

Fourth Month (April) 2019

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Fourth Query: Personal Spiritual Life

Do you make time for meditation, prayer, and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support, and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in return?

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

The Divine Spirit, which Friends variously call the Inner Light, the Light of Truth, the Christ Within, That of God in Everyone, has power to reveal, to overcome evil, and to enable us to carry out God's will. Quaker testimonies arise from listening to and obeying this Spirit.

Quaker faith welds the beliefs of its Christian foundation with the conviction that the Holy Spirit speaks to men and women and children of all races at all times. It draws individuals into a community of worship and of work for the redemption and improvement of human life. A Friends Meeting should be such a community. It should involve frequent, regular coming together in a common spiritual search, with members sharing experiences and insights, and finding the channels of service to which we are called individually and collectively.

The meeting for worship is the heart of every Friends Meeting. Baltimore Yearly Meeting generally has unprogrammed worship based on waiting in silence, and founded on faith that human beings can commune directly with God. In expectant silence we strive to center inwardly. Each is aided by the seeking of others, so that worship becomes a corporate experience. ...

Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. The experienced speaker should be watchful not to speak too often or at undue length. No Friend should come to meeting for worship with an intention to speak or not to speak.

We are obliged also to recognize and nurture the gifts of other Friends. The spiritual quality of our meetings for worship deepens when those who are led to speak out of the silence receive

encouragement and help. The fabric of the Meeting community and the larger community is strengthened when Friends who serve the community receive loving support from other Friends. ...

Nurturing the life of the Spirit requires frequent communication with the Divine Spirit. It is not sufficient to rely solely on an hour (or less) on First Day mornings, or on brief moments of silence before meals or committee meetings. We should make room in each day to know that of God within ourselves. God's help and healing can be sought in many ways, including vocal or silent prayer, meditation, visualization, silent listening, and confident affirmation. Friends seek harmony with the Divine Will, individually or in groups, sometimes laying our concerns before God, sometimes asking for guidance, sometimes giving thanks for the beauty and blessing in our lives.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

HYMN SINGING, Sunday, April 7 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

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

YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS) POTLUCK: April 7 (first Sunday). Contact Maya Munoz (301-703-0522) or Dave Sydlik (484-264-8489) for details.

HIGH TIDE AT DORCHESTER: Friday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. GOAT presents the screening of this Bay Journal documentary, which will be followed by a talk by film producer and environmentalist Tom Horton. *High Tide in Dorchester* “aims to foster a conversation about climate change and related impacts of sea level rise and erosion, and leverage that conversation into action. The focus, Dorchester County, MD, is already experiencing the future that increasingly faces coastal areas worldwide. ... Dorchester is the coal miner’s canary; ground zero for the Chesapeake Region” (<https://hightidedorchester.org/about/>).

HELP PLANT A GARDEN! Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Help us bring birds and butterflies to Homewood Friends Meeting! We will plant native perennials and shrubs to create a bird-friendly garden and a place for reflection and enjoyment. The signup sheet is in the meetinghouse.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, April 14, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. We will discuss Chapter Chapter 2 (pages 67-112) of *Practicing Peace* by Catherine Whitmire. 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>.

SPECIALLY CALLED MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, April 14, during our regular worship time. Homewood will have a specially called meeting for business during our regular worship time (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.) to discuss a draft of the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. We will worship for thirty minutes and then at 11:00 will move into a thirty-minute meeting with a concern for business. This is a good opportunity for those who do not normally attend a meeting for business to experience it and to give input into the report.

POTLUCK LUNCH: Sunday, April 14. Because this lunch follows the specially called meeting for business, there might be a festive lunch. Pay attention to announcements and plan accordingly.

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

WORKING GROUP FOR THE ARTS COFFEE HOUSE: Friday, April 19, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the dining room. Join us for potluck, hot beverages, songs, poetry, and games and – above all – good fellowship! Friends, families, and friends of Friends all welcome!

HOMEWOOD CAMPING WEEKEND: Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28 at Camp Catoctin. Come for two nights, one night, or just a day, but do come! The Religious Education Committee has organized the weekend, which will offer hiking, games, music, fellowship, and great food. **Deadline to sign up is April 19th.** John McKusick has the details. No fee!

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT: Sunday, April 28 (4th Sunday), 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

Plans for this month are still being made. Please follow the weekly announcements.

AN INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL DEEPENING

We continue our monthly, mid-week (Thursday) worship sharing that 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.

You may still join us. We will meet on **April 25, and May 30, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Copies of Taber's pamphlet are available for \$7.00 from the office or from the Pendle Hill pamphlet stand outside of the office.

April 25: The Third Door: The Door Within
May 30: The Fourth Door: The Door Beyond

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to learn from each other.

If you have any questions, please contact either Janet Abrams (jmabrams1@gmail.com 443-980-1615) or Susan Russell Walters (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.

HOMEWOOD HAS AN ENDOWMENT WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?

Those who came before us at Homewood funded our endowment. The endowment is currently the source of about two-thirds of the money we use to do the work of the meeting as reflected in our annual budget. The Trustees Committee of the Meeting has the responsibility, among others, of overseeing the endowment.

The first goal of our investment policy is to preserve the endowment capital through investment. The second is to see the capital grow modestly, though not at the cost of other aims.

‘Socially responsible’ investments

One of those other aims relates to the fact that investment instruments bring us into financial markets, where we may be able to have an effect on the way business operates and the direction that the U.S. and world economies take. In the past three-plus decades we have emphasized “socially responsible” (now often called ESG or environment, social and governance) investing. All our money is currently in accounts that use these screen.

ESG investing takes into consideration social harm caused by company activities, products, or services. Further “screens” for investment include the way a company is structured and conducts itself (does it treat its workers fairly? for instance) and whether the company is contributing to socially useful and environmentally sustainable economic activity. ESG investing has often been considered to expose investors to greater risk, but some advocates challenge that view.

Alternative investments

Another investment aim has been to directly support with loans local organizations doing social good or Quaker organizations. The idea has been to offer them lower interest rates than they could obtain elsewhere – or maybe they could not obtain a commercial loan at all. With interest rates low, these “alternative” investments have largely wound down in the past 5 years. Currently we have loans out to Midlothian (VA) Friends Meeting for its new meetinghouse and to Stadium Place, a seniors, mixed-income housing project of the Govans Ecumenical Development Corp.

Investments managers

Right now except for those loans, our endowment is divided into three parts that we are moving to make roughly equal, each in the hands of a different manager. Our accounts are “balanced” between stocks and bonds for greater financial stability. Each engages in shareholder advocacy directed at better internal business and governmental policies. Our three investment managers are sketched below.

Pax World (Portsmouth, NH)

· Founded in 1971 by two men who had worked on peace, housing and employment issues for the United Methodist Church to make it possible for investors to align investments with their values.

- First publicly available mutual fund in U.S. to use social as well as financial criteria for investment decision-making.
- Our money is in the Pax Balanced Fund (Institutional) with full environmental-social-governance screens.
- Their management costs 0.66% of our investment amount annually.

Trillium (Boston, MA)

- Oldest investment advisor exclusively focused on socially responsible investment
- Employee-owned
- Our money is in an individual portfolio that since 2014 has been guided by Trillium's "sustainable opportunities" or green strategy
- They **do not invest** in companies with significant involvement in producing, marketing, or distributing firearms, tobacco, gaming, nuclear power, pornography, or military weapons systems.
- Their management costs us 1% of investment annually.

Friends Fiduciary (Philadelphia, PA)

- Quaker non-profit, offering services consistent with Quaker values exclusively to Quaker meetings, churches, schools and organizations.
- Our money is split between two different funds:
 - 85% in the Quaker Growth and Income Fund, their original, and still largest fund. They **do not invest** in any weapons or weapons components; they exclude companies that obtain business from the production of alcohol, tobacco or firearms; that mine or produce coal; that operate gambling casinos or lotteries; that own, operate or manage for-profit prisons; or have histories of poor environmental, social or governance practices.
 - 15% in the Green Fund, which is entirely fossil fuel free and part is dedicated to "clean tech/alternative energy" companies.
- Their management costs us 0.76% for the Growth and Income Fund and 0.9% for the Green Fund.

--From Bess Keller, on behalf of Trustees Committee

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:

"GOAT NOAT" FOR APRIL 2019

Below are announcements regarding upcoming events.

On Friday, **April 12 from 7-9 p.m.** in the meeting room, the Green Organizing Action Team will be screening the film *High Tide* in Dorchester, followed by a discussion with the film's production team member Tom Horton. This film addresses the issue of climate change in Dorchester County, MD. Tom Horton is the author of eight books about the Chesapeake Bay, wrote about the environment for the *Baltimore Sun* for 35 years and was awarded the John Burroughs Award for the best book of nature writing.

You may have noticed that the front garden has been churned up and that the promised cisterns have been installed. Now all we need are the plants! Please join us to create our new garden on **Saturday, April 13**. Many hands make light work! There is a signup sheet where you can claim your spot.

The winter campaign for electronic recycling ends on **Sunday, April 14**. Be sure to bring in any "technotrash" or electronic media (see lists below) and deposit in the appropriate box in the foyer!

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING BOXES FROM GREENDISK

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.

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: The Wicker Basket recipient for April is **Clay Pots**, an organization here in Baltimore. From their website: "At Clay Pots, a community coffeehouse takes place three times a week as well as an Education Center that offers a variety of classes including a GED program. Clay Pots also hosts wellness workshops, provides indoor and outdoor sanctuaries, and offers a variety of special events and meetings that support the community and its residents." More information is available at <https://www.claypotsbaltimore.org/about-us>.

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 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 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.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7, Goose Creek Friends Meeting (Lincoln, VA). Young Friends should plan to begin arriving at 7:00 pm 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 (March 22). Any one registering after that date may be placed on a waiting list.

APPORTIONMENT MEETING; Saturday, April 6, Little Falls Meeting of Friends (Fallston, MD) or Saturday, April 20 at Roanoke Friends Meeting (Roanoke, VA). Come find out more about the money that your Meeting sends to BYM! The Stewardship and Finance Committee hosts this annual meeting to consider issues related to apportionment – that is, financial support of BYM. Friends will gather beginning at **9:30 a.m.** for coffee and snacks. The session will begin at 10:00 and will be devoted to a review of the first draft of the 2020 budget and apportionment. For documents related to the budget and apportionment, go to [www.bym-rsf.org/what we do/committees/sandf](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/sandf). **Please go to www.bym-rsf.org/events/yevents/apportionreg.html to register for your preferred meeting location so that our hosts may know how many Friends to expect.**

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NETWORKING DAY: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 6, Sidwell Friends School (Washington, DC).

Four 90-minute workshop topics & handouts will include:

(a.m.) 1- The current threat of nuclear war & how Friends can respond: the Back from the Brink campaign

(a.m.) 2- When individuals with mental health problems land in jail, how can we get...get them help before trial?

(p.m.) 3- How to help immigrants in our communities and in detention: suggestions from the BYM working group – updates

(p.m.) 4- A closer look at our Friends' slow historic progress from slavery to emancipation, from civil rights to present—what we can learn

Before workshops, Friends are encouraged to mingle and discuss programs, and we'll discuss the “hard turn” towards extremism in our politics. At lunch and on tables, we also may share information on a bill in Congress to de-militarize police; electric cars; and George Lakey's new book *How We Win*. Fact sheets, contact info. and other take-home resources about these also should be available. Continental breakfast will be provided - and a vegan lunch will be provided by BYM's Working Group on Right Relationships with Animals. Donations to cover costs will be welcome! **Please RSVP by email to pcaroom@gmail.com, telling how many Friends will attend & identifying your meeting, and your choice of a.m. & p.m. workshop.**

THE POWER OF STILLNESS IN A BUSY WORLD: Saturday, April 6, The Clearing: A Quaker Retreat Center (Amelia Court House, VA). We invite you for an afternoon of stillness, meditation, mindfulness, and listening to the inner teacher in a beautiful natural setting at The Clearing. Visit our bucolic 75-acre retreat, walk the beautiful trails, enjoy our hospitality, and experience the simple joy of a quiet day in the woods. Bring along your journal or favorite art form. The afternoon will provide guided time to learn about Quaker practice of stillness and listening, solo time for walking, exploring, journaling, or simply sitting quietly, and a closing gathering and sharing time. Registration is requested, but free, at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-house-at-the-clearing-tickets-57333386703>.

MEN'S RETREAT: Friday, April 12 – Saturday, April 14, Catoctin Quaker Camp (Thurmont, MD). Since 2002, men from Stony Run Meeting in Baltimore have gathered early in the spring to build connections among Friends at one of BYM's magnificent camps. In recent years, men Friends from other meetings have participated in the weekend. This year, all men Friends in BYM are invited to register and gather at Catoctin for dinner sixth day through lunch first day-or any portion thereof. The retreat is very loosely programmed and includes time to relax, work cooperatively, hike (or nap), talk, tell stories, play, and have fun. The registration form and additional information are available from Chris Giannella (cgiannella@mitre.org or 443-853-0440).

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND: Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28, Shiloh Quaker Camp (Hood, VA). Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful camps. Individuals and families are invited to enjoy the camps for a day or for the weekend. In store are lots of fun activities as well as work projects. We will savor meals together, have time to explore, and even spend time around a camp fire in the evening. Participants are asked to contribute according to their ability – \$25-50 per person. For additional information or to register please contact David Hunter, Camp Property Manager (301-774-7663 or davidhunter@bym-rsf.org). For more information, go to bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/.

AT STONY RUN

Quakers in Palestine: Ramallah Friends School and the Military Occupation, Sunday, April 7, 9 a.m. Meg Meyer and Arthur Boyd will report on their six months in Ramallah, Palestine. Under military occupation in Palestine, a Quaker school is thriving. How are Quaker values providing hope and building a foundation for a peaceful, just future? How does the Israeli-Palestinian conflict affect daily life in Israel and Palestine? What might the future hold for this troubled region?

Programmed Meeting for Worship: Sunday, April 14, 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).

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Educational Grants Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting is accepting applications for grants for post-secondary education opportunities. Grants will be awarded based on financial need and the Committee's assessment of an applicant's statement of purpose, including consistency with Friends' testimonies. The application may be found on the BYM website. Please review the application carefully. Submit the application along with supporting documentation no later than **Friday, April 19, 2019**. Send to the Yearly Meeting Office, attention Educational Grants Committee. To download the application, go to https://www.bym-rsf.org/file_download/462d5ddc-1813-4cd0-956f-8ae9fe6e42b4.

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.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL)

Following President Donald Trump's declaration recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, FCNL joined nine other faith organizations in issuing the following statement.

This past Thursday, March 21, President Trump announced that the United States would recognize Israeli annexation and sovereignty over the Golan Heights. As US-based churches and Christian organizations with long histories of engagement in the Middle East through mission and ecclesial relations, we fully reject this unilateral declaration and are especially concerned about this Administration's disregard for international law.

We see this reversal of consistent US policy and international consensus—that the Golan Heights are occupied and were acquired by force in the 1967 War in contravention of international norms—as an abandonment by the US of diplomacy to resolve such issues.

We have witnessed the Trump Administration's approach to the Israel/Palestine over the past two years, and see this step as a continuation of the White House's unwillingness to consider the implications of such actions for the possibility of a peaceful and just resolution to the region's conflicts. The President's recognition of Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights is similar in nature to his recognition of Israel's claims over all of Jerusalem, both of which ignore the legitimate claims of Syria and Palestinians, respectively, despite Israel's 1980-81 legislative actions claiming jurisdiction and administration over each of those geographies. These shifts in US rhetoric contravene United Nations rejection of Israeli claims and the acquisition of territory by force. We are further concerned that such a pattern does not bode well for the future of West Bank territory, also occupied by Israel. And we wonder about the timing of this announcement.

We recognize that, just because the US says it is so does not make it so, but we also acknowledge the disproportionate influence that US policy has in the region, and how US policies have not led to a just and peaceful resolution to the conflicts there. We urge the US to recommit to meaningful negotiations at appropriate times to resolve such matters based on international law and conventions, to involve all appropriate parties, to reject such unilateral actions by one party, and to refrain from making foreign policy statements that would unduly prejudice the outcomes of such diplomacy.

We also urge the US to support appropriate diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Syria, which has led to more than half a million deaths and more than half the population being displaced. We recognize that negotiations over the possible return of the Golan Heights to Syria are not practicable at this time of uncertainty—all the more reason for the US to refrain from making such harmful declarations.

American Friends Service Committee

Christian Reformed Church in North America, Office of Social Justice

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA Presbyterian Church (USA)

Reformed Church in America United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM)

From Shawn and Katrina McKonaughey in East Africa:

“We have just returned from our trip to visit the Samburu Friends Mission and attend their Board meeting. We did have two flat tires but considering that our last trip to Samburu included a serious car fire, we considered this a ‘win!’ We were accompanied by Pastor Jane Mutoro (FUM representative to the board) of Nairobi Yearly Meeting who was a tremendous asset to our ministry of visitation. ...

“For a few background facts if you don’t know: Samburu Friends Mission was started about 20 years ago when Pastor Isaiah Bikokwa, from North YM, went as a pioneer from the Turkana Friends Mission to plant a church among the Samburu pastoralist people. The original churches were at Loltulelei and Upper Hill/Loko and included a school and a dispensary which were the only ones in their areas. Today, the Mission is capably led by Sammy Letoole, a Samburu, and there are 10 active and growing village meetings, several with nursery schools that are serving their communities. They have plans for planting new churches including reaching out to the Pokots in an area that requires a drive followed by a 3-hour hike each way! ...

“One of the highlights for us was meeting some of the girls who receive ‘Girl Child Education’ scholarship funds from FUM donors. Currently, the Samburu Friends Mission is sponsoring 12 girls for the tuition to attend secondary school. All of the girls show promise academically and come from families who would not be able to pay their school fees. In this part of the country, it is quite common for poor rural families to marry-off girls as young as 12 or 13 if they can’t continue to pay for school fees. So these scholarships really do have the power to change not only their present but their future. The girls we met are grateful for their scholarships and shared with us their hopes of becoming a nurse or a teacher or other ways they can give back to their communities. ... “

THINKING ABOUT RACE (APRIL 2019): “Black and Blue”

...

All my life through I've been so black and blue
I'm white inside, but that don't help my case
Cause I can't hide what is on my face
I'm so forlorn. Life's just a thorn
My heart is torn. Why was I born?
What did I do to be so black and blue?
I'm hurt inside, but that don't help my case
Cause I can't hide what is on my face
How will it end? Ain't got a friend
My only sin is in my skin
What did I do to be so black and blue?
Tell me, what did I do?
What did I do? What did I do?
What did I do? What did I do?
What did I do? What did I do?
What did I do? Tell me, what did I do to be so black and blue?
What did I do to be so black and blue?

- Louis Armstrong, 1929

Words by Harry Brooks and Andy Razaf. Music by Fats Waller . You can see it and hear it sung by Louis Armstrong at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LDPUfbXRLM>.

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)
First Sunday of each month	12:30 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House
	<u>APRIL'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on Apr. 7.

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	3rd Sundays , 9:15 a.m.; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.419.2305
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Ned Worth</u> , 443.600.9380
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., contact <u>Charlie Neill</u> , 410.323-8504
Library—OPEN	3rd Sundays , 12:30 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>Donna McKusick</u> , 410.241.1467
Religious Education—OPEN	1st Mondays , 7:15 p.m., Meeting House; contact <u>John McKusick</u> , 410.830.9225
Trustees	3rd Tuesdays ; 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.