

Second Month (February) 2020

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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

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

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

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

Meetings for Business

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 BYM summer camp is now open. Apply for funds to make it possible for your child(ren) to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

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

MEETING FOR BUSINESS (first Sunday): February 2, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Childcare is available.

YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS) POTLUCK (first Sunday): February 2. Contact Maya Muñoz (301-703-0522) or Dave Sydlik (484-264-8489) for details.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB (second Sunday): February 9, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. QBC will discuss Pendle Hill Pamphlet #455, *Trying to Be Truthful* by Chel Avery. Copies are available in the Pendle Hill rack in the foyer. You can put your \$7 payment in the PH box. 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): February 9.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE (second Sunday): February 9, 12:30 - 1:00 in the library. The Meeting for Healing format for the group will continue with 2-3 names of persons and a brief biography given into the silence sequentially in three groups: a) Names of those murdered in Baltimore and we hold family and friends in the Light; b) Names of persons arrested or convicted and in prison for murder; c) Unnamed persons touched by violence in Baltimore. If you have questions, please contact Susan Smith, Cathleen Hanson or Stan Becker.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP: Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. in the library. Harvesting rainwater from your roof not only saves money on your water bill, but it also helps your downstream neighbors! Learn all about the benefits of rain barrels with Blue Water Baltimore. We will demonstrate how to build and install a rain barrel, and provide information on how you can purchase a fully assembled barrel or a DIY kit through our native plant nursery. The third in a series of GOAT workshops.

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING: Sunday, February 16 at Little Falls Meeting. The program is titled "Finding Our Voices in Annapolis...2020."

Schedule:

10:00 Registration/coffee

10:30 Meeting for worship

11:30 Meeting for worship with a concern for business: Sharing from meetings of current activities, concerns, upcoming events

12:30 Simple meal

1:30 Presentation by Quaker Voice in Maryland: the 2020 Maryland General Assembly session, issues of interest to Friends, and opportunities for Friends to share thoughts

3:30 Adjourn

Child care available upon request. Please send an email to littlefalls.clerk@gmail.com by 2/9/20.



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

QUAKER PROCESS IN DECISION MAKING, Sunday, February 23, 12:30 in the library.

Because we want to create an opportunity to support consistent Quaker practice among committees, the Ministry and Counsel Committee will hold a guided discussion on Quaker process in decision-making. All committee and working group clerks are expected to attend. Others are welcome to participate, especially those who may be considering taking on leadership responsibilities or those who simply

want to know more about how Quakers discern direction corporately (as a group) and come together in unity to move forward in action. The handout that will be discussed is on the table in the meeting room by the door.

BALTIMORE STRIDE FILM SCREENING: Sunday, February 23, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Hicks Room. Baltimore STRIDE is hosting screenings of Ava DuVernay's 4-part Netflix series *When They See Us*. Join us for Part 3! We'll be serving snacks and holding a discussion of the episode after the screening.

This event is a fundraiser (no one turned away for lack of funds!). STRIDE is collecting donations to support genuine diversity at Baltimore Yearly Meeting summer camps.

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: Check the Silent Announcements for weekly information. John McKusick will also email families with updates.

→ HOLD the DATE The **Homewood Family Camping Weekend** will be held **Friday evening, May 22 through Sunday lunch, May 24 at the Catoctin Quaker Camp in western Maryland**. Sponsored by the Religious Education Committee and open to all Friends, friends, and attenders. Hope that you can join us for all or a portion of the weekend for fun and fellowship in the mountains of Maryland. HOLD the DATE and look for more details in late March.

Enrollment for the BYM summer camping programs has begun. For more information, dates, rates, or to register, please visit the website at bymcamps.org.

LOOKING BACK ON OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE COFFEE HOUSE: The event came together very well, despite the fairy lights, the furnace and the elevator not working! Thirty-one participants introduced themselves, including five from Stony Run, three from Richard's dance class, and eight children. Rosetta Graham impressed us by coming up and down the stairs by the kitchen door. There was lots of food, including Michael Craven's creative and delicious falafel lettuce wraps. A variety of games, new and old, were played. Songs, new and old, were heard, including one in Swahili performed by Alice from Stony Run. All agreed this event should be repeated 12/31/20.

--Submitted by Megan Shook, on behalf of the Working Group for the Arts, which sponsored the event.

Mark your calendars for the next New Year's Eve now!

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 FEBRUARY 2020

Come to our rain barrel workshop on Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. in the library. Harvesting rainwater from your roof not only saves money on your water bill, but it also helps your downstream neighbors! Learn all about the benefits of rain barrels with Blue Water Baltimore. We will demonstrate how to build and install a rain barrel, and provide information on how you can purchase a fully assembled barrel or a DIY kit through our native plant nursery. The third in a series of GOAT workshops.

Lobby Our Representatives to the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis! February 17th (President's Day)

There is a robust slate of environmental bills before the House of Delegates and Senate again this year. The Maryland Climate Coalition is sponsoring a Lobby Night for constituents to visit their representatives to urge passage of several bills. These include:

- Coal Community Transition from Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy Jobs;
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reform;
- Renewable Portfolio Standard Revisions;
- Ban on Plastic Bags;
- Chlorpyrifos (pesticide) Ban; and
- Healthy Green Amendment to the Maryland State Constitution.

A delegation from Homewood will join faith and environmental organizations across the state and will gather on President's Day to urge our legislators to pass these bills. Will you please join members of GOAT and other Homewood Friends to raise a Quaker Voice in Maryland for a cleaner environment and a more just society? More detailed information will be available in early February. In the meantime, please let John McKusick (John.ca.mckusick@verizon.net or 410-830-9225) know of your interest!

Watch for updates in the Silent Announcements and the Homewood FaceBook page!

Current GOAT members are Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Polly Heninger, John McKusick, 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, February 16. 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/>.

BYM WOMEN'S RETREAT: February 7 – 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. *Diligence in Love, Overcoming Isolation* is the theme. For more information go to womensretreat.bym-rsf.net/. Please note that registration is now full, but anyone interested may add their name to the waitlist.

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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 meet 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. Leaders Rita Willett and Catherine Cox are both graduates of the School of the Spirit Ministry's program *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*, and Rita was a teacher in that program. She holds a degree from Earlham School of Religion and has been a student in Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*. Catherine is a graduate of Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups and Retreats Program*. The full cost is \$280, minimum fee is \$200.

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YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: February 14 – 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.

INTERFAITH ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (IAHR) ADVOCACY DAY: Wednesday, February 19, from 9 - 2 p.m. in the House Office Building in Annapolis.

IAHR will host an Advocacy Day on the issue of **solitary confinement**. This is a chance to educate legislators about two bills on solitary confinement/restrictive housing. One will require transition services for individuals before release from solitary to the public; the second severely restricts solitary for the seriously mentally ill. Join us! If you cannot come, volunteer to make calls or send emails. Go to the website to register: https://www.interfaithactionhr.org/4th_advocacy_day_in_annapolis. For more information contact Kimberly Haven via text or voice at 443-987-3959 or email kimberlyhaven@gmail.com or call Rabbi Feinberg at 202-669-7700. For carpool information contact Suzanne O'Hatnick (Stony Run Meeting) at suzanneohatnick@comcast.net or 443-721-6518.

DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL SESSION 2020 WORKSHOP PROPOSALS: February 22. If you, or a committee you are part of, want to lead a workshop, please submit this form (www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/workshoppop.html) by February 22. Workshops are held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons, and typically cover a range of topics that relate to the theme of Annual Session (*Courage, Faith, and Hope to Love Across Our Differences*), and other topics of interest to Friends. Interest group times are also available for those that want to converse with others on a topic, without the preparation needed for a full workshop. Interest group requests can be made any time before or during Annual Session.

CLIMATE CHANGE:ACT FOR OUR FUTURE, A Conversation for Head and Heart: February 22, Langley Hill Friends Meeting (McLean, VA). The Friends Wilderness Center is focusing many of its programs for 2020 on the themes of connecting with nature and of living sustainably. Our February 22nd program is a special off-site program held at Langley Hill Friends Meeting (6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101) to allow for a larger audience to participate in a dialogue about global climate disruption and how each of us can take action to mitigate it. Structured both to educate and to inspire, this 3-part program will hopefully inspire you to add your voice, your heart and your talents to shaping a sustainable future for future generations and the planet they will inhabit. As Kallan Benson, our youngest presenter, noted in her September 2019 speech to the gathered environmental delegates at the United Nations in New York, "Giving up is not an option." A home-cooked lunch and dessert will be available for a charge of \$10 with an advance reservation. Brown Bag lunches are permitted. **Please RSVP** to Sheila Bach **by Monday, February 17th** at naturesheila@gmail.com or 571-271-6267 if you plan to attend and let her know if you would like a meal when you do so.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RETREAT: February 29, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (refreshment and sign-in 9:30-10), Adelphi Friends Meeting (Adelphi, MD). Quakers strive with joy to welcome people of diverse spiritual journeys, beliefs and life experiences. How do we nurture each other's growth, in the midst of great diversity? Such an ideal can be challenging. Our morning speaker will present current issues and remind us of earlier times in Quaker history when increased diversity presented similar dilemmas. A panel will facilitate an audience discussion. Following lunch, we will divide into three workshops:

- Continuing discussion of mornings theme;
- Nurturing our youth's individual spirituality within the group setting (i.e., Quaker classroom management); and
- Teaching history through storytelling.

After our workshops, we will gather in the large group to share highlights, and take part in a “mystery book game.” If there are any questions or to register, please contact Ellen Arginteanu (ellenandjules@protonmail.com, 814-206-6712).

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE: March 7 – 8, Adelphi Friends Meeting (Adelphi, 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).

THIRD MONTH INTERIM MEETING: March 21, Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting (Winchester, VA). Get to know Yearly Meeting Committees and Friends from other meetings! Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Interim Business Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30. Check the Yearly Meeting website for more information (www.bym-rsf.org/events/interim/third20.html).

AT STONY RUN:

Programmed Quaker Worship in the Kenyan tradition is now a weekly event. Everyone is invited to worship with Kenyan Quakers living in the Baltimore area. Contact Gilbert Imbayi at gilbert.imbayi@gmail.com for information.

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AT PENDLE HILL:

This hummus recipe is on the Pendle Hill website. Easy to make, and no plastic containers from the grocery store!

Recipe: Classic Hummus (<https://pendlehill.org/recipe-classic-hummus/>)

Makes about 2 cups.

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup sesame seeds, toasted
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil (plus 1 T for garnish)
- 1 ½ cups garbanzo beans (chick peas)
- 8-10 large garlic cloves
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ¼ to 1 tsp salt or to taste
- 1 tsp cumin (plus a bit for garnish)

Directions:

- Put the toasted sesame seeds in a blender, blend a bit, and then add olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt, and cumin. Blend well. Add the garbanzo beans and blend until very smooth, adding more olive oil if needed. Taste and adjust for salt and cumin if needed.
- Put hummus into a serving bowl, drizzle with a little extra virgin olive oil over the top, and sprinkle with a bit of cumin if desired. Serve with pita chips or warm pita bread triangles.

Aiming for Justice: Race, Reparations, and Right Paths, Feb 2-6, 2020 (Sunday evening through Thursday lunch). A short course with **Melchor Hall**, a Black feminist scholar-activist, raised in the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition and educated in Quaker schools. Born in the nation's capital, formerly known as "Chocolate City" for its Black population, she began her adulthood with no Congressional voting representation. Both a popular educator and a university professor, she is a fifth-generation U.S.-born African American terminal degree (i.e., PhD or MD) graduate, who was nurtured and loved by Black artists, cultural workers, and community activists.

The Movement for Black Lives, Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, and the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and National Memorial for Peace and Justice (i.e., lynching memorial) have all led to this historical moment. White people in the U.S., especially those who have inherited wealth from family members, must reckon with the question of race-based reparations. While many workshops about racial injustices focus on the feelings and comfort of white participants regarding a troubled past, very few workshops ask that white participants address the material benefits of that past. This workshop asks participants to imagine what material justice might entail and to take the first steps in that direction. As a prerequisite to participation in this year's workshop, applicants will have to commit some amount of personal or organizational wealth to race-based redistribution.

The workshop will only happen if \$10,000 total has been committed by the group, so register early if you want to ensure that it will happen. More information is available at <https://pendlehill.org/events/aiming-for-justice-race-reparations-and-right-paths-2/>.

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

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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. [Click here to download the 2020-21 Application Form.](#)

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](http://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/](http://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.

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM) - The Resilience of an Olive Tree

Adrian Moody, Head of Ramallah Friends School, shared this message in the fall:

The October rains have arrived and with it comes the olive harvest. Olive harvest time is significant here in Palestine. Our students involve themselves in community service to assist villagers in picking the olives. Olive trees carry more than an economic significance in the lives of Palestinians. They are not just like any other trees, they are symbolic of Palestinians' attachment to their land. Because the trees are drought-resistant and grow under poor soil conditions, they represent Palestinian resistance and resilience. The fact that olive trees live and bear fruit for thousands of years is parallel to Palestinian history and continuity on the land.

Palestinians are proud of their olive trees; they take care of them with care and appreciation. Palestine has some of the world's oldest olive trees, dating back to 4,000 years. Some families have trees that have been passed down to them for generations. This year I picked my own olives (from my tiny tree) and pickled them with chillies. I include a photo of my proud achievement!



FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)

“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 (FEBRUARY 2020): Seneca Village and Central Park

From a New York Times Opinion piece by Brent Staples, a member of the NYT Editorial Board, about the destruction in the 1850s of Seneca Village. It was “Manhattan’s first significant settlement of black property owners and the epicenter of black political power in Manhattan during the mid-19th century. The village occupied land along what is now Central Park’s western edge, between roughly 83rd and 89th Streets” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/28/opinion/seneca-central-park-nyc.html>.

“New Yorkers who grew up with the fiction that slavery was limited to the South learned otherwise in 1991, when construction in Lower Manhattan unearthed hundreds of skeletons from a forgotten colonial-era cemetery that had served as the resting place of 15,000 Africans. The burial site, known since 2006 as the African Burial Ground National Monument, underscored the fact that New York City in the late 18th century was an epicenter of the slave trade, holding more Africans in chains than any other city in the country, with the possible exception of Charleston, S.C.

“New York City’s addiction to the immediate fruits of slave labor — and to the profits that it reaped from servicing the business needs of the South — made for a slow and tortured path to emancipation there. ... New York [was] one of the last Northern states to abolish slavery.

“By this time [1817], white New York had taken steps to cripple African-Americans politically and economically. Black men had largely been banished from lucrative skill trades and relegated to subsistence jobs. To short-circuit black political empowerment, the State Legislature made voting rights for black men contingent upon ownership of property valued at \$250 or more — even as it rolled back the property ownership requirement for white men. As a result, only 16 black men in Manhattan had the right to vote.”

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.

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: FEBRUARY 2.</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.

