

Second Month (February) 2019

# Homewood Friends Meeting

## *Newsletter*

3107 North Charles Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Website: [www.homewoodfriends.org](http://www.homewoodfriends.org)

(includes calendar, no password required)

Phone: 410.235.4438

Email: [homewoodfriends@gmail.com](mailto:homewoodfriends@gmail.com)

Clerk: George Amoss

Assistant Clerk: Susan Russell Walters

Newsletter Editor: Mina Brunyate

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

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

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

### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, Advices for the Second Query:**

#### **Meetings for Business**

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

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

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

When a matter requiring decision is placed before the Meeting by the Clerk or any other member, all who feel concerned to express their views should be heard. The Clerk should make sure that all points

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

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

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### ***UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD***

**BALTIMORE CEASEFIRE VIGIL, Friday, February 1, 5-6 p.m.** This regularly scheduled vigil will observe the beginning of another Ceasefire weekend. We will have warm drinks and cookies for vigilers. Come and meet like-minded people, and learn about the Ceasefire Movement. Stay for the Hinenu event immediately following at 6:30 p.m.

**NO HYMN SINGING on February 3 (first Sunday);** Dave will be away.

**MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, February 3, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room.** Childcare is available.

**YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS) POTLUCK: February 3 (first Sunday).** Contact Maya Muñoz (301-703-0522) or Dave Sydlik (484-264-8489) for details.

**QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, February 10, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room.** We will discuss pages 33-38 of *Practicing Peace* by Catherine Whitmire (postponed from January because of the snow). Please try to read the Introduction as well. Copies of the reading are available on the table in the library, and you can order the book: <https://quakerbooks.org/products/practicing-peace-4073>.

**POTLUCK LUNCH: Sunday, February 10.**

**HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE: Sunday, February 10, 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.

**HOMEWOOD MEETING and its PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE INVITE YOU** to a conversation with **Jacob Flowers, Regional Director of the American Friends Service Committee, on Sunday, February 10, at 1:00 p.m. in the Homewood Meeting library.** We will explore how we might rekindle local work and deepen our connection with the AFSC.

Jacob is invited to join us for worship and lunch before the conversation.

In Peace,  
George Amoss, Clerk of Meeting  
Barbara Bezdek, Peace Committee

### **GROWING A QUAKER VOICE IN ANNAPOLIS**

**CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING: Saturday, February 23 here at Homewood (snow date is March 9).** All Maryland Quaker meetings are invited to send representatives to this specially called meeting to review pending legislation in Annapolis of interest to Quakers. The envisioned outcome of this meeting is to set up a mechanism to enhance Quaker advocacy in Maryland for the 2019 legislative session and perhaps beyond.

**9:30** Coffee/Refreshments  
**10:00** Welcome/Overview  
**10:15** Worship  
**10:45** Power of Legislative Advocacy  
**11:15** Break  
**11:30** Criminal Justice Reform Legislation  
**12:00** The Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act  
**12:30** Lunch (provided)  
**1:45** Other Pending Maryland Legislation  
**2:15** Small Group Discussion (grouped by interest)  
**3:00** Specially Called Business Meeting:  
*What to do next to enhance MD Quaker legislative advocacy?*  
**4:30** Adjourn

**EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT: Sunday, February 24 (4th Sunday), 9:15 a.m. in the library,** led by Susan Russell Walters.

### **FIRST DAY SCHOOL**

**February 3rd:** Old Testament Lesson with Rory and Meri  
**February 10th:** Service Project with John and Joanna (Fitzick)  
**February 17th:** Old Testament Lesson with Rory and Meri  
**February 24th:** Arts and/or Crafts with Susie

### **SAVE THE DATE for Homewood Family Camping Trip to Catoctin Quaker Camp**

*Friday, April 26th Evening through Sunday, April 28th Noon.* Sponsored by the Religious Education Committee. Open to Homewood Friends members, attenders, and friends. Come for two nights, one night, or the day. Mark your calendars! More details to come in March.

## **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 ([kdolive@hotmail.com](mailto:kdolive@hotmail.com)) or call 443-930-6277. **Next meeting: Wednesday, February 27.**

## **AN INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL DEEPENING**

Would you like to learn some new ways to center in meeting for worship? Do you wonder how you could prepare for worship during the week? Have you been puzzled by what it means for the meeting to be gathered? Do you sometimes think that you are being called to vocal ministry but aren't sure how to really tell when you are supposed to deliver a message? When you leave meeting for worship, do you wonder what message to carry home with you? Spiritual Deepening is an opportunity for us to address these important questions.

For the next four months, there will be a monthly, mid-week (Thursday) worship sharing which we are calling Spiritual Deepening. During worship sharing, we will use William Taber's *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* as a springboard to address these questions and others. Spiritual Deepening is an opportunity for us to feel more grounded in worship. It is open to all, whether you were able to attend the November 2018 retreat or not, and it is for everyone, at any level of spiritual practice.

We will meet on the last Thursdays of February (2/28), March (3/28), April (4/25), and May (5/30). On the first night, Feb. 28, we will meet at 7 p.m. and end at around 9 p.m. We will discuss whether to share a meal before the next group meetings. Copies of Taber's pamphlet will be available for purchase in the office for \$7 each.

February 28:	Introduction & The First Door: The Door Before
March 28:	The Second Door: The Door Inward
April 25:	The Third Door: The Door Within
May 30:	The Fourth Door: The Door Beyond

We invite you to join us for this experience, which we believe will be a wonderful opportunity for learning from each other. Please RSVP to the office your intention to attend at [homewoodfriends@gmail.com](mailto:homewoodfriends@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please call or email either Janet Abrams ([jmabrams1@gmail.com](mailto:jmabrams1@gmail.com) 443-980-1615) or Susan Russell Walters ([susan1624@gmail.com](mailto:susan1624@gmail.com) 410-377-3328).

**REGISTRATION FOR BYM CAMPS is now open.** Their website clarifies, "Our goal is to foster the kind of self-esteem that facilitates spiritual growth. Opportunities for such growth are created in the process of supporting campers through challenging experiences. Success in negotiating rapids or exploring artistic creativity offers a deep strength from which to accept the challenge and risk of turning inward toward the Light. Typically, a camper goes home a more competent, confident person whose spiritual roots have deepened and whose ties to the broader Quaker community have strengthened." For more information, go to <https://bymcamps.org/>.

→Financial aid is available from Trustees. To apply, go to <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/scholarships/>.



### **PEACE VIGIL**

**Every Friday, 5-6 p.m.** Since 9/11/2001, we have held a vigil for peace every Friday evening. Join in at any time during the hour. The current focus is “BLACK LIVES MATTER” and “We Are All One People.” The Peace and Justice Committee is looking at possibilities for holding vigil on a different day of the week and slightly later time, in 2019.

**THE LIBRARY IS ALWAYS OPEN**, but if you would like assistance, someone from the Library Committee will be there to help you after meeting for worship on most Sundays. Stop by and say hello! Library Committee: Dave Sydlík, Henry Kennison, Mandy McMahan, Michael Prior, Polly Heninger

**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 FEBRUARY 2019**

As always, GOAT has much news. Here are 2 articles about different ways to transform our environmental leadings into reality.

#### **John McKusick with Maryland State Assembly news:**

The Maryland State Assembly is in session and considering a number of environmental bills. Based upon input from Homewood Friends on a survey\* conducted in December and early January, GOAT is urging Friends to support passage of two particular pieces of legislation: the Clean Energy Jobs Act and a Statewide Ban on Polystyrene Foam.

The Clean Energy Jobs Act sets Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements for Maryland to reach 50% clean, renewable energy used to generate electricity by 2030 with a confirmed plan to reach 100% by 2040. See more information at Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act (MCEJA). Despite the very good outlook for the bill’s passage, we must be sure that the bill is not watered down and that the Governor supports it. Currently, incinerated trash is included in the state’s RPS calculation despite the

fact that “trash to energy” operations produce health threatening air and water pollution. The MECJA would eliminate trash for cash deals.

Several jurisdictions in Maryland have already passed bans on the use of polystyrene foam (aka Styrofoam) by restaurants and food markets. This includes Baltimore and Annapolis. A statewide ban would significantly diminish trash and pollution of Maryland’s streams and coastlines. See more information at Trash Free Maryland: [Polystyrene Foam Ban in Maryland](#).

At the time of this writing, specific bill numbers have not been assigned to these pieces of legislation. GOAT will provide updates on the progress of these bills during the Assembly session that runs until April 8<sup>th</sup>. We will also provide guidance as to how Friends can learn more about these bills and engage in advocacy for them.

\*Thirty members and attenders completed the survey of topics and issues of greatest concern. The top issues identified were *Plastics Pollution: Understanding and Responding to the Grave Threat to the Planet* and *How to Become an Effective Advocate for Climate Justice*.

### **Bess Keller on Working with GreenFaith:**

This school year I am a “fellow” with GreenFaith, an interfaith coalition for the environment that seeks to help people of faith increase the number and effectiveness of environmental stewards. Homewood Friends and GOAT are serving as one of my two institutional sponsors. (The other is Friends of Herring Run Parks).

A central feature of the fellowship is creating a network of faith-oriented environmental activists from around the world. Two retreats, one in November and the other in May 2019, are an important means to that end. About 20 fellows gathered last month for the first retreat at a Catholic retreat center near Newark, NJ, to

- meet one another in person, share religious traditions and environmental interests,
- learn about GreenFaith’s approach to organizing, and
- visit “brown field” sites in and near Newark that have been the subject of GreenFaith’s and others’ environmental justice work.

Fellows hailed from the U.S. coasts and Colorado, Chile, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the Philippines. We were Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and Christian. I was the only Quaker. The sense of urgency about climate change and disruption was palpable in the group.

The one other fellow from Maryland and I traveled to New Jersey together. Kori, who lives in Cheverly, is an African-American, a Muslim very active in her masjid, the mother of five daughters and a Girl Scout leader. Her masjid is planning for a new building, which will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. For her GreenFaith project, she wants to develop the guidelines that will make the practices in the masjid as green as the new building.

Ideas for my GreenFaith project are welcome! And please, ask me questions about GreenFaith or the fellowship program.

**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!

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING BOXES FROM GREENDISK** are available again. eMedia Recycling includes CDs, CD-Rs, and CD-RWs; DVDs; Blu-Ray; 3.5" floppy disks, 5.25" floppy disks, and zip disks; VHS, audio cassette, DAT, DLT, Beta, and Digibeta tapes; and cases.

**Technotrash "Can" items** include computer drives; GPS units; computer speakers; video games; small electronics; communication devices; film; players (VCR, DVD, TIVO, BluRay, etc.); and miscellaneous items including cables, chargers, adaptors, headphones, cords, cables, chips, etc. For more information, contact John McKusick at 410-830-9225 or [john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net](mailto:john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net).

*The boxes are in the foyer. We cannot accept desktop computers, printers, copying machines, or radios.*

**WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS** The Wicker Basket recipient for February is the **International Rescue Committee**. From their website: "When there is a crisis the IRC is there, whether at the U.S.-Mexico border or in war-torn Yemen. We respond to the world's worst crises helping refugees to survive, recover and rebuild their lives. The IRC is in the top 1 percent of charities ranked by Charity Navigator and we continue to receive an A+ from CharityWatch. Your gift will be used wisely in support of our work around the world." *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>.*

### **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.

**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 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 meeting room if you can provide simple lunch this month. Even if you can't provide simple lunch, bring in whatever leftovers you have, whether they feed 2 people or 5. The more, the merrier!

**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***

**SINGING FOR EVERYONE:** **Sunday, February 10, from 7-9 p.m.**, at the home of Judy Davidoff, 6213 Sareva Drive, Baltimore 21209 (off of Northcliff, in Mount Washington), 410-484-3246. Because of various upcoming date conflicts, Singing for Everyone will be moving to the **second Sunday of each month**. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, if you have one.

### **AT STONY RUN**

**Programmed Meeting for Worship, Sunday, February 10, 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](mailto:sujatamassey@mac.com)).

**“Stop the Hurt - 5 Steps to Stop Implicit Bias,” Sunday, February 10, at 9:15 a.m. in the Stony Run dining room.** The Working Group on Racism will show and discuss this video. This is the first half of a two-part forum that will conclude on February 24. Dr. Amanda Kemp, a racial justice and mindfulness mentor, and a Friend from Lancaster, PA, produced the video. She says, “This video helps you to notice, challenge and replace negative stereotypes and biases.” Dr. Kemp is a consultant to Baltimore Yearly Meeting and, along with Erica Fitz, is leading the trainings for local meetings’ Change Groups.

**“Stop the Hurt - 5 Steps to Stop Implicit Bias,” Sunday, February 24, at 9:15 a.m. in the Stony Run dining room.** This is the second half of a two-part forum. Dr. Amanda Kemp, a racial justice and mindfulness mentor, and a Friend from Lancaster, PA, produced the video. She says, “This video helps you to notice, challenge and replace negative stereotypes and biases.” Dr. Kemp is a consultant to Baltimore Yearly Meeting and, along with Erica Fitz, is leading the trainings for local meetings’ Change Groups.

**YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE, February 22 – 24 at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Sandy Spring, MD).** Young Friends should plan to begin arriving at 7:00 p.m. on Friday. For information, check the Young Friends website ([www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/yfs/yfcon.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yfs/yfcon.html)) or contact Jocelyn Dowling (301-774-7663). Remember that the deadline to register at the discounted rate and be guaranteed a slot is two weeks before the conference (February 8). Any one registering after that date may be placed on a waiting list.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RETREAT, February 23, 10-3:30 p.m., with a snow date of April 13th, at Frederick Friends Meeting (Frederick, MD).** Please join us for a day focused on Teaching Friends across the Generations: A Day for Sharing our Wisdom and Inspiring One Another. The morning will focus on what we have found most meaningful and successful in our individual meetings. We will share with each other our most successful lessons and programmatic approaches and have time to hear from a couple of our elder teachers. In the afternoon we will brainstorm ideas about some common challenges we face (e.g., unpredictable attendance, honoring differences in children while keeping the group together, shrinking and inconsistent attendance, establishing a nurturing and constructive environment for teachers/teacher recruitment). We will close, by exploring and developing an idea which emerged from our RE discussion/listening groups: Learning Boxes for Teaching Across the Generations. This would involve developing “Learning Boxes” or resource packets which would contain lesson plans, book recommendations, etc. for each age group-from preschool to adult RE. Each Learning Box would focus on one particular theme or topic, such as simplicity or compassion. All members of the Meeting would concurrently study some aspect of the same theme, giving an opportunity for increased intergenerational cohesion and interaction. For this retreat to be most



productive, we need you. If you can't make it, please recruit someone from your Meeting to attend. For information or to register, please contact Ellen Arginteanu, at [ellenandjules@protonmail.com](mailto:ellenandjules@protonmail.com) or 814-206-6712.

### **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.

### **NEW CAMP OPEQUON DIRECTOR**

We are excited to announce that Baltimore Yearly Meeting has hired Sean Hickey to be the next Director of Opequon Quaker Camp. Sean attended Catoctin, Shiloh, and TA as a camper, and worked as a counselor and on the staff at Opequon for 7 years. He has also served as Kitchen Manager at Opequon.

In his work outside of Opequon, Sean is a masters student in the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab where he focuses on designing and engaging kids in new learning experiences through artistic creation. He also taught high school computer science and worked on the library & technology team at the Blake School in Minneapolis. Sean has also worked as a teaching artist for several organizations. More than anything, he loves being creative, laughing with kids, making pizza, and learning to play the trombone at the School of HONK in Somerville, MA.



## **BYM EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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.bymrsf.org/what we do/committees/development/directorsearch.html](http://www.bymrsf.org/what_we_do/committees/development/directorsearch.html)**. **To apply**, please send a cover letter, resume, and list of three references to: Development Director Search at [applications@bym-rsf.org](mailto:applications@bym-rsf.org).

## **EDUCATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**The Jonathan K. Taylor Swarthmore College Scholarship Fund** is administered by Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run to provide support to students attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA. Preference goes to members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting community. For the 2019-2020 academic year, there are funds up to \$15,000 to be distributed among the successful applicants. For more information, or to apply by the **April 20 deadline**, contact Cindy Maier at [cynthiamaier13@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiamaier13@gmail.com).

### **Miles White Beneficial Society Grants for Educational Organizations**

The Miles White Beneficial Society, a charitable organization affiliated with the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), is accepting applications for grants up to \$5000 to non-profit 501(c)3 educational organizations in the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan area.

Preference for awarding grants will be given to those organizations that are associated with the Society of Friends and that are providing educational opportunities, including books and instructional materials, for young people. **The application deadline is March 15, 2019.** For more information, go to <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/othernews.html#grants>.

## ***QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY***

### **FRIENDS UNITED MEETING**

From Katrina and Shawn McConaughy, Africa Ministries Programme Officers:

“ ‘Kalenda’ means Calendar

It is a new year and while I (Katrina) might not be big into New Year’s Resolutions, I love a new calendar. It is clean and empty and holds so many possibilities for the year ahead. I savor the sitting down with the old calendar and the new one side by side and going through them page by page. I transfer the names and birthdays of all my family and friends and think about past celebrations, how the littles have grown, or friends I may have lost contact with. In recent years my calendar is the closest thing I have to a journal and re-reading it tells me about my priorities and reminds me of the highs and lows of everyday life.

One of the cultural adjustments we are making here is learning about how East Africans view time. In general, the passage of time has more to do with the nurturing of events and relationships than with accomplishing tasks. This does not mean that individuals and businesses don’t care about schedules and time but people and relationships will trump our western definitions of accomplishment and efficiency every time. Time doesn’t just pass or get spent or used or wasted; it must be lived and experienced. This is both a frustrating and a beautiful thing.

Part of our job here is to sit (ex-officio) on several boards and planning committees. Our previous life experience on boards and committees has often been that the board sets its meeting dates for the entire year or even more. My western linear heart has been conditioned to love and expect this, whereas many boards and committees here will plan a meeting or event less than a week out. Everyone else cheerfully drops whatever else they are doing and is willing to sacrifice a great deal of their personal time while my reaction is, “are you kidding me?!?”

Psalms 90:12 says “Teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” I like this verse but my reading of it has often had a couple of problems. First of all, I read it with a western eye and interpret “numbering my days” as a linear exercise of crossing off each day on my calendar and feeling satisfied with what I’ve accomplished, planning ahead to make the most of the days that I have. Secondly, I too often stop after the first part of the verse and forget that the goal is to gain a heart of wisdom. What if numbering my days is less about planning ahead and more about recognizing the brevity of life and being present to the events and people that I am presently with? What if one of my goals each day in Kenya is less about accomplishing something or being successful and more about gaining a heart of wisdom?

I will probably always love my calendar and love the process of filling it in, checking off my to-do lists and holding the illusion that I have much control over my future. And that’s OK. But perhaps you would hold us in prayer as we practice the spiritual disciplines of planning and also being fully present to the people we are with. Pray that we would gain hearts of wisdom.

## **QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS**

**You may have heard about this Friends’ organization and would like to know more. Here is an introduction, from their website at <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/about-us>:**

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a network of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in North America and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address ecological and social crises from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies, including continuing revelation.

QEW has grown over the last 25 years out of a deepening sense of spiritual connection with the natural world. Out of this has come an urgency to work on climate and related issues.

### **OUR WORK**

Engaging and Connecting stems from a desire to create larger community in this action. Read more. Deepening Spirituality stems from a conviction and consciousness that the global crisis of ecological sustainability is at root a spiritual crisis. Read more.

Living our Testimonies stems from the need to change what we do and how we do it to get in right relationship with Earth. Read more.

Speaking Out to local, national and international audiences that Creation is to be held in reverence in its own right, and that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring Earth’s ecological integrity. Read more.

### **OUR GOALS**

We seek to

- Nurture and share spirit inspired continuing revelation that awakens, transforms, and empowers effective action to meet the physical challenges we face.
- Turn to our Friends’ roots, develop a Friends’ response plan, pose the right queries and questions, and give us hope.
- Work with other Quaker organizations, including: FCNL, QUNO and QIF to develop a strong Quaker voice and actions on living in right relationship.
- Use our website and other social media to enable our constituency to share concerns and information on vital issues, tell our stories of what we are trying to do to address these problems, and help each other make the transformational changes that are necessary for us to address the ecological, social and spiritual crises that we face.

### **THINKING ABOUT RACE (FEBRUARY 2019): “Mindful of Race”**

This excerpt is from the 2018 book *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside Out* by Ruth King:

"After several days of teaching in Washington, DC, I was able to score tickets to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. My partner and I took a taxi to the museum. After clarifying our destination, the driver, a middle-aged white male and acknowledged Trump supporter, shared that he had never visited the museum and was disturbed because the building's design stood out like a "sore thumb" on the Museum Mall. He stated with puzzlement, 'Why couldn't they make the building fit in with the other museums on the Mall? What does it have to look so different? I think it's the ugliest building I've ever seen. It simply does not fit in.' My partner and I, two elder black women sitting in the back seat of his car, looked at each other with clear eyes. I replied, 'That is the story of our lives in this country as black Americans. We don't fit in and don't want to fit in. And why should we? The museum is about us defining ourselves and sharing our history. Of course it would look different from any other museum on the Mall.' To which he replied, 'Hmm, I never thought about it that way.' To which I replied, 'I hope you have a chance to visit the Museum. It will likely give you more to think about.' "

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<sup>rd</sup> 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.



Free Winter Trees Cliparts

### ***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 <b><u>FEBRUARY'S BUSINESS MEETING</u></b> will be on Feb. 3.

### ***Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings***

Administrative	<b>Odd months last Sundays</b> 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> , 9:15 a.m.; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
Hospitality—OPEN	<b>As called</b> ; contact <u>Ned Worth</u> , 443.600.9380
House & Grounds—OPEN	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> at 7:30 p.m., contact <u>Charlie Neill</u> , 410.323-8504
Library—OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> , 12:30 p.m.; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	<b>2nd Sundays</b> at 1:00 p.m.; contact <u>Barbara Bezdek</u> , 410.377.4205
Ministry & Counsel	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays</b> ; contact <u>Ann Walker Kennedy</u> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> , 7:15 p.m., meeting house; contact <u>John McKusick</u> , 410.377.2797
Trustees	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays</b> ; 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](http://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.*