Twelfth Month (December) 2018

Homewood Friends Meeting Newsletter

3107 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Website: www.homewoodfriends.org
(includes calendar, no password required)

Email: homewoodfriends@gmail.com

Clerk: George Amoss

Phone: 410.235.4438

Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

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

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

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

Humankind and the Environment

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

Civic Responsibility

Friends believe that the aim of government is to preserve a community in which justice, peace, good order and individual development are possible. Members of our Society are also citizens of the community and the nation. Quakerism is not intended to be a refuge from the disturbing events of our times, but rather a source of strength and support in facing them. The free institutions under which we live give many of our members a direct share in the responsibilities of government and in forming a healthy public opinion.

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

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

(Meeting of Quaker Elders at Balby, 1656)

Whether or not directly involved in government, we need to consider carefully our responsibilities in influencing legislation and educating fellow citizens on public issues. Friends should work with people in other churches and in the community to bring about desirable ends through the institutional resources of society.

From the beginning, Friends have found that loyalty to God results at times in refusal of the demands of the state, as in opposition to war and unjust laws, and have supported decisions of conscience taken by individual Friends. Before deciding on a course which involves civil disobedience, a Friend should consult with persons of trusted judgment who have sympathy with the individual's sense of duty. Clearness committees within the Meeting are valuable in such situations.

TRUSTEES FUNDING TO ATTEND QUAKER EVENTS

Trustees has funds to support children and adults who would like to attend Quaker gatherings, camps, and educational institutions. Members and regular attenders may apply at any time, and may be given at maximum one grant per calendar year. These funds are intended to supplement resources available to the participant from other sources. For more information and for the application form, please see our website page: https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/scholarships/.



Pat Tracey shares a legacy of her mother's creative gifts.

Happy December.

CORRESPONDENCE

Former attender **Kathy Angell** writes that she is "doing well in Bryn Mawr, PA outside Philly" and sends her greetings to Homewood Friends.

For those of you who recall our daycare center, here is a special message: I would just like to thank the congregation who hosted the basement daycare at your facility in the 1970's. As a child who needed the daycare, I had a safe place to be while my parents worked. I remember Miss Janet especially, but also John with the ponytail, and another lady whose name I can't recall. They taught me many songs and manners, fed me hot lunches, cared for my rabbit Foo Foo, and listened to me. I would not be the mother I am today without their influence. I know the daycare is no longer at your place of worship, but I thank you again for making it available to my family. Sincerely,

Beth (Clement) Farnham (farnham.beth@gmail.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

<u>HYMN SINGING:</u> December 2 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, December 2, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Childcare is available.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB will not meet this month. Please join us in January.

POTLUCK LUNCH: Sunday, December 9.

<u>WELCOMING FOR JANET ABRAMS</u> will be on **Sunday, December 9 at 3 p.m.** at the home of Barbara Bezdek. All are welcome. Susan Johns Smith is the contact person (410-458-1835).

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE: Sunday, December 9, 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.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

- 12/2 Christmas play development with Rory and Meri
- 12/9 Play rehearsal with Rory and Second Adult
- 12/16 Play rehearsal with Rory and Meri
- 12/23 Final rehearsal with performance at the rise of meeting
- 12/30 No First Day School. Games and art for those who come.

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.



EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY EXSUL VAN HELDEN: The art show continues through December 9, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. weekdays and of course open on Sundays. News of people being forced to lose their homes due to wars, oppression, and persecution haunts Homewood attender Exsul Van Helden. His response has been to create striking images of these events, which give new visual meaning to the situations. The 21 paintings portray people from Iraq, Lebanon, Central America, Germany, Belarus, Israel, Russia and Africa.

Exsul has made three films focusing on minorities: *Women Between Worlds*, *New Roots*, and *A Circus Like No Other*. At screenings, he engages audiences in discussions of the social issues of immigration and belonging to a minority. His website is *exsulvanhelden.com*.

Should any of the paintings be sold, Exsul will donate the proceeds to the International Rescue Committee

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT: Sunday, December 23 (4th Sunday), 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

QUAKERS IN RECOVERY GROUP

The recovery group for adults continues on the **last Wednesday of each month**, **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Please join our fellowship of recovering Quakers at our meetinghouse. For more information, email Kevin-Douglas Olive (<u>kdolive@hotmail.com</u>) or call 443-930-6277. **Next meeting: Wednesday**, **December 26.**

<u>PEACE VIGIL</u>: Since 9/11/2001, we have held a vigil for peace every Friday evening. As autumn rolls on toward the seasons of hope: harvest, thanks giving, solstice, the birth of the Christ child, Hanukkah — the Homewood Peace and Social Justice thanks you for your roles in our weekly Peace Vigils in 2018. This is a nourishing and engaging public witness and spiritual practice as friends join to hold out our Light of love: Black lives matter, cease fire, Love thy Neighbor: no exceptions, and No Hate.

We will vigil on Dec 7 and on Dec 14, 5-6 p.m. The Committee is looking at possibilities for holding vigil on a different day of the week and slightly later time, in 2019.

Homewood Friends Meeting's

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PEACE VIGIL AND PARTY

Friday, December 14

<u>5-6 p.m.</u> Our annual Candlelight vigil visioning *Peace on Earth*. Candles provided. Bring friends!

<u>6 p.m.</u> Followed by our annual Christmas party with Good Festivity, Fellowship, Music, and Food. We will share food, sing carols, raise funds for a goat (Heifer Project).

FROM OUR LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Hello! We wanted to remind you that Homewood's library is available to you. Members of the library committee will be there after meeting most Sundays, so come visit Michael Prior, David Sydlik, Henry Kennison, Mandy McMahan and Polly Heninger in the library. We've also acquired a computer for use in the library. You can use the computer to search for books in our collection. It's also available for general use, although library purposes have priority. Enjoy!

<u>WORLD QUAKER DAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019</u>: A Call to Those Interested in Learning More about Quakers around the Globe

World Quaker Day, a project of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), has been observed by the diverse communities of Friends from Australia to Finland and from Kenya to the United States for the last five years. The purpose is to recognize and celebrate the rich variety of manners of worship and culture along with the radically loving spirit that connects Friends around the world, one to another. Did you know that there are approximately 400,000 Friends around the world with nearly half of those residing in Kenya? Clearly, there is a very big world of Friends out there far beyond the borders of North America or the United Kingdom! If you would like to learn more about the world family of Friends, please see the FWCC website at World Quaker Day . And if you would like to participate in planning a World Quaker Day event at Homewood next October, please contact John McKusick at john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net.

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 early in 2019.

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM: "GOAT NOAT" FOR DECEMBER 2018

"I'm dreaming of a green New Year" (sung to the tune of "White Christmas")

If you would like to make New Year resolutions to reduce your carbon footprint, increase the percentage of clean and renewable energy used in your home and community, and/or work for environmental justice in 2019, Homewood's Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) would like to help you learn how to achieve these goals. GOAT will be conducting a survey to identify areas of strong interest for workshops, demonstrations, and discussions that will serve as springboards for personal, family, and community change in 2019. The survey, which will be available in paper (recycled, of course) and online formats will be unveiled at the Homewood holiday potluck dinner on Friday, December 14th. GOAT hopes that everyone who considers themselves part of the Homewood

community will participate in the survey, which will be available from December 14th, 2018 to January 6th, 2019.

One Goat can Make a Huge Difference in a Family's Life

During December, GOAT will be collecting monetary donations to **Heifer International** toward the purchase of one (or more) goat(s). One goat donated to an agrarian family in Africa can substantially improve the nutritional and economic health of the family as well as increase agricultural output. In the words of Heifer International, "giving an animal to a family is like giving a small business. Animal donations are a way of giving a family a hand up and increased access to medical care, education, and a sustainable livelihood." Sponsorship for a goat is \$130. We will pool our contributions to purchase one or more goats. However, individuals donating via check will receive a charitable donation document from Heifer International.

Committee members: Carol Beck, Caitlyn Behnke, Gary Gillespie, Cathy Hanson, Polly Heninger (clerk), Bess Keller, John McKusick, and Stephan Rogers. We are an open committee. Join us!

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS Wicker Basket recipient for December is Paul's Place. Their website explains, "Paul's Place is a catalyst and leader for change, improving the quality of life in the Southwest Baltimore communities. Paul's Place provides programs, services, and support that strengthen individuals and families, fostering hope, personal dignity and growth.... The individuals and families living in Southwest Baltimore City will have full access to high quality health care, education, employment, and housing along with the other support necessary for stability and self-sufficiency." Their website is https://paulsplaceoutreach.org/. 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>YES - Youth Empowered Society</u> - is a local homeless youth drop-in center that Homewood supports. They are asking for furniture, coats, blankets, and donations; as the temperature gets colder, YES provides many youths with housing and drop in services. If you have donations, please bring them by YES office at 2315 N. Charles on Fridays or contact Nick Brooks at Nick@YesDropInCenter.org to arrange an alternative time.

FRIENDS HOUSE MAILING LIST: Friends House Retirement Community has asked Friends to consider sharing their email and/or postal addresses with them. Those who do so will receive up to three newsletters about Friends House's expansion effort. Those who elect to contribute may also receive future appeals. We have decided to do this on an opt-in basis, so please contact the office by email or phone if you are willing to have either or both addresses given to Friends House. If you are not so willing, please consider responding to their appeal: we will publish information about it as appropriate.

HOMEWOOD IS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Remember that our committees and teams can share with the wider community our events and announcements on Facebook and Instagram!

Additionally, tag Homewood with any Facebook or Instagram posts with relevant things you are doing. We also have a hashtag #HomewoodQuakers.

<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. **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 this month.

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).

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

<u>SINGING FOR EVERYONE</u>: Sunday, December 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the home of Judy and Mark, 1903 Indian Head Road, 410-337-3701. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, if you have one.

BALTIMORE STRIDE SQUARE DANCE FUNDRAISER: December 15th, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2200 St. Paul St. Join us for a night of dancing, food, music, and fun at Lovely Lane with calling and music by Slim Harrison! Reminisce with old friends and make new ones while supporting genuine diversity at Baltimore Yearly Meeting summer camps. Tickets: sliding scale \$5 - \$20. Additional contributions welcome. Kids 12 and under dance for free!

SING IN THE NEW YEAR: January 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Gunpowder Friends Meeting (Sparks, MD). All are welcome to a day of joyful community singing. Come for all or part of the day. There will be nourishment for the body and the soul, including morning refreshments, a warm lunch, and afternoon snacks. For more information, (including overnight hospitality) contact Marilyn Rothstein. (443-578-8430)

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT, January 25-27, Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD (near Baltimore). The theme is "Women's Treasure: Honoring Our Time and Talents." Registration is now open for the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat. Join your BYM sisters in worship, song, reflection, walking in the woods, learning in workshops, worship sharing, and more. Together, let us explore the treasures within and among us. How do we become aware of our own gifts and talents? How do we choose to use and nourish them? Do we "prize our time"? How can we help each other grow in awareness of what we give, and what we receive, as we live in spiritual community?

For more information and to offer a workshop, to volunteer, or to share your crafts, go to http://womensretreat.bym-rsf.net/.

For the best rate, register before December 21. Registration will close on January 7; after that, you be placed on a waitlist and will be able to attend only if someone cancels.

→ Participants can request financial support from the Davis Fund managed by Trustees.

AT STONY RUN

Programmed Meeting for Worship, Sunday, December 9, from 2 to 4 p.m., followed by social time. Everyone is invited to this monthly (on the second First Day) worship with Kenyan and Evangelical/ Orthodox Quakers from the Baltimore area. For information, contact Sujata Massey (410-240-4086 or sujatamassey@mac.com).

Carol Sing Evenings! Sundays, December 9, 16 & 23, at 7 p.m. Join in for an hour of fun and music for all ages. On the final Carol Sing evening, there will be refreshments after the singing. Speak with David Macfarlane for information.

AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

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):

Meg and Arthur Boyd (members of Stony Run) will be serving as Living Letters for six months at Ramallah Friends School, helping with administration in the Quaker tradition, teaching, fundraising, and serving as Friendly presences. In their own words:

We have just begun a six-month period of service at Ramallah Friends School as "Living Letters" from Friends (Quakers) in the United States to Palestinians of all faith traditions. We'd like to tell you a bit about what we are doing here, and why we are doing it. ...

"But what will you do there?"

That is the first question friends ask of us. We will listen, rooted in love. We will be present with those we meet, amid the walls of separation, knowing their days hold distress and hardship we will not fully understand.

"But what leads you to do this?"

We first met the Head of School, Adrian Moody, when he visited the U.S. a year ago. As we listened to him speak about RFS, we were impressed with the vision and leadership he brings to the school. Although he is Catholic and most parents are Muslim, he spoke about how both he and the parents want the school's Quaker values to be more evident at the school. The RFS School Board, the majority of whom are residents of Ramallah with world-wide education and work experience, needs strengthening in governing in the Quaker tradition. The Arabic-speaking youth need fluency in English to flourish in the all-English high school—and chances to practice while in middle school. Financial management and fundraising, as in all non-profit schools, need constant attention.

And so Adrian's volunteer wish list continued. And each of us, Meg and Arthur, found ourselves thinking "I could do that." Then, if that is true, came the thought, "We should offer to do that." "But can we?"

We listened to the Spirit moving in us. We asked our Friends Meeting to hold a "clearness committee" meeting with us to test our leading, and they thought us well suited to this calling. Then, as Friends say, way opened for us to do what God put before us.

Friends who have done periods of service such as this in parts of the world where people are under distress, hardship, and fear of violence, told us that regardless of what you hope to do, your greatest service will be to listen and to be present.

As we told friends about this leading, often came the question, "How can we help?"

Here is what we ask. Be present with us: think of us, pray for us and the Palestinians. As Friends say, "hold us in the Light."

We're covering our own expenses and contributing our time to this ministry, and the school is providing us with housing. In addition, we ask you to partner with us to support Ramallah Friends School. In particular, we invite you to support Adrian Moody as Head of School. He is released for service by Friends in the U.S., separately from the budget of the school, and he currently stands in need of more supporters. ...

Upon our return to the U.S., in March 2019, we would welcome invitations to speak to congregations and groups about our experiences. Interested? Email us, at arthur.m.boyd(at)gmail.com or meg.boyd.meyer(at)gmail.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BYM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Development Director is responsible for identifying, cultivating, soliciting and securing new and ongoing gifts from individuals and foundations in support of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM) ministries and programs. The Development Director builds relationships and affinity for BYM and for the future of the Religious Society of Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting. Candidates must have a minimum of five years of relevant and successful fundraising experience. **For more details and a complete job description, go to** www.bym-

<u>rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/development/directorsearch.html</u>. **To apply**, please send a cover letter, resume, and list of three references to: Development Director Search at <u>applications@bym-rsf.org</u>.

OPEQUON QUAKER CAMP DIRECTOR

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) is seeking a Director (or Co-Directors) for the 2019 camp season for Opequon Quaker Camp, a residential camp for children ages 9-14. This is a part-time year round position, with full time responsibilities during the summer camping season, June 19 – August 15th. To apply please send a resume and letter of interest along with three references to: jane@bymcamps.org. If you have questions, please contact Jane at 717-481-4870. Please apply by December 31, 2018. We hope to have a new director in place by the end of January. Copies of the complete job description are available at bymcamps.org/about-us/employment/.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE SEEKS ASSOCIATE RESIDENT MANAGER

William Penn House seeks a team-oriented individual committed to radical hospitality, building community, and supporting peace and justice activism based on Quaker values and testimonies to join our resident management team as Associate Resident Manager. The WPH resident community provides a Quaker presence and welcoming environment for guests of the House. Managers are part of a dynamic team including interns, volunteers, and non-resident staff who demonstrate and encourage a commitment to peace- and justice-building, simplicity, loving presence, and spiritual community. For the full announcement, including the job description and application instructions, go to williampennhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Associate-Resident-Manager-William-Penn-House.pdf.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (DECEMBER 2018): FGC Institutional Assessment

"For years, Friends of Color have told stories of racism and marginalization in their Monthly Meetings, at Gathering, in Committee Meetings, and at Central Committee. The stories include travel, hospitality, and many 'peculiar' traditions of Friends General Conference (FGC) and of the affiliated Yearly and Monthly Meetings. Some Friends of Color wonder why FGC needs to spend money on an assessment process when we have heard these stories. It is the hope of those Friends who have committed time, energy and resources to gathering this information that a historic review of the stories will provide a description of how deeply systemic racism is embedded in our culture. The stories, paired with a collection of qualitative and quantitative data collected during 2018, could not only help FGC Quakers of European Descent finally see the full complexity/depth of the problem but could inspire Friends to change how our language, our processes, and our unexamined traditions have pushed Friends of Color away from our community. This report reflects a desire for transformation that will strengthen our beloved community.

"... Vanessa Julye proposes white supremacy as a direct threat to living into blessed community where everyone has value.... White supremacy restricts the creation of a blessed community because it makes it difficult for people of color to be a part of the community. White supremacy is white dominance. In this culture, what is considered 'American'is really European-American culture. If you are a part of that culture and fit into that culture, you don't notice it. It is invisible. If you accept a structure as normal, there's no need to change it."

From Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference as Reported October 2018. See the full report here:

https://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/default/files/attachments/IA%20Task%20Force%20report%20-%20final.pdf

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 July and August. We consider issues around racial justice, share personal experiences, and plan and host special events. All are welcome to attend, on a regular or drop-in basis.

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday) 10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (downstairs in summer) Every Tuesday 11:30 a.m. at Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House (under the

care of Stony Run Friends Meeting)

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

DECEMBER'S BUSINESS MEETING will be on Dec. 2.

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

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

Green Organizing Action Team 3rd Sundays, 9:15 a.m.; contact Polly Heninger, 410.419.2305

(GOAT)-- OPEN

Hospitality—OPEN As called; contact Ned Worth, 443.600.9380

House & Grounds—OPEN
Library—OPEN

2nd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., contact Charlie Neill, 410.323-8504
Sundays, 12:30 p.m.; contact Polly Heninger, 410.419.2305

Peace & Justice Committee— 2nd Sundays at 1:00 p.m.; contact Barbara Bezdek,

OPEN 410.377.4205

Ministry & Counsel 1st Wednesdays; contact Ann Walker Kennedy, 410.426.5836

Religious Education—OPEN **2nd Tuesdays,** 7:15 p.m., meeting house; contact <u>John</u>

McKusick, 410.377.2797

Trustees 3rd 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.

