

Eighth Month (August) 2020

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, the Eighth Query: Outreach**

Do you, as the way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance?

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

A. Within the Local Meeting

It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.

Typically Friends come together in meetings for worship from diverse neighborhoods, seeing one another rarely except on First Day or on special occasions. Many Meetings find it helpful to encourage groups to meet in one another's homes for worship, recreation, study or fellowship. Committees provide opportunities for other kinds of relationships within the Meeting. But all too often these contacts fail to satisfy our yearning for community. Sometimes a glimpse of the meaning of community comes as Friends work together in projects of social service, peace education, religious education or pastoral care for fellow members. Each Meeting should have as an active concern before one or more of its standing committees the nurture of the Meeting community in whatever ways may open.

B. Within the Society of Friends

Friends who restrict their experience of the Society to their local Meeting are missing rich experiences of fellowship in the wider community. Quarterly, Half-yearly and Yearly Meetings as well as larger gatherings provide opportunities for Friends of all ages to broaden their experience of the Society and the circle of their spiritually-based friendships. Attendance at such larger Meetings should be seriously considered by each of us as a benefit of membership, an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and a means of widening our community.

Another rich resource within the Society which provides opportunities for fellowship and community is the variety of service committees and action organizations established to further our testimonies. Involvement in these endeavors can help to knit us one to another in common effort. The Society also 2

sponsors study, conference and retreat opportunities at various centers. Meetings should assist the attendance of members and provide opportunity to share the fruits of such experiences in the local Meeting.

Finally, the Friendly tradition of intervisitation, whether under the weight of specific concern or in the interest of wider Quaker fellowship, should be fostered among our local Meetings.

C. With Other Religious Bodies and Persons

Our belief in that of God in every person requires that we cooperate with other religious bodies. We are aware that we have much to learn from the religious experiences of other groups, Christian and nonChristian. We believe also that we have a rich and unique experience from which we can contribute. The Friends World Committee for Consultation brings us into contact with Quaker groups worldwide, often different from our own in culture, theology or practice. Through Friends United Meeting and Friends General Conference our Yearly Meeting is affiliated with national and international ecumenical movements. In addition, many of our local or area Meetings cooperate in community councils or associations of religious groups. In all these affiliations we make clear that our faith is one of experience rather than one of creed or doctrine. In sharing that experience with persons from other backgrounds through common worship and shared service we enrich our sense of community.

D. With All Humanity

Our belief in the universality of the Inner Light requires us to "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone" as George Fox urged. No human being is excluded from our sense of community, for we are led by our faith to view human beings as children of God rather than as stereotypes of cultures, nations, or ideologies. It is individual people with whom fellowship must be established, and each Friend must seek in the quiet of worship the personal strength to work at the establishment of community.

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES: As you know, BYM camp is not happening this summer. However, if your child or teen has an activity that they can do under current circumstances and that would enhance their spiritual life, Trustees has funds which may be used to support them. These funds are intended to supplement resources available to the child/teen from other sources. For more information and for the application form, please see our website page: <https://homewoodfriends.org/memberresources/scholarships/>. Please send applications to Bess Keller, Trustee.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

PLEASE NOTE: Most of our regularly scheduled activities are meeting on Zoom until further notice. For more information about accessing Zoom, please go to the homepage on our website at www.homewoodfriends.org. **Please see the list of Zoom URLs and phone numbers for regularly scheduled groups at the end of the newsletter.** This list is also posted on our website at <https://homewoodfriends.org/calendar/weekly-schedule/>.

I WILL BE ON VACATION the week of August 3. Regular hours resume on August 10. --Mina

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: every Sunday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Zoom.

SOCIAL TIME AFTER WORSHIP: every Sunday after worship, 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. The Outreach Team invites you to catch up with f/Friends in an informal Zoom gathering every Sunday after meeting. The Zoom URL is the same as for meeting for worship, so you can just stay online or, if you missed meeting, you can join us.

MID-WEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Until the meetinghouse reopens, Ministry and Counsel Committee will offer **Experiment with Light every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.** Please join us for this more intimate form of worship.

FRIDAY PEACE VIGILS CONTINUE: 5:00 p.m. every Friday in front of the meetinghouse. 6 p.m.: Information and resource sharing on meetinghouse steps. Physical distancing applies. Wear your mask.

CALLED MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, August 2, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss the Proposed HFM Minute on Systemic Racism and Violence, available at <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/public-minutes/>.

YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS) GATHERING (first Sunday): August 2 on Zoom. Contact Maya Muñoz (301-703-0522) for details.

FCNL ADVOCACY GROUP: The Peace and Social Justice Committee is putting together an FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) advocacy group, which is a group of Quakers interested in virtually lobbying our representatives on issues that matter to Quakers, in particular ending war but with some flexibility to pursue other agenda items.

→The next step is a "host committee call," which is an hour-long meeting with an FCNL representative and 5+ interested members of Homewood / Stony Run to decide on how we want to move forward.

This Zoom call is scheduled for Tuesday August 4th at 6:00 p.m.

If you are interested, please notify Peter at peter.phalen@gmail.com or 206-371-1107.

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327260090>, Meeting ID: 813 2726 0090.

VIGILS COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATOMIC BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: Thursday, August 6, 5 - 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 9, 1 - 2:30 p.m. In our July business meeting, Homewood Friends Meeting agreed to co-sponsor 2 annually held vigils bearing witness to the devastating bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As you know, this year is the 75th anniversary. Below is the information about the vigils as discussed on the Maryland Peace Action website (<https://peaceactionmd.org/events/>). Additional events commemorating the 75th anniversary are listed at the Maryland Peace Action site.

FOR AUGUST 6: Participants will gather at the four corners of the intersection of 33rd and North Charles Streets, adjacent to Johns Hopkins University, the #1 nuclear weapons contractor among U.S. educational institutions. JHU's Applied Physics Laboratory, which engages in most of the university's work on weapons, renewed a seven-year contract in 2017 worth \$93 million to continue its work with the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center. Participants with signs, banners, ribbons and artwork will condemn research on nuclear weapons, call for ratification of the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, and call for demilitarizing the police and denuclearizing the military. Some of the demonstrators will be

interviewed urging JHU to renounce its nuclear weapons contracts. Recorded comments will be posted on social media.

FOR AUGUST 9: In support of the UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons and Back from the Brink, five policy prescriptions for the U.S. The vigil will begin at 3107 North Charles St. [the meetinghouse], and then spread out on intersections up Charles St. as far as possible. People will hold signs, banners, ribbons and artwork. A car caravan in support of the vigil's demands, decorated with anti-nuclear messages, will organize beginning at 12:30 at Wyman Park, 29th St. and head north on Charles St. Some vigil and caravan participants will record statements, which will be posted on social media.

Sponsored by Baltimore Nonviolence Center, Baltimore Peace Action, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, Homewood Friends Meeting, Maryland Peace Action, and Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB (second Sunday): No Quaker Book Club this month. It will resume in September. If you would like to be on the Quaker Book Club mailing list, please send Donna McKusick a note a dmckusick@icloud.com.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE TOUCHED BY MURDER IN BALTIMORE (second Sunday): August 9, 12:30 - 1:00 on Zoom. 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.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT BURIAL GROUNDS: Tuesday, August 11 and 25, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., 2506 Harford Rd. Outdoor worship at the Burial Grounds currently meets biweekly on Tuesday evenings at the Burial Grounds. Weather may interfere, in which case worship is cancelled if it is raining or forecast at 5 p.m. **Please bring a chair (or pick one up at the shed), park on the street (unless mobility issues require parking on the loop), bring bug spray (and be mindful it may disturb others), masks and social distancing apply (at least until we settle), bring water bottle.**

WORKSHOP ON BECOMING A MORE INCLUSIVE FAITH COMMUNITY: Saturday, August 15, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Khalila Lomax of BYM will lead Homewood members and attenders in how to use the Declaration by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as an Anti-Racist Faith Community as a springboard for the work of change at Homewood. The convictions and queries in the declaration will be explored and examples of the thoughtful work of other meetings in BYM will be featured. This workshop is sponsored by the Change Group at Homewood under the guidance of Ministry and Counsel. Please RSVP to Donna McKusick (dmckusick@icloud.com) by August 10th.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT (fourth Sunday): August 23, 9:15 a.m. on Zoom, led by Susan Russell Walters.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL: The Religious Education (RE) Committee is planning three outdoor activities for First Day School students and parents, as well as other members of the Homewood community. These will occur between the first week of August and the first week of September. As of this date, RE is working on the schedule for events 2 and 3: a campfire program and a nature walk.

Event # 1 will be a hike on Friday August 7. We'll meet at the Northern Central Railroad (NCR) trail head parking lot on Warren Road in Ashland at 9:30 AM. We'll walk north a level mile in shade to the



bridge and then there will be a delightful surprise. We'll mess around in the Gunpowder River for an hour or two and walk back to the cars. If you are late, just catch up with us.

Be prepared for wet and muddy feet. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent, and whatever you need to be comfortable outdoors. Bring a face mask and be prepared to socially distance.

The rain date is Monday August 10.

Please RSVP to Megan Shook, mega330@comcast.net, who is coordinating this trip.

Masks and all, First Day School met in our lovely garden on June 28 for an end of year celebration.



John McKusick, clerk of Religious Education Committee, outlines plans for the morning.



Henry Kennison loves dishing up deliciousness!

Photos and captions by Megan Shook. More photos available on the Homewood website at <https://homewoodfriends.org/about-us/photos/>

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: The Wicker Basket recipient for the upcoming weeks is CARES. The following items are needed: **cereal, soup, spaghetti sauce, rice, mac & cheese, toilet paper, soap, and shopping bags.** Drop off times are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:00 a.m.-noon, and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CARES is located at the rear of St. Mary's Church, 5502 York Rd, 21212. You may also send checks.

NEWS FROM OUR CHANGE GROUP: Homewood Friends Meeting has convened a Change Group (approved at June Meeting for Business) to lower existing barriers to involvement of people of color in Homewood Friends Meeting. Why is a Change Group needed? As a good beginning to understanding the work, we suggest you read the attached article in Friends Journal from 2019 by Vanessa Julye, which explains clearly the historical treatment and reception of POC into the Society of Friends: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/racial-diversity/>.

Other activities at Homewood related to racial equity:

- Homewood has 12 individuals enrolled in the AFSC e-course on “Radical Acting in Faith for White People” to build skills to show up fully and work with people of color to end white supremacy.
- Watch the Peace Committee space on Facebook and the Newsletter for additional resources on learning to understand and diverse from racism.

HOMEWOOD COVID-19 STIMULUS CHECKS FOR CHARITY CAMPAIGN

The Peace and Social Justice Committee continues to encourage those of you who can to donate some or all of your stimulus checks to charities of your choice. If you would like to donate your stimulus check to someone who needs it more than you, we encourage you to consider the following local organizations, which have been compiled and vetted by the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

We would like to gather data on how much money Homewood Friends donated during the COVID-19 crisis. Please complete the anonymous survey at the link in the form so we can determine how much money was donated as part of this effort. The survey includes options for including organizations that are not on this list.

To access the form and link, please go to <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/committees/peace-justice/>.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING are needed and gratefully accepted, particularly during these difficult times when our rental income has disappeared. Contributions 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.”*

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GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:

“GOAT NOAT” FOR AUGUST 2020

Homewood Achieves a Goal a Decade in the Making

It has been nearly a decade since Homewood Friends Meeting installed solar panels on the building's roof. These panels - 26 in all - have provided about 50% of the Meeting's electricity needs on average. Homewood has been a faith community leader in solar energy and was one of the featured stops for a green practices tour by One Water Partnership in 2019. It has always been the goal of the House and Grounds Committee, and more recently, GOAT, to add enough panels to the rooftop array to reach 100% or more of the Meeting's electricity generated through solar. With a lot of research and contractor negotiation by Rachael Neill and Gary Gillespie of GOAT and financial support from the Trustees, we can finally say that Homewood has gone 100% solar as of the beginning of July. An additional 26 solar panels have been installed and the array can generate up to 120% of our electricity needs, the overage going back to the electric grid and generating a credit for us. The next time you are near the meetinghouse, take a stroll through the native plants garden on the south side of the building and then cross North Charles and take a look at the meetinghouse roof to get a full perspective on the solar panels.



Gary and Rachael turn on the new solar panels!

Current GOAT members are Carol Beck, Stan Becker, Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Polly Heninger, Bess Keller, John McKusick, and Rachael Neill. GOAT is an open committee that meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Library (presently on Zoom). We would love to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas.

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.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

VIRTUAL BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2020:

COURAGE, FAITH AND HOPE TO LOVE ACROSS OUR DIFFERENCES, July 27-Aug 2, 2020.

All information about the Virtual Annual Session 2020 is available at www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/. Registration is online only and is available at www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/registration.html.

AT STONY RUN:

- **Sunday, August 9, at noon:** “Meet and Greet” via Zoom with Brandon Scott, Baltimore City Council president and Democratic nominee for mayor.
- **Thursday, August 13, from 7 to 9 p.m.:** Coming to the Table (CTTT) – Baltimore Group will meet via Zoom. CTTT groups provide a forum for the transformative work of undoing racism by meeting regularly for truth-telling, deep dialogue, building relationships, healing, and taking action to dismantle inequitable systems and structures based on “race.” For more information and/or to get on the Baltimore group's email list, visit <https://comingtothetable.org/organizer/md-baltimore/>.

AT PENDLE HILL:

DISCERNMENT WORKSHOPS: August 3, 5, & 7. As the ongoing tumult in the world about us continues to stir uncertainty and confusion, our need to remain in intimate touch with our Inner Guide to discern our way is ever more apparent. Jerry Knutson will present this series of online morning workshops based on his best-selling Pendle Hill Pamphlet #443, *Individual Spiritual Discernment: Receiving, Testing, and Implementing Leadings from a Higher Power*. Jerry Knutson is a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, travels in the ministry under the care of Quakers of Orlando, and is a member of the FWCC Traveling Ministers Corp. More information and registration are available at the following: <https://pendlehill.org/events/individual-spiritual-discernment/>

JOIN US FOR DAILY WORSHIP: Our international circle of Friends meeting for daily worship via Zoom continues to expand. We invite you to join over 150 Friends and seekers for a half-hour Meeting for Worship every day from 8:30 to 9:10 a.m. Eastern Time. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, we follow worship with 15 minutes of worship sharing in small groups. Zoom: +1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 432 071 090

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CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST SYSTEMIC RACISM FROM BYM FRIENDS TO ALL OUR LOCAL MEETINGS

Dear Friends,

This country has been immersed for so long in our struggles with racism: from genocide of indigenous people, slavery, and the Civil War, through generations of Jim Crow's oppressive segregation and the internment of Japanese Americans, and in the [violent inequality too often experienced to this day in law enforcement](#), in mass incarceration, and in the daily lives of our African-American neighbors and other people of color. At this troubled time, BYM Friends as individuals, with our local Meetings and other

worshipping communities, are called to act and to help in turning this historic tide of racism both in our wider society and in ourselves.

As fish may not notice the water they swim in, white Americans too long have accepted so much in this environment as unfortunate, random incidents and averted their attention. But, with the advent of cellphone cameras, social media and the internet communication, our country--like the rest of the world-- no longer can claim such ignorance. Our awareness can bring with it a sea change. The [recent murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police](#) is just one of the most recent and most clearly documented atrocities in the name of law enforcement. His case is among [more than 400 reported killings of citizens by U.S. police officers so far this year](#). Unequal patterns of arrest culminate in [incarceration of African Americans at a rate 5.1 times greater than that of white Americans](#), although studies of [drug involvement](#) and [traffic violations](#) suggest the underlying behavior is quite similar.

We also must recognize that de facto law enforcement and criminal justice racism is the tip of the iceberg in our ocean of social and economic injustice. White households in the U.S., on average, [hold ten times more assets than African American households](#). In [health care \(including COVID-19 measures\), education, and other social and economic opportunities](#), there also are huge disparities that represent the [culmination of generations of government-sanctioned discrimination on local, state and federal levels](#).

Our Quaker values call us to speak truth and to seek equality for all people. Our [BYM Declaration As An Anti-Racist Faith Community](#) calls us to work with impacted people to make a difference with all our decisions and actions. As Friends Meeting of Washington has asked through its sign ministry, “How does your life help end racial injustice?” With this letter, a group of BYM Friends from several states and committees unite to call for all our local Meetings to take action.

As Quakers once served as catalysts and key allies in the struggle to end slavery, please take this opportunity brought by our country’s shame at law enforcement’s misuse of deadly force against George Floyd and so many other people of color, by the ongoing protests, in the eye of our COVID-19 storm. Let us accept Bayard Rustin’s wisdom that “we need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers” and John Lewis’s call to “make good trouble.”

Here is what we hope Friends will do in every part of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Be practical, but be urgent. As local Meetings, as individuals and as part of BYM, please work with impacted people in each community, together, to:

- 1) Insist on [Town Meetings](#) joining people of color, police chiefs and leaders of local government to discuss prior deadly-force, “broken windows,” profiling, and other policies that lead to oppression of African American and other people of color, and to demand changes in our police system to eliminate entirely such harms.
- 2) [Contact our state legislators](#) and governors to demand changes in our policing and criminal justice system.
- 3) [Convene a series of community conversations](#) about impacts of systemic racism—beginning with policing, then moving on to health, education and other economic and social injustices—between white, African American, and other people of color, between business owners, government leaders, workers and unemployed people, between faith leaders, students, and parents.
- 4) Identify local groups and national organizations led by people of color and those already involved in anti-racist organizing, [such](#) as the [NAACP](#), [Movement for Black Lives](#) and [BYP100](#), to find and implement other specific ways our local Meetings may support and engage meaningfully with those efforts. While the recent cases of state-sanctioned violence and extrajudicial killing have sparked

renewed urgency among white F/friends, local and Yearly Meetings as predominantly white institutions should not ignore anti-racist work already in progress and often led by people of color.

5) Hold ourselves accountable. Please share your plans! Friends and others are looking for models to follow. Each individual, Meeting and committee responding to this Call is invited to report by emailing to [Nikki Richards](#) what you / we are doing for possible inclusion on a [new BYM webpage of Friends Commitments and Resources for Racial Justice in Action](#).

Anne Frank wrote, “*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.*” Let us wait no longer. George Fox wrote of seeing “*a great people to be gathered*”: So, it still is today, both despite and because of our diversity.

BYM Friends, from various local Meetings and committees, who unite in support of this Call for action against systemic racism in our country include:

Lauren Brownlee Bethesda Meeting	Philadelphia STRIDE volunteer	Adelphi Meeting
Phil Caroom Annapolis Meeting	Peirce Hammond Bethesda Meeting	Ken Stockbridge Patapsco Meeting
Ellen Cronin Sandy Spring Meeting	Mackenzie Morgan Adelphi Meeting	Ann Worley Sandy Spring Meeting
David Etheridge Friends Meeting of Washington	Clinton Pettus Baltimore (Stony Run) Meeting	BYM Growing Diverse Leadership Committee
Donna Hamilton Sandy Spring Meeting	Bob Rhudy Patapsco Meeting	BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Khalila Lomax BYM STRIDE coordinator	Nikki Richards Reparations Action Working Group	BYM Reparations Action Working Group
Sam McCormick	Marcy Seitel	BYM STRIDE working group BYM Working Group on Racism

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THE BYM CAMPING PROGRAM continues to rent cabins at Catoctin Quaker Camp as an alternative use of the property. “We will be renting campsites at 6 of the camper cabins for 5 days at a time. It is possible that this opportunity will be extended to Shiloh Quaker camp as well if the demand exceeds what is available at Catoctin.

“Rentals will be run in a similar fashion to a campground. Campsites will be rented at a flat fee of \$300.00 for five days and nights beginning Tuesday after 12 p.m. through Sunday at 3:00 p.m.”

Groups will be provided with:

- a cabin
- a fire pit
- a picnic table at the camp
- access to drinking water
- a rope for hanging food

- the bathhouse

The kitchen, lodge, dining hall infirmary and other buildings will not be open.

For more information, and to register, please see our website: bymcamps.org/summer-cabin-rentals/.”



(Don't you feel cooler, just looking at this photo?)

WHAT IS QVM AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Quaker **V**oice of **M**aryland (QVM) is a committee formed as a Working Group that was established in 2019 under the care of BYM Quarterly Meeting Maryland and the BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Members come from Homewood, Stony Run, Adelphi, Annapolis and Frederick Friends Meetings.

QVM developed from a leading at Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting and is roughly based on the model of FCNL, but at the level of the state rather than the federal government. The purpose is three-fold:

- to empower and unite Quakers in Maryland to have a voice in state policies that speak to our testimonies,
- to build on our history of speaking as a voice of moral clarity on issues of criminal justice, environmental stewardship, healthcare reform, education, immigration and civil rights, and
- to grow and strengthen connections among Maryland Quaker activists.

In the first year of QVM, members of the Working Group

- contacted most Monthly Meetings in Maryland, including on the Eastern Shore, to learn of Quaker priorities for state policies to address in the state legislature,
- researched and contacted Quaker groups in North Carolina and California with similar leadings for guidance,
- developed contacts with Friends, committees and Meetings across the state with in-person visits when possible,
- connected with other organizations where there were shared concerns to encourage Quaker participation in their advocacy in Annapolis,

- reported at Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting and BYM's Annual Session on the work in progress and to spread the word,
- met in October 2019 to reflect on input from Friends and discern legislative priorities leading to 7 bills under 4 policy areas (listed below)
- created a website **Quakervoicecmd.org** with links for ways to participate and information about bills and their status,
- maintained contact via email with Meeting liaisons and those who registered an interest, sending legislative updates and action alerts.

2020 Legislative priorities and bills:

Gun violence prevention and peacebuilding:

- Support for the **Kirwan Commission Bill** – passed but vetoed by the Governor.

Climate justice:

- **Climate Solutions Act of 2020** – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act. – cut short by abbreviated session. Bipartisan support in the Senate committee, but did not pass the House/Senate

Immigration and Civil Rights:

- **Override of the Dream Act Veto of the previous year – Success!**

Criminal Justice and Prison Reform:

- **Restrictive Housing Reform Act** – to limit solitary confinement for seriously mentally ill – strong support in Senate and House, but cut short by abbreviated session. Will be re-introduced in 2021.
- **Requiring transitional services before releasing from solitary to the public** – cut short by abbreviated session. Strong support from House and Senate leadership to bring back in 2021.
- **Rewarding Educational Milestones** – cut short by abbreviated session. Approved by the Senate, but ran out of time in the House.
- **Changing the Felony Murder Rule** – cut short by abbreviated session. Approved in the Senate, ran out of time in the House.

Here is how YOU can get involved!

- Go to <http://www.quakervoicecmd.org/get-involved/join-our-contacts>.
- Schedule a training on citizen lobbying for your Meeting or committee.
- Find out who your local elected officials are
- Join the QVM Committee!

Contacts:

Website: Quakervoicecmd.org

Webmaster: Molly Finch at mgsfinch@gmail.com

Email: quakervoicecmd@gmail.com

QVM Clerk: Molly Mitchell (Homewood Friends) at 1mollymitchell@gmail.com

--Submitted by Suzanne O'Hatnick, Stony Run Friends Meeting

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC)

Everyone should be able to obtain essential supplies, especially in a pandemic—but for elderly Palestinians who have lived under occupation for more than 50 years—or faced 13 years of blockade in Gaza—the obstacles to meeting basic needs can seem insurmountable.

Thanks to the generous support of the AFSC community and our long-standing partnerships in the region, our staff were able to launch a humanitarian effort in April—and have been working ever since to provide seniors in Gaza and the West Bank with kits containing face masks, soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and other essential items to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Over the past few weeks, AFSC staff delivered aid kits to 500 seniors in the northern Gaza community of Beit Hanoun and in Rafah in the south of Gaza—two communities with extremely high rates of poverty.

Here is what we heard from [one] of the seniors who have received kits.

Watfah Albea

Watfah Albea is a Palestinian refugee who currently lives in Beit Hanoun village. Like many Palestinians in Gaza, she is profoundly impacted by the Israeli blockade.

“I do not have the basic things to live as a human,” she says. “My house has no electricity. ... Moreover, I have cancer inside my body and cannot go out of Gaza to get my treatment. I find it difficult to buy proper food that suits my health. It is no surprise that I cannot find my medicine here because the Israeli blockade restricts the medicine of the Gazans. ... All aspects of our life are paralyzed.”

When Watfah received supplies from AFSC, she told us, “Thank you so much for remembering us. We are almost forgotten. Your help will enable us to survive this deadly virus along with our children and families.”

More stories at <https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/stories-elders-gaza> .



THINKING ABOUT RACE (SUMMER 2020): Smithsonian “Talking About Race” web portal

The following is from an email that the NMAAHC [National Museum of African American History] sent out on June 1, 2020. It includes a portal with tools for people wanting to have conversations about race, racism, anti-racism, bias and more: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/about/news/national-museum-african-american-history-and-culture-releases-talking-about-race-web>.

“From the recent racial altercation in Central Park to the deadly shooting of jogger Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia; to acts of police brutality resulting in the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other African Americans; to the protests these deaths have provoked in cities around the country; the rash of racially charged incidents prompted the Museum to move up the release date of its powerful new web portal ‘Talking About Race.’

“ ‘Talking About Race’ provides digital tools, online exercises, video instructions, scholarly articles, and more than 100 multimedia resources tailored for educators, parents, and caregivers, as well as individuals committed to racial equality. In releasing this resource now, we hope to help individuals and communities foster constructive dialogues on one of the nation’s most challenging issues: racism, and its corrosive impact.

“Since opening the Museum, the number one question we are asked is how to talk about race, especially with children,” said Spencer Crew, NMAAHC interim director. “We recognize how difficult it is to start that conversation. But in a nation still struggling with the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and white supremacy, we must have these tough conversations if we have any hope of turning the page and healing. This new portal is a step in that direction.”

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>CALLED BUSINESS MEETING: AUGUST 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	1st Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., contact <u>Susan Johns Smith</u> , 410.458-1835
Library—OPEN	3rd Fridays , 6:30 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	2nd Tuesdays , 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.

MOST OF OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES are meeting on Zoom until further notice. For more information about accessing Zoom, please go to our website homepage at www.homewoodfriends.org. Below are the Zoom URLs and phone numbers. They are also available at <https://homewoodfriends.org/calendar/weekly-schedule/>.

The use of "virtual backgrounds" has been turned off for security.

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: 10:30 AM Eastern Time

Every week on Sunday

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/255867065>

Sunday worship is followed at the same URL by

- Administrative Committee (12:15) on the last Sunday of odd-numbered months, and by
- Meeting for Business (12:30) on the first Sunday of each month.

- Social Time after Worship (11:30) every Sunday, length depending upon subsequent regularly scheduled meetings.

Topic: Hymn Singing

Time: 9:50 AM Eastern Time

First Sunday of the month

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946770527>

Topic: Experiment with Light (Thursday evenings)

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time

Every week on Thursday

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87411498198>

Meeting ID: 874 1149 8198

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87411498198# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,87411498198# US (Chicago)

Topic: Experiment with Light (Sunday mornings)

Time: 9:15 AM Eastern Time

Fourth Sunday of each month

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/674015039>

Topic: Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore

Time: 12:30 PM Eastern Time

Second Sunday of each month

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/902429904>

Topic: Homewood Quaker Book Club

Time: 9:15 AM Eastern Time

Second Sunday of each month

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/137694555>

(Toll) numbers for voice-only telephone access:

646 558 8656 US (New York)

312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

253 215 8782 US

301 715 8592 US

346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Enter the meeting ID (the 9-digit number at the end of the URL above) followed by the # sign.

To mute and unmute your phone during the session, you can press *6.

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