

First Month (January) 2020

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the First Query: on meetings for worship

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged? Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways?

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

Meeting for Worship

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.

Friends approach the meeting for worship confidently, believing that God speaks directly to us, revealing Divine Will and guiding those who listen. Each worshiper becomes a listener ready to receive God's message, which may come in the silence or in spoken words. The divine manifests itself to individuals in many ways.

While Friends in the several branches have varying forms of worship, even unprogrammed Meetings have elements of accepted practice. All Friends seek to avoid the stultification which can arise from dependence on ritual and outward sacraments. The simplicity of Friends' worship results from an emphasis on the reality of the inward experience. Direct communion with God the experience of the Holy Spirit makes the observance of outward rites unnecessary.

Worship requires discipline of mind and heart, and heeding the Holy Spirit over and above our worldly concerns. Daily meditation and prayer, study of the Bible and other writings of spiritual inspiration, and striving to live each day in harmony with the Divine Will help to prepare minds and hearts for the consciousness of the presence of God in worship.

With diligence meet together, and with diligence wait to feel the Lord God to arise, to scatter and expel all that which is the cause of leanness and barrenness upon any soul; for it is the Lord must do it, and he will be waited upon in sincerity and fervency of Spirit;...and let none be hasty to utter words, though manifest in the light in which ye wait upon the Lord; but still wait in silence, to know the power 2 working in you to bring forth the words, in the ministration of the eternal word of life to answer the life in all. (Stephen Crisp, 1663)

Vocal Ministry

Waiting upon the Holy Spirit in silent expectation and prayer is the basis of our meeting for worship. 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.

The most satisfactory vocal ministry arises out of a leading that is felt in the silence so strongly that it cannot be ignored. It should be delivered with as few words as possible, yet as many as necessary. Vocal prayer offered on behalf of the gathered meeting can also bring us into closer harmony with God.

TRUSTEES FUNDING TO ATTEND QUAKER EVENTS

Trustees has funds to support children and adults who would like to attend Quaker gatherings*, camps, and educational institutions. These funds are intended to supplement resources available to the participant from other sources. For more information and for the application form, please see our website page: <https://homewoodfriends.org/memberresources/scholarships/>.

*Registration for the women's retreat in February ends on January 23. Apply for funds to make it possible for you to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

HYMN SINGING (first Sunday): January 5, 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. Join us!

MEETING FOR BUSINESS (first Sunday): January 5, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Childcare is available.

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

QUAKER BOOK CLUB (second Sunday): January 12, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. QBC continues with *The Intrepid Quaker: One Man's Quest for Peace : Memoirs, Speeches, and Writings of Stephen G. Cary*. We will finish discussing the book. Come prepared to talk about one of the later chapters or essays.

If you would like to be on the Quaker Book Club mailing list, please send Donna McKusick a note a dmckusick@icloud.com.

POTLUCK LUNCH (second Sunday): January 12.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE (second Sunday): January 12, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. 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.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: Sunday, January 26, 12:15 p.m. in the Susan B. Anthony Room.

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING (SAVE THE DATE): Sunday, February 16 at Little Falls Meeting. The program is “Finding Our Voices in Annapolis...2020.”

MID-WEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Ministry and Counsel Committee offers midweek meeting for worship **every Thursday at 7 p.m.** in the library. Meeting will last approximately one hour. On the **2nd Thursday** of the month we will have **Experiment with Light** instead of worship; it may last longer so that we have time for sharing. All are welcome.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL: January promises to be an interesting month for children in First Day School. A family-oriented and participation-based exploration and appreciation of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King will be held in the Library on **Sunday, January 19th** beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Religious Education Committee encourages one or more parents from the families as well as other interested adults to join us! **Sunday, January 26th** is Quaker Camp Day for any children and parents interested in the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camping Program. Current and former campers are not only invited but encouraged to come to share their experiences. Check out the weekly Silent Announcements for information on these programs as well as those on **January 5th** and **12th**.

Enrollment for the BYM summer camping programs begins online on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. For more information, dates, rates, or to register, please visit the website at bymcamps.org.

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.”

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: The Wicker Basket recipient for January through March is **Heifer International**, to purchase a goat for a family in need. According to Wikipedia, “Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Heifer distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency.” For more information, go to <https://www.heifer.org>.

Please consider making a regular Wicker Basket contribution. Recipients are chosen by the Peace and Social Justice Committee, which meets on the second Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend.

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:

“GOAT NOTE” FOR JANUARY 2020

HELP CURE THE PLASTIC PLAGUE STARTING ALMOST NOW

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7-8:15 PM (Fourteen people attended)

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7-8:15 PM (Fourteen people attended)

This two-part workshop, developed and facilitated by Bess Keller, explored actions we can take to reduce and eventually eliminate plastic use. We learned about the scope of plastic pollution, discussed our responses and started to implement steps toward the goal of eliminating single use plastics. We got a lot of help from the group with practical tips and common sense practices. Bess prepared an extensive list of resources used and/or referenced in the workshop. Please see that resource below.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

The plastics workshop responded to a clearly perceived need expressed in a Homewood GOAT (Green Organizing Action Team) survey of meeting members and attenders. In 2020, we will continue to provide educational workshops and films, opportunities for environmental service and advocacy, and experiences that will help us to live greener lives and move us toward zero waste.

From Plastic Pollution Workshop, Part 1

1. “What Really Happens to the Plastic You Throw Away”—a TEDEd lesson by Emma Byrne; think it was originally made for or sponsored a company that does chemical analytics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xlNyWPpB8> 2015
2. “Plastic Ocean”—adaptation by the UN from the original documentary “A Plastic Ocean” by the Plastic Oceans Foundation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju_2NuK5O-E 2017
3. “Why Paper Bags Are Worse for the Planet Than Plastic”—BBC News report
<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p07r72xb/why-paper-bags-are-worse-for-the-planet-than-plastic> 2019

From Part 2

1. How One Man Started the Largest Beach Cleanup
BrightVibes (Amplify the Good in the World) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxsxe_7JDEg 2018

2. Cleaning 9m kgs of Trash: Dhruv Rathee interviews Afroz Shah

Dhruv Rathee, a leading political YouTuber

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0ka45g4Fyc> 2019

3. The Nondisposable Life

Lindsey Miles, TEDxPerth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb9uEbUaREE> 2016

4. Living Plastic Free

Beth Terry (Greenbelt, MD, TEDxGreatPacificPlasticPatch)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JXWRVrFiKs> 2010

Additional materials

Liz Flyntz, who joined us for pt 2, helped create this excellent PowerPoint presentation full of valuable info on plastic use, pollution and recycling. It is part of a collaborative art-science project. From Liz: We are interested in the intersection of plastic pollution and the food system, but this research led us to a lot of insight into the problem of plastic pollution globally.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1u5itYWPFtA7ymabVLy0CF5_jz4QAlphqc4StXk_nO3g/edit#slide=id.p1

Interview with the mother of 3 young children and a business owner who cut out half her plastic use; many specifics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Qbi_dB3Qo<https://marylandpirg.org/blogs/blog/usp/thinking-about-reducing-plastic-waste-your-life>

Canadian Broadcasting Company recently produced a fascinating 4-part series about plastic packaging, recycling and the plastic crisis. This one of the series has two families, a “regular” one and one that is trying to minimize plastic in their household, swap places. Also the reluctance of Canadian’s biggest chains to talk plastic, and a grocery store in England that has rejected unnecessary plastic packaging.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Qbi_dB3Qo

Current GOAT members are Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Polly Heninger, John McKusick, Stephan Rogers, Bess Keller, and Rachael Neill. GOAT is an open committee that meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. We would love to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas. **The next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th. If you would like to request or suggest an agenda item, please contact Gary at garygillespie80@gmail.com.**

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 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. Friends are welcome to bring food, and *any amount is welcome*. Please sign up on the Hospitality easel if you can provide simple lunch for a day of your choosing. Instructions are right there!

JOIN A COMMITTEE: Are you ready to deepen your connection with Homewood Meeting? 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, or Gary Gillespie for more information.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

→ **NOTE:** To assist with payment for events listed below, you can apply for a grant from Trustees at <https://homewoodfriends.org/memberresources/scholarships/>.

SING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FRIENDS: Wednesday, January 1, 2020, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Gunpowder Friends Meeting. All are welcome to a day of JOYFUL community singing. Come for all or part of the day! Food provided.

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: Saturday, January 11 – Sunday, January 12, Gunpowder Friends Meeting (Sparks, MD). Junior Young Friends should plan to begin arriving at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. 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 two weeks before the conference. Anyone registering after that date may be placed on a waiting list.

<p><u>BYM WOMEN'S RETREAT:</u> Friday, February 7 – Sunday, February 9, Pearlstone Retreat Center (Reisterstown, MD). Attention All Women of Baltimore Yearly Meeting—your presence is welcome at our annual women's retreat. Spend time relaxing, reconnecting, and restoring your joy with workshops, chanting, worship, long walks, and delicious meals. <i>Diligence in Love, Overcoming Isolation</i> is the theme. For more information and to register, go to: womensretreat.bym-rsf.net/. Registration deadline is January 23!</p>
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SEED TIME: A CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT IN THE MANNER OF FRIENDS: February 7 - 9, The Retreat House of Holy Cross Abbey (Berryville, VA). Participants will experience the distinctly Quaker way of knowing solitude in community. We will go deep together in expectant waiting, attending to the divine stirrings within, ready to open to Grace. There will be individual time for prayer, reflection, rest, and walks. Meals will be taken in silence, and you'll be welcome to read, journal, do hand work or artwork, or engage in similar quiet activity in the common spaces. There will

also be opportunities to share in small reflection groups, as well as an invitation to meeting with a retreat leader if you wish. Anyone who would like to hear the monks chant the Psalms will be welcome in the Abbey chapel during Divine Office. The Retreat House is a modern structure, and its rooms are simple but comfortable – single occupancy, each with its own bathroom. The full cost is \$280, minimum fee is \$200. More information at https://www.bym-rsf.org/event_calendar.html/event/2020/02/09/seed-time-a-contemplative-retreat-in-the-manner-of-friends/272016.

YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: Friday, February 14 – Sunday, February 16, Adelphi Friends Meeting (Adelphi, 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) 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. Anyone registering after that date may be placed on a waiting list.

AT STONY RUN:

- **Programmed Meeting for Worship, Sunday, January 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.** Programmed Quaker Worship in the Kenyan tradition, followed by social time. Everyone is invited to this monthly worship (on the second First Day) with Kenyan Quakers in the Baltimore area. For information, contact Gilbert Imbayi at gilbert.imbayi@gmail.com.

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EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE

Educational Grants Committee Accepting Applications

The BYM Educational Grants Committee is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 academic year. Grants may be applied to expenses associated with undergraduate attendance at accredited post-secondary educational institutions such as universities, colleges, professional and vocational schools. Attendance may be either full- or part-time. Grants will be awarded on the basis of financial need and the Committee's assessment of an applicant's statement of purpose. Grant limits are up to \$2,000 per grantee per year, for a cumulative total of \$8,000. Applications will be accepted between January 1, 2020 and April 24, 2020. Award decisions will be made in May. For further information or if you have questions, please contact the Yearly Meeting Office at 301-774-7663.

Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Accepting Applications

Time to let your favorite Friends School know that grants to help explain Quaker faith and practice to school communities are available once again this year. For over twenty years the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund has been supporting this path to understanding and outreach. The application deadline is **March 1, 2020**. Go to www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/sttqef/application.html for the application instructions and check our annual reports from previous years to get some ideas about how grants have been used in the past. Please be in touch with us if you have any questions.

Jonathan Taylor Scholarship Fund Applications Being Accepted!

The Jonathan K. Taylor Swarthmore College Scholarship Fund is administered by Baltimore Monthly Meeting, 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 2020-2021 academic year, there are funds up to \$15,000 to be distributed among the successful applicants. For more information, or to apply by **June 1, 2020**, contact Cindy Maier (cynthiamailer13@gmail.com).

Miles White Beneficial Society Offers Educational Grants and Scholarships

Are you an undergraduate student looking for financial support for your studies? Are you a part of an organization that provides learning opportunities for young people in the greater Baltimore region? If so, we invite you to consider applying for an educational grant or scholarship from the Miles White Beneficial Society of Baltimore, which has been supporting scholars and organizations since 1874. We invite you to learn more about Miles White by visiting our page on the BYM Website: www.bym-rsf.org/who_we_are/organizations/mileswhite/. The deadline for scholarships and educational grants for 2020 is March 13th. For more information, please contact the clerk of the Education Subcommittee, Amy Schmaljohn, at amy@schmaljohn.com.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC) HIRING NEW CONFERENCE

COORDINATOR: Friends General Conference is now accepting applications for the Conference Coordinator position. The current Conference Coordinator, will retire at the close of the 2020 FGC Gathering. FGC seeks a skilled and dynamic person with event management experience to lead our organization's flagship event. This position provides wonderful opportunities to work with Friends from across the continent and the satisfaction of providing a week of spiritual nurture and refreshment each summer. The Conference Coordinator works closely with the Long Range Conference Planning Committee (which oversees planning of the Gathering three years out), each annual Gathering Committee and associated subcommittees, many volunteers, and with site representatives. They inform and consult with other Gathering staff as appropriate, while supervising the Gathering Youth Coordinator, the Conference Associate, and the Gathering Registration Assistant. The Conference Coordinator is expected to be active in the Religious Society of Friends or have deep knowledge of Quaker spirituality and community. Applications will be accepted until **January 3rd, 2020**, with an expected start date in March 2020. To see the full description and application instructions, go to www.fgcquaker.org/serve/opportunities/job-opportunity-conference-coordinator.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL)

Impeachment Process Imperative to Preserve Our Democracy

By Diane Randall (Executive Secretary of FCNL), December 13, 2019

there is no joy in the impeachment proceedings that are moving forward in Congress. As the House Judiciary Committee debated the two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, we saw the settling gloom of congressional partisanship. Painful as this process is, the Friends Committee on National Legislation fully supports the impeachment process established by the U.S. Constitution.

Last month, our governing body, FCNL's General Committee, approved our statement of legislative policy that guides FCNL's position:

"We hold our government institutions and officials to rigorous ethical standards of fairness, honesty, openness, and avoidance of even the appearance of conflicts of interest. We expect our government to abide by the U.S. Constitution, national and international law, and international treaties. The system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches is central to our form of government and must be strengthened."

The U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to remove a president from office for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” The impeachment inquiry by committees of the House of Representatives has resulted in two articles of impeachment – abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. We urge every member of Congress to be guided by the facts and by their conscience as the full House votes on the articles of impeachment and as the president stands trial in the U.S. Senate to determine if he abused his office for personal gain and if he obstructed justice.

Although we know how the political divisions in our country, and reflected in Congress, tear at the fabric of common good, this impeachment process is essential to fully use the powers established as foundational to this democracy – in particular the separation of powers between all branches of government. Congress has the authority and the obligation to determine if the president has violated his oath of office and harmed the country.

The mission of the Friends Committee on National Legislation is to influence federal policies to create a world free of war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice, communities where every person’s potential may be realized, and an earth restored. This vision can only happen if all of us who live in this country, especially our leaders, conduct ourselves responsibly and courageously.

As people of faith, we believe that this impeachment process is imperative to affirm the U.S. Constitution and preserve our democracy.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC)

Resisting border separation

by Pedro Rios, Dec 26, 2019

On Dec. 14, 2019, more than 200 faith leaders, migrants, and community members gathered at a park near the San Diego border to celebrate the 26th annual Posada Sin Fronteras (Posada Without Borders). In Tijuana, people also congregated at Mexico’s northwestern border with the United States. Organized by AFSC and partner organizations, the event reenacts Mary and Joseph’s search for shelter anticipating the birth of Jesus. It follows in the Advent tradition of communities throughout Latin America and within the United States that organize posadas, celebrating the nativity story of Jesus’ birth according to Luke’s Gospel.

The Posada Sin Fronteras also reminds us how walls and U.S.’s inhumane immigration and border policies jeopardize the lives of migrants seeking refuge—and why our struggle to change those policies is so important.

Iconic to posadas are the alternating call-and-response verses sung by participants as they walk from home to home in a community, until they reach the designated home where those on the street are invited in to celebrate with food and pastries. The Posada Sin Fronteras takes place at the U.S.-Mexico border wall, with people gathering on both sides. Those seeking refuge on the Mexican side of the border wall play the roles of Joseph and Mary, calling to those on the U.S. side—playing the role of an innkeeper—requesting shelter. But the imposing border wall, which is lined with concertina wire and patrolled by armed border agents, prevents the final act from taking place, leaving Mary and Joseph without a safe place to stay. ...

At the Posada Sin Fronteras, it is a tradition to call out the names of migrants who have died. After each name is read, attendees declare “¡Presente!,” which is meant to invoke the memory of that person. This year, more than half of the 40 names read were of children.

The names read included Jakelin Caal Maquin (7), Felipe Gómez Alonzo (8), Carlos Hernández Vazquez (16), and many others. It also included the names of children who died in the desert or who drowned in the Rio Grande while crossing from Mexico to the United States.

In Tijuana, our partners led a silent procession parallel to the border wall leading west toward the ocean. In San Diego, our procession went east between an outlet mall and the primary border wall, where just a year before, Border Patrol agents shot tear gas at migrants in a separate incident, which led to the shutting down of the world's busiest land border crossing.

As we [begin 2020], we must remain unwavering in our commitment to uphold the human rights and legal protections of all migrants. In the face of ongoing political assaults and the loss of more lives, we cannot afford to turn our backs on people seeking safety and shelter in the U.S.

To read the whole article, go to <https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/resisting-border-separation>.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)...SAVE THE DATE

A poster for the FWCC Sustainability Conference 2020. The background is a solid tan color. At the top left, the title "How Does God Call us to Act?" is written in a large, bold, dark grey sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller, lighter grey sans-serif font, is "FWCC Sustainability: An Online Conference with Friends World Wide". Further down, in an even smaller, italicized dark grey font, is "Join Quakers around the world to gather the Quaker voice on sustainability". On the right side, there is a graphic of three stylized human figures (represented by circles for heads and vertical lines for bodies) standing on a dark, textured globe. The globe shows the continents of North and South America. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo with the letters "FWCC" in different colors (blue, yellow, green, red) and a white star in the center. To the right of the logo, the text "FEBRUARY 22, 2020" is written in a small, dark grey font. Below that, in a slightly larger dark grey font, is "For more information go to fwcc.world/sustainability/conference2020".

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13

We are inviting you to join an online conference on sustainability with Friends around the world.

As Friends, we recognise the need to respond to sustainability. In 2016, at our last world gathering, we generated the Pisac Sustainability Minute which has led to exploring the work Quakers are doing on sustainability across the world, asking Friends and Yearly Meetings to take action to promote sustainability at all levels, including the global level.

But now, almost four years on, we recognise the need to gather, to share, to understand where we are as a family sharing this urgent concern.

On **Saturday 22 February 2020**, there will be an online conference spanning 11 hours. You will be able to join one of three start times, for a duration of 3 hours.

All of the worship sharing will be in English. For French and Spanish interpretations are available.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (JANUARY 2020): Elijah Cummings’ “A Letter to My Father”

Early in Elijah Cummings’ congressional service, he wrote a letter to his father, Robert Cummings, thanking him for all that he had done for him. In 1996 or 1997, he asked for and received his father’s permission to publish that letter in the Baltimore AFRO American newspaper. It was reprinted in the Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 2019, issue; this is an excerpt.

“You created over and over again positive visions for us. You refused to allow us to be limited to a few square blocks of Baltimore....

“I also thank you for your consistent efforts to protect us from a cruel world. Every time you would come home after working very long hours as a laborer at Davison Chemical, you would sit in the car in front of the house for at least an hour. Whether it was 20 degrees or 95 degrees, you sat there in the car quietly. We all knew not to disturb you.

“When you got out of the car you displayed a calm and gentle smile. Some years later I asked you why was it that you always sat in the car before coming into the house. You responded by telling me that at work you were often treated badly, discriminated against, and called everything but a child of God. You said that your anger would be so great that you felt a need to calm down so that your family would not become victimized by your anger.

“I thank you for teaching us to give of our time and resources to make the world a better place to live. As children we watched as you constantly helped people in our neighborhood.”

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.

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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>BUSINESS MEETING: JANUARY 5.</u>

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>Bess Keller</u> , 410.302.3425
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Ned Worth</u> , 443.600.9380
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., contact <u>Susan Johns Smith</u> , 410.458-1835
Library—OPEN	3rd Sundays , 12:30 p.m.; contact <u>Dave Sydlik</u> , 484.264.8489
Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	2nd Sundays at 1:00 p.m.; contact <u>Jo Brown</u> , 717.385.5813
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact <u>Donna McKusick</u> , 410.426.5836
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> , 410.302.3425

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.