-rsf.org.

PRESENTATION ON LIFE ON THE WEST BANK AND PIPE CREEK ANNUAL REUNION, Sunday, October 14, Pipe Creek Friends Meeting (Union Bridge, MD). Carol Zaru is a professor at McDaniel College and leads the Middle Eastern studies program and Arabic language classes. She is a Palestinian who went to Quaker school in Ramallah. She and her family moved to US in 2001. She is speaking about conditions of life for Palestinian people in the West bank and why she and her family decided to leave. **Meeting for Worship will begin at 10:00am and the presentation will begin at 11:15.** The Meeting's Reunion will begin with a picnic afterward. For more information, contact Anita Virkus. (anitavirkus@gmail.com)

TENTH MONTH INTERIM MEETING, Saturday, October 20, Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Sandy Spring, MD). Get to know Yearly Meeting Committees and Friends from other Meetings! Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Interim Business Meeting. Sandy Spring Friends Meeting will host the Tenth Month Interim Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30. Check the Yearly Meeting website for more information (www.bym-rsf.org/events/interim/tenth18.html).

AT STONY RUN:

- **Saturday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** What were Quaker meetings for worship and business like in the 18th century? Visit the Aisquith Street meetinghouse, oldest (1781) house of worship in Baltimore, for guided tours and historic materials. You can also visit the adjacent 1835 McKim Free School building. For details, go to <https://www.doorsopenbaltimore.org/sites/1781-quaker-meetinghouse/>.
- **Sunday, October 14, at Simple Lunch:** Learn More about FCNL's Work. Sarah Kennedy, the major gifts officer for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), will be attending Meeting for Worship with us at Stony Run. During simple lunch, she will be available to discuss FCNL's 75 - year track record of Quaker service in advance of this year's FCNL annual meeting in Washington, DC on November 29. Sarah's visit is being hosted by Stony Run member Alice Cherbonnier.

AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

Within and Without: Liberation Theology at Work in Social Movements, Oct. 11-14, 2018. We live in a world in which poverty, violence, injustice, and inequality are different manifestations of long and historical oppressions. Many religious faiths share the conviction that love incarnates in concrete actions toward liberating the oppressed from structures and systems that bind them and restoring the human community to dignity and peace with justice. How are we bringing our faith and spiritual practices to exercise the praxis of liberation to which we are called in this historical moment? We invite you to join an interfaith community in exploring how liberation is at work in our religious and social movements today.

Activities abound at Pendle Hill. For a complete list of events, go to <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>.

→ Remember that you can apply for a grant from Trustees.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM):



Amir runs home at the end of his day at the Amari Play Center, a pre-school located in the Amari Refugee Camp. The Center is co-sponsored by Friends United Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL):

The update “Oppose Administration Proposal to Lock Out Immigrants Based on Wealth” by Hannah Graf Evans and Gabriela Viera ends with the suggestions below. For the complete update, go to <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/oppose-administration-proposal-to-lock-out-immigrants-based-on-wealth-1647>.

Talking about Public Charge from a Faith Perspective

Formulate your statements around your beliefs. You can use these messaging prompts to make the points that matter to you most.

- The proposed change to public charge is another way that a punitive immigration system hurts immigrant families.
- Our faith calls us to stand up for people and families facing persecution and oppression at the hands of the powerful. Quakers believe that all people have a spark of the Divine in them, regardless of their wealth or background.
- This proposal would create an immigration system rigged for the wealthy, putting green cards up for sale to the highest bidders.

- It is immoral, unjust, and cruel to force families to choose between being together with stability and meeting basic human needs like food and medical care.
- The consequences of the proposed changes will also affect U.S. citizens who are part of mixed immigration status families, including kids and pregnant women who are in families that use these programs to fulfill basic needs.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (OCTOBER 2018): *Witnessing Whiteness*, by Shelly Tochluk
(continued)

“...We might also stop to imagine when there might be moments when it is important to take a step back and ensure that others have space that does not include us.

“For example, William, an African American, spoke of his experience seeing groups of whites entering a situation that would have felt unapproachable to him had the situation been reversed:

“There is also a sense of privilege, a sense of entitlement. ... you think about the Million Man March. This was a day of atonement, everybody asked, ‘Please let us just have this day for ourselves and this is something we need to do.’ Then you watch CNN or CSPAN ... and you see some white people walking in there anyways.

“For William, although legally allowable, white people entering that space was inappropriate and can only be described as the enactment of privilege. Even if the white people’s intent was to show their support, we should wonder, did they ask whether or not the African Americans who planned and participated in the event desired the support? If we do not see that our everyday behavior often carries a sense of entitlement we will not ask questions about its effects. For this reason, just knowing that we need to ask the question is an important step.”

From *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How To Do It*, by Shelly Tochluk, 2010, pp. 121 - 122. Tochluk, a researcher, counselor and teacher, trains educators to work with the diverse Los Angeles school population as an associate professor of education at Mount St. Mary’s College.

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 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>OCTOBER'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on Oct. 7.

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.; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
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	3rd Sundays at 1:00 p.m.; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	2nd Sundays at 1:00 p.m.; 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.