Fifth Month (May) 2019

Homewood Friends Meeting Newsletter

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Fifth Query: Personal Way of Life

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

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

Self-indulgent habits and luxurious living dull our awareness and make us insensitive to the needs of others and the leading of the Spirit. Ostentation and extravagant expenditure should not be a part of Friends' lives. Friends should be particularly aware of this in planning marriages, funerals, social gatherings or public occasions. True simplicity does not consist of particular forms or the absence of grace, symmetry and beauty, but of avoiding over-indulgence, maintaining humility of spirit, and keeping material surroundings in proportion to human needs.

Friends' longstanding testimony against the use, production, or sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages is not fully accepted by some. For many, however, complete abstinence is the only effective way to avoid the dangers of the use of these materials. Friends are in unity against illegal narcotics and mindaltering substances, now readily available. Use of any of these materials has adverse effects which reach beyond the individual to harm the family and the community; dealing with illegal drugs also supports a criminal underground. Even legitimate prescription drugs can be used inappropriately and excessively. All these usages deaden the individual to life and spiritual values.

For those trapped in substance abuse, such advice may seem hollow. Commonalities exist between addictive behaviors with these substances and other compulsive actions, such as in the areas of eating disorders, gambling, overwork, and physical abuse. The causes go deep and may not be fully understood, but the resulting pain, fear, desperation and denial, damaging the abuser and all those around that person, need to be supportively recognized. A Meeting community should be ready to listen

non-judgmentally, offer information about sources of help, refuse to enable people to continue in harmful patterns, and continue to offer an environment free from addictive practices.

We are faced at every hand with enticements to risk money in anticipation of disproportionate gain through gambling. Some governments employ gambling as a means of raising revenue, even presenting it as a civic virtue. The Religious Society of Friends continues to bear testimony against betting, gambling, lotteries, speculations or any other endeavor to receive material gain without equivalent exchange, believing that we owe an honest return for what we receive. Indulgence in games of chance blunts a proper sense of obligation.

How we use our working hours, our leisure and our resources has direct bearing on our spiritual life. Time for recreation is needed to refresh spirit, mind and body. Our use of time may determine whether the Divine Spirit grows within us or is crowded out.

We are called upon to be stewards of the rich provisions which God has made for all creation. As Friends we are advised to consider the effects of our charitable gifts and of all our expenditures, in the light of our concern for the right and fair sharing of the world's resources.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

NO HYMN SINGING on May 5; Dave will be away.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, May 5, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Childcare is available.

<u>YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS) POTLUCK:</u> May 5 (first Sunday). Contact Maya Muñoz (301-703-0522) or Dave Sydlik (484-264-8489) for details.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, May 12, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. We will continue discussing 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.

POTLUCK LUNCH: Sunday, May 12.

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

May 12, 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.

<u>WEDDING</u>: Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room. Homewood Meeting will joyfully preside over and celebrate the marriage of Russell Trimmer and Maya Muñoz. Members and attenders are invited.

<u>BREADS AND SPREADS</u> reception immediately follows in the dining room. Friends are invited to bring spreads for Russell's delicious Motzi breads and other vegetarian finger food (please label as vegan or non-vegan), and nonalcoholic drinks would also be welcome.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT: Sunday, May 26 (4th Sunday), 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

First Day School in May will focus on the final lessons of the year from the Old Testament and preparation for a play to be performed on June 2nd. Rory will lead Old Testament lessons on May 5th, 12th, and 19th. An announcement will be made soon about the program for May 26th (Memorial Day weekend).

A Camping We Did Go: Catoctin Quaker Camp Weekend

What do 53 wriggling salamanders, 9 garden stepping stones, 8 worshipping Friends, 2 barred owls calling "who cooks for you?" in the night, 2 captivating fires, and a delicious and sumptuous dinner all have in common? These were all parts of the experience of the 2019 Homewood Family Camping Weekend at Catoctin Camp, April 27th and 28th. Thirteen Friends participated in creating, exploring and enjoying the opportunity to commune with nature and enrich relationships. Look for pictures of the trip coming out soon. And plan to join us in April 2020!

FINAL INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL DEEPENING

Please join us. Our last meeting is on **Thursday, May 30, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the library.** During worship sharing that we are calling Spiritual Deepening, we are using William Taber's *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* as a springboard for insights. 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.

Copies of Taber's pamphlet are available for \$7.00 from the office or from the Pendle Hill pamphlet stand outside of the office. The reading for May 30 is "The Fourth Door: The Door Beyond."

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

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.

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: The Wicker Basket recipient for May 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.

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WORKING GROUP FOR THE ARTS Coffee House on April 19: Remembering Notre Dame



Architect Phil named all the parts: apse, nave, spire, choir, transept and visualized the fire damage. Photos by Megan Shook

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:

"GOAT NOAT" FOR MAY 2019

There were some big wins on environmental issues in the 2019 Maryland legislative session, and clearly there is still work to be done.

Clean Energy Jobs Act PASSED. It doubles Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard policy to 50% renewable electricity by 2030 and requires the state to provide a plan to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2040. It is unknown whether Gov. Hogan will sign the bill. Downside is that trash incineration still gets clean energy subsidies.

Polystyrene foam ban PASSED. No more Styrofoam food containers at businesses and schools. If the governor signs the bill, Maryland would become the first state to ban these containers.

Community solar pilot program EXTENDED through July 1, 2022.

Energy storage pilot project PASSED. This requires investor-owned electric utility companies in Maryland (BGE is one) to solicit two energy storage projects whose results will be used to evaluate how to best use the technology in the future. This is expected to lead to regulatory reforms and market incentives to increase the use of energy storage technologies in the state.

Green Amendment WITHDRAWN after unfavorable report in committee. Annapolis Young Friend Kallan Benson protested outside of the State House throughout the session for this amendment that would have added Marylanders' right to breathable air, uncontaminated water, and a clean environment to the state constitution.

Maryland Pipeline & Water Protection Act UNFAVORABLE REPORT in subcommittee. This would have required the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct full, independent reviews of proposed fracked-gas pipelines using its authority under the federal Clean Water Act. MDE could not waive this authority as it did for the Potomac Pipeline.

Transportation Climate Accountability Act STALLED in committee. These bills would have required studies about the climate effects of proposed highway expansion projects.



Planting the garden on April 13. Photo by Bess Keller

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!

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 meeting room if you can provide simple lunch this month. Instructions are provided. 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

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: May 3 – 5, Shiloh Quaker Camp (Hood, VA). Junior Young Friends should plan to begin arriving at 7:00 p.m. on Friday. For information, check the Junior Young Friends website (www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/jyfs/jyfcon.html) or contact Jocelyn Dowling (301-774-7663). Remember that the deadline to register at the discounted rate and be guaranteed a slot is one week before the conference. Any one registering after that date may be placed on a waiting list.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND: May 10 – 12, Opequon Quaker Camp (Brucetown, 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 camp 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 campfire 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/.

INSTITUTIONAL REPARATIONS: A CONVERSATION WITHIN BYM ZOOM

TELECONFERENCE: May 13, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Please join members of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee, the Peace & Social Concerns Committee, and the Working Group on Racism for a preliminary discussion about the Yearly Meeting's role in reparations and how we might move forward – as individuals and as a community – to participate in Reparations to Black and Indigenous people. This early discussion will help us to discern a path for our community. We will commit to … always following the leadership, wisdom, and writings of black and indigenous people as we make these decisions. This first conversation will in no way garner a decision, but will be a threshing session to determine what the Baltimore Yearly Meeting is capable of in this moment, and what we need as a community to move forward. The hope is to secure community education, bring forth recommendations, and ultimately help the BYM community to understand and participate in reparations. Please sign up at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfArr7dKtasx46Z4J6nU6I7DklRGOFm8YxA45SgRe Y93Zcx1g/viewform?usp=sf_link to participate in the conversation. This conversation is open to everyone involved with BYM in any capacity, and in order to make it accessible to folks in different locations, we will have this conversation over Zoom. If enough people sign up in a given area, we may also open one or more in-person options, which will connect as a group all in the same room to the Zoom call (for example, several people at a meetinghouse all sharing the screen). If you sign up, you will receive the Zoom link and several preliminary documents prior to the meeting. Please provide accurate contact information so you can be sure receive materials. We encourage you to invite other BYM folks to join. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Nikki Richards (GDL committee, Ministry & Pastoral Care committee, Baltimore STRIDE committee, Teen Adventure Quaker Camp) at nikkirichards1993@gmail.com or 443-631-4038.

<u>SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT</u>: May 17 - 19, Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center (Sharpsburg, MD). The retreat offers time for personal reflection, sharing in spiritual friendship, singing, woodland walks, and wonderful meals. Join with Friends from across the Yearly Meeting as we journey together in our seeking and our friendship. Registration is now open at www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/.

<u>FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND</u>: May 17 – 19, Catoctin Quaker Camp (Thurmont, MD). If you were unable to attend Homewood's camping weekend in April, here is another opportunity to enjoy Camp Catoctin. For details, see the information from the Camp Opequon May 10 - 12 weekend above.

MEMORIAL WORSHIP FOR SUSIE FETTER: Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. at Gunpowder Meeting.

AT STONY RUN

- Programmed Meeting for Worship, Sunday, May 12, 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).
- Memorial service for longtime Stony Run member JOHN MERRILL, Saturday, May 18, 2:00 p.m.

AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

The Wisdom of Jesus and the Light of Christ: May 12-17, 2019. A five-day Quaker Wisdom School with Cynthia Bourgeault, Marcelle Martin, and Paulette Meier. In this five-day Quaker Wisdom School, Cynthia Bourgeault, drawing from classical/enduring mystical principles, will guide us in exploring Jesus as a Wisdom teacher who invited his followers to a radical transformation of consciousness. Marcelle Martin will help us examine the Quaker experience of the Light of Christ within, which leads faithful people to participate actively in God's transforming work in the world. And Paulette Meier will help to make the whole exploration heart-riveting by leading us in chants based on the words of passionate Quakers who experienced the living presence of Christ.

Material will be drawn not only from Quaker writers through the centuries, but also from the canonical gospels and the Gospel of Thomas. Our time together will include rhythms of communal worship, prayer, study, and work. More information is available at https://pendlehill.org/events/the-wisdom-of-jesus-and-the-light-of-christ/.

Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology, May 24-27: The Mystical and Spiritual Dimensions of Trauma and Healing, with Plenary Speaker, Donald Kalsched, Ph.D., Jungian Analyst. C.G. Jung felt that there were similarities between the inward journey to wholeness through the unconscious in psychoanalysis and the Quaker trust that the Inner Light will guide. Dr. Kalsched will present on Restoring the Lost Soul to the Body, Opening the Closed Heart and Recovering the Orphaned Child, Entering the Crypt of Defenses and Trauma, Synchronicity and Paranormal Experiences in Therapy. There will be Interest Groups that meet four times during the weekend. The Interest Groups center on a wide range of topics including Creative Writing and Mindful Movement, Tai Chi, Death & Dying, the Joy of Movement, and Poetry Discussion among other themes. Please visit our website: http://fcrp. quaker.org/ for more information and/or to register. Space is limited.

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

SUMMER IS COMING!

SHILOH QUAKER CAMP SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Have you always wanted to learn more about our Camping Program? Would you like an opportunity to live in a Quaker community and provide much needed service to BYM's camping program? Shiloh Quaker Camp, near Hood, VA is in need of volunteers to work and live at camp for a week to help our campers and camp staff by cooking, doing maintenance work, or medical work. You can sign up to fill one of these roles at Shiloh by going to our online registration site:

<u>bymcamps.campbrainregistration.com</u> and selecting to register yourself, the volunteer, at the "camp" Shiloh Work Grant. The dates are weekly between June 29 – August 11. You must be 21 and over to do a work grant at camp. Your volunteer work at camp helps offset camp fees for campers in financial need! If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Jane Megginson, Camping Program Manager, BYM Camps, jane@bymcamps.org or 717-481-4870.

DO YOU HAVE BIRD IDENTIFICATION BOOKS OR BINOCULARS?

We are hoping that campers at the BYM camps will participate in Virginia working landscape's citizen scientists program this summer! We are seeking donations of functional binoculars and bird identification books. If you have binoculars or bird identification books you would like to donate we can put them to good use this summer. Call 301-774-7663 or email campproperty@bym-rsf.org to make arrangements. Thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2019 will be from July 29 to August 4 at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. The theme is *Quaker Tools for the Journey*. Our world can at times seem bleak: corrupted by injustice, division and self-interest. What does our Quaker heritage teach us of resilience and discernment in the face of discouragement? Which tools, forged in Friends' faith and practice, will serve us best to meet today's challenges? Online registration is now open at https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/registration.html. All children 0 through 8th grade are free!

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC) 2019 Gathering: Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, June 30 - July 6, 2019. The theme this year is *Peace in Our Hearts, Justice in the World*. Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. And this year there are NO program fees for children and teens! Registration is open; Beginning June 1, there is a \$60 late fee for all full-time and half-Gathering registrations. Late fees will not be charged for part-time registrations. For more information, go tohttps://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details.

→ Remember that you can apply for a grant from Trustees to help cover fees. Go to https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/scholarships/.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL)

"Welcome to Palestine!": May 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Quaker Welcome Center, 243 2nd St., Washington, DC. Friends Meg and Arthur Boyd of Stony Run Friends Meeting recently returned from Palestine where they served as Ramallah Friends School Friends in Residence. They will share stories from their experiences in their presentation, "Welcome to Palestine: Waking Up in Ramallah." Register to attend in person or virtually fcnl.org/qwc.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (MAY 2019): Daveed Diggs on "Hamilton"

"Daveed thinks that seeing a black man play Jefferson or Madison or Washington when he was a kid in Oakland might have changed his life. 'A whole lot of things I just never thought were for me would have seemed possible,' he says. Even now, the show is changing him, making him feel more American. 'I always felt at odds with this country,' he says 'You only get pulled over by the police for no reason so many times before you say, "F*** this."'

"Don't be too quick to count a kid out. There are plenty of debatable lessons to be drawn from Alexander Hamilton's life, but that one is clear. The poor bastard orphan from the islands ought to have died a dozen times but somehow lived to help to found the nation. As a leader of the new republic, he fought to make it easier for people like him to travel as far as their talent would take them."

From "**Hamilton** – **The Revolution** – Being the complete libretto of the Broadway musical, with a true account of its creation, and concise remarks on hip-hop, the power of stories, and the new America," by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter, 2016, p. 197. Daveed Diggs, actor, rapper, and singer, originated the roles of Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette in **Hamilton** in 2015.

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.





Gathering Easter eggs. Photos by Megan Shook

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

MAY'S BUSINESS MEETING will be on May 5.

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 2nd Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., contact Charlie Neill, 410.323-

8504

Library—OPEN 3rd 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 **1st Mondays,** 7:15 p.m., Meeting House; contact John

McKusick, 410.830.9225

Trustees 3rd Tuesdays; 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.