

Fourth Month 2023

Homewood Friends Meeting

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Newsletter

3107 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218
homewoodfriends@gmail.com
homewoodfriends.org
410.235.4438



Clerk: Sarah Bur
Interim Asst. Clerk:
Mina Brunyate
Newsletter Editor:
Luke Mayhew

Thank you for reading our newsletter! We have lots of updates and upcoming events, but first, you're invited to reflect on the current month's Query from Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

the Fourth Query: Personal Spiritual Life

Do you make time for meditation, prayer, and worship?

Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light?

Do you regularly seek God's guidance?

Are you open to guidance and support, and do you give thanks for them?

Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in return?

Advices for the Fourth Query:

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

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

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

Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not

for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. The experienced speaker should be watchful not to speak too often or at undue length. No Friend should come to meeting for worship with an intention to speak or not to speak.

We are obliged also to recognize and nurture the gifts of other Friends. The spiritual quality of our meetings for worship deepens when those who are led to speak out of the silence receive 2 encouragement and help. The fabric of the Meeting community and the larger community is strengthened when Friends who serve the community receive loving support from other Friends.

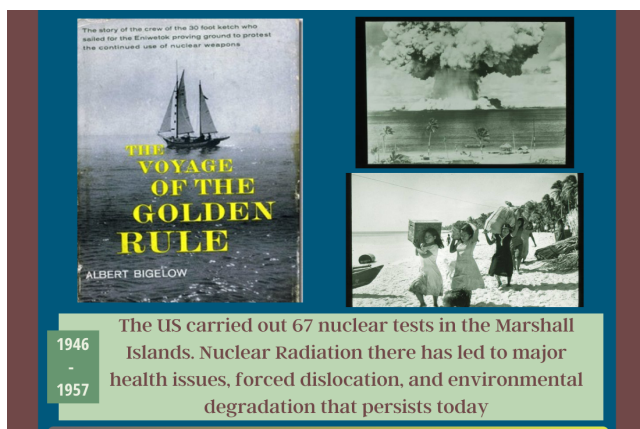
Nurturing the life of the Spirit requires frequent communication with the Divine Spirit. It is not sufficient to rely solely on an hour (or less) on First Day mornings, or on brief moments of silence before meals or committee meetings. We should make room in each day to know that of God within ourselves.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

2023 So Far

Some highlights



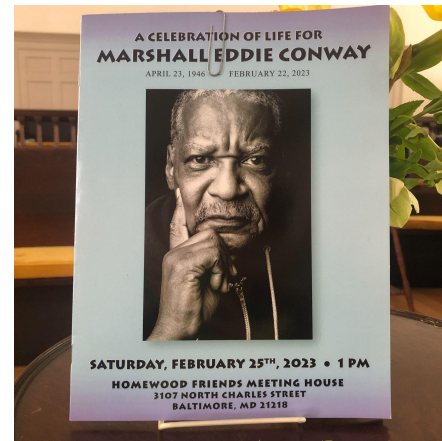
In March, our Green Organizing Action Team hosted a speaker event explaining the importance of passing on the Energy Savings Act and on ways that individuals and policies can transition our home/building energy away from direct fossil fuel power like natural gas, towards increasingly renewable-powered electricity. Our speaker was Jonathan Lacock-Nisly, Director of Faithful Advocacy with Homewood partner [Interfaith Power and Light](#). See the GOAT noat below to learn more about Energy Savings and see what's next.



As Baltimore peace activists prepare to welcome the [Golden Rule](#), some Friends have started a book circle to reflect on queries about the ship's historical voyage as told by one of the original crew members. In 1958, a small crew, including three Quakers, sailed to the Marshall Islands to disrupt nuclear weapons testing which was inflicting long-term damage on the people, ecology, and our chance to live without nuclear weapons. See below for more info about the final book discussion and the big welcoming parties happening here at Homewood on 4/30 and 5/1.

In February, the Celebration of Life for Eddie Conway took place at Homewood. Eddie worked unflaggingly for Black liberation and the peace and justice of all people, contributing immensely to communities both worldwide and here in his Baltimore home, including the Homewood community where he regularly attended Meeting for Worship.

- >> [Tribute written by Real News Network](#)
- >> [Video recording of the service.](#)



A note of thanks from Midlothian Friends Meeting



In 2003 and 2012, Homewood made loans to Midlothian Friends Meeting to help them purchase a Meetinghouse about 20 miles west of Richmond, VA. These loans were retired in the last few months. As you can see from the photos, it is a lovely place, and Howard Brod, a member of their Financial Stewardship Committee, provided this update:

Again, thank you for your support from Homewood. It's hard to believe so many years have already passed by. Midlothian Friends Meeting is thriving and doing well! I am sure having a wonderful meetinghouse, located on nearly 5 wooded acres at a wildlife preserve, has gone a long way to our success. We would have never acquired such wonderful facilities for worship without your assistance.


Homewood is fortunate to have a large endowment provided by Friends over the years, and the Trustees include loans like this in the overall investment strategy. A few years ago, we made a loan to GEDCO for Stadium Place here in Baltimore. This year, we are planning to make a loan to Adelphi Friends Meeting as they undertake major renovations to their Meetinghouse.

Announcements

Pandemic update: We continue to monitor local positivity rates and other pandemic indicators. We still **require masks inside the meetinghouse** for all large gatherings. Our full pandemic protocols are [on our website](#).

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: The Wicker Basket recipient continues to be [GEDCO CARES](#) who provides basic resources for people in the community suffering from financial crisis and instability. GEDCO has a new and improved location! 401 Woodbourne Avenue. Donation Requests: any and all home goods and food items, especially healthy snacks and canned fruit. Drop items off in the CARES box in the Homewood lobby.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: If you would like to be added to the list of families, please contact Kendall Kennison kendall.kennison@goucher.edu.



Our small Homewood “Breeze team” has dedicated their time transitioning us to the Breeze management software. This means taking our old unwieldy and variously formatted records and consolidating them into One -- a paperless database that’s seamlessly updated, one where it’s much easier to identify patterns in participation, interests, and giving, and to communicate with Meeting members and attenders in customized ways. This will bring more orderliness and accuracy as our Meeting grows and as we continue to respond to the life and needs of the Homewood community.

On the horizon: Not only will Breeze help us in the office but eventually, all members and attenders will have the option of using some of their tools. Did you know that if you recently made contributions to Homewood using our website, you were automatically using Breeze? Overtime you’ll have the ability to view your giving history through Breeze, and the Breeze team can send you easy steps to try that. After the team spends more time learning and building on the software, we’ll also share new ways to access the directory, communicate with committees, register for events, and set communication preferences. *Stay tuned.*

The Breeze team is Polly Heninger, Sarah Bur, Susan Russell Walters, and Luke Mayhew.

TRUSTEES FUNDING FOR EDUCATION & TO PARTICIPATE IN QUAKER EVENTS

The member-supported Consolidated Education Fund is available for members and regular attenders at Homewood Friends Meeting to help lessen the burden of education costs. This money can be used to support schooling at any level, public or private, as well as for projects, resources, and supplemental activities.

The Davis Fund is available for adults who would like help covering a portion of expenses for Quaker gatherings such as the FGC Annual Gathering, Pendle Hill, or BYM's Annual Session.

For more information about either fund and for the application form, please see our website page: <https://homewoodfriends.org/memberresources/scholarships/>



We have two incredibly joyous **birthday milestones** this month:

ROSETTA GRAHAM TURNS 100 ON THURSDAY, APRIL 27 AND
LOUISE WILLIAMS TURNS 101 ON TUESDAY, MAY 2.

Check the Meeting Directory to send a card.

In March, Rosetta Graham moved to Integrity Esther's Place at Harford. Visitors are welcome.



We have a wedding happening this month under the care of the meeting:

THE WEDDING OF **DOMINIQUE ZELTZMAN AND PAULA CRONAN** IS SCHEDULED FOR
SATURDAY APRIL 29TH AT 2 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Help is needed on the wedding day and on 4/23. Please sign up [HERE](#).





GOAT Noat

While it was not a particularly hard winter, the Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) is looking forward to spring.

Garden Club The first garden club workday will be held on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 – 11:30 AM. All are welcome to join in on the fun of weeding, pruning, and mulching. Get down and get dirty! This will be a good time to spruce up the garden in preparation for the wedding of Dominique and Paula on April 29th. There will be more opportunities to work in the garden throughout the summer.

The 2023 Maryland General Assembly wraps up its session on Monday, April 10th at midnight, what is known as Sine Die. GOAT members have been advocating for several key pieces of environmental legislation. We have a particular interest in setting greenhouse gas reduction goals for Maryland's home energy efficiency program ("EmPOWER"), and transitioning away from fossil fuel appliances like gas stoves. SB 905/ HB 1035 combines a few initiatives for accomplishing these goals. It has passed committees in both chambers but only has a few days left to reach a final vote.

Cisterns to Collect Rainwater We are eagerly awaiting word about a \$5000 grant that would allow us to replace the non-functioning cisterns. Carol Beck put the grant application together and submitted it to the Chesapeake Bay Trust. We hope to have the green light to work with our partner organization, Blue Water Baltimore, on the project this spring.

Composter in the Garden GOAT is partnering with the Hospitality Committee to move toward a no waste goal in the kitchen. GOAT purchased a new composting bin last fall. Located adjacent to the side porch, composting of food scraps and compostable plates is fully underway!

Members of GOAT: Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Luke Early, Bess Keller, Cathie Magee, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, Heather Ravlin

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person.

MID-WEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Every Thursday 7 PM Ministry and Counsel continues to offer **Experiment with Light on Zoom** ([link](#)). Please join us for this intimate form of worship.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sundays): April 9 12:30 - 1:00 PM on Zoom ([link](#)). The Meeting for Healing format will continue with 2-3 names and brief biographies given into the silence in three groups: a) Those murdered in Baltimore -- family and friends held in the Light; b) Persons arrested or convicted for murder; c) Unnamed persons touched by violence.



Some Ways to Get to Know New and Old Friends

Social Time After Worship Every Sunday after Meeting for Worship, join in the social time at the same Zoom link or downstairs for a simple lunch.

Friendly Fridays April 14 6-8 PM Join this month's Friendly Friday at the Meetinghouse. Potluck, some light get-to-know programs and a moment of silent worship together. Bringing a dish is encouraged but not required.

Young Adult Friends For folks in their ~20s and 30s there is often a get-together on the first Saturday of the month. Contact Ben Rogers benjamin.j.rogers.14@gmail.com to get added to the list.

GARDEN WORK DAY: Saturday April 15 10:00 AM Our Green Organizing Action Team (🌱) invites anyone to join weeding, mulching, and pruning in the Homewood garden.

MANUMISSIONS PRESENTATION: Friday April 21 3:30 PM Johns Hopkins historical research students will be presenting on Quaker manumissions in the 1700s. Under the care of Peace and Justice committee, in the Meeting Room.

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING – EXTENDED WORSHIP: April 23 Worship will extend to 12 PM to allow for worship sharing on the Spiritual State of the Meeting.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT (fourth Sundays) April 23 at 9 AM: [Zoom Link](#)

GET-TO-KNOW COMMITTEES April 30 during Simple Lunch Come learn from Nominating Committee about Homewood's various committees, and consider joining one that fits your interests.



BLM Rally April 16 1:30 PM

Homewood is a member of the local **Black Lives Matter Interfaith Coalition** (BLMIC.org) which holds multi-congregational, multiracial rallies across Baltimore to promote antiracism and demand justice and accountability from our institutions and leaders. Join the next rally at the Rawlings Conservatory (in Druid Hill Park). (Several Young Adult Friends are already planning to attend, and to explore the Conservatory afterwards)

The GOLDEN RULE Sails Again

4/17 Book Circle Zoom

4/30 Arts and Culture Event Homewood Friends

5/1 Crew Talk and Vincent Intondi Homewood Friends

ellenE4pj@yahoo.com MORE INFO: ELLEN AT VETERANS FOR PEACE

The Golden Rule was a ship of resistance against nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands

Annapolis Docking Event: 4/24 Baltimore Docking Events: 4/30 and 5/1

THE GOLDEN RULE!

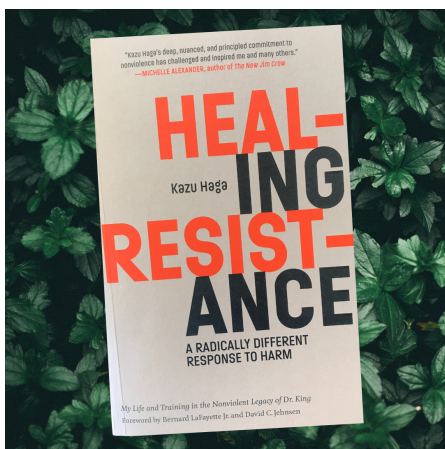
Homewood is hosting 3 events to welcome the Golden Rule ship as it stops in Baltimore on its peace tour.

April 17 @ 7:30 PM 3rd book discussion of Voyage of the Golden Rule. Newcomers welcome.

April 30 Music and Cultural Event honoring Golden Rule and anti-weapons & war work.

May 1 Vincent Intondi speaker event and Meet the Crew. Led by Veterans for Peace.

[More about Golden Rule events at Homewood.](#)



BOOK CLUB: HEALING RESISTANCE: April 20

Start reading Kazu Haga's important book on nonviolent action and living. [Register here](#) to join the Baltimore Peacebuilders discussion. Four part discussion on Thursdays at 7: 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, and 5/11

"Kazu Haga's deep, nuanced, and principled commitment to nonviolence has challenged and inspired me and many others."

-- Michelle Alexander,
author of *The New Jim Crow*

[You can purchase a new or used copy here online.](#)

QUAKERS BEYOND HOMEWOOD: EVENTS AND NOTICES



STONY RUN FRIENDS

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: April 22 10:00 - 2:00 Spring Cleaning! Take your broken and unwanted electronics to Friends School for recycling and repurposing. This avoids toxic leaching in landfills and harmful air pollution from incinerators.

Service learning hours available for teens, contact Kathy Rogers kathy@stonyrunfriends.org

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

◻ [Register for Young Friends Con, April 21-23](#) ◻

For high school age attenders who wish to enjoy the fellowship of the Quaker community. A time of friendship and growth, this season at Sandy Spring Meeting.

◻ [Junior Young Friends Con, May 5-7](#) ◻

Students in grades 6-8. Join Quaker-interested peers at Shiloh Quaker Campgrounds.

◻ [May 5 - 7th BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat](#) ◻

The Seed of Love in My Heart: Nurturing the conditions for Spiritual Depth and Cultivating our Divine Potential. Join this exploration at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD.

◻ [Camp Grounds Work Days / Tree Planting](#) ◻

Join the annual work of preparing Quaker campsites for the warmer seasons. Spend a day in April, May, or June visiting Catoctin, Opequon, or Shiloh, and contributing to the upkeep. [Sign Up Here](#)

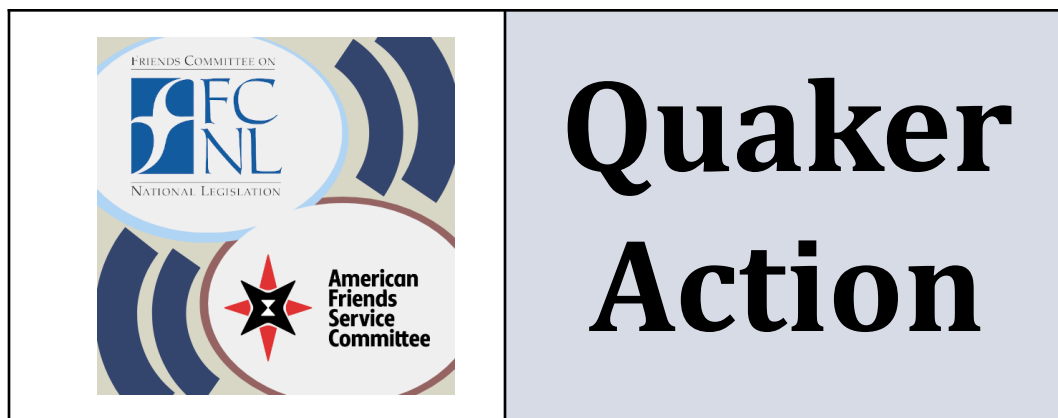
PENDLE HILL: [Check here](#) for upcoming events at Pendle Hill.

>>> Listen to [Pendle Hill's podcast, The Seed](#), including recent episodes on a range of topics from facing fears, to liberatory climate justice. Hosted by Dwight Dunston.

>>> Join PH for [Daily worship on Zoom](#): half-hour Meeting for Worship every day @ 8:30 AM.

PAUL ROBESON SCREENINGS **Saturday April 8 at 1 PM** BlackQuaker Project is celebrating Quaker-descendant Paul Robeson's 125th Birthday as part of their free online film festival and forum. [Learn more and register \(free\)](#)

QuakerSpeak Learn more about Quakerism through the intros and personal stories told on QuakerSpeak, soon to launch season 10. A recommended interview: [A calling to Prison Ministry and Antiracism Work](#).



THE SENATE HAS FINALLY VOTED TO END THE IRAQ WAR

On March 29, the Senate voted for the first time to repeal the outdated and overstretched 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), which was passed more than two decades ago to authorize the Iraq war.

By a vote of 66-30, the Senate passed Sens. Tim Kaine (VA) and Todd Young's (IN) bipartisan bill, [S. 316](#), marking the first time in decades that the Senate has voted to end a war.

The 2002 Iraq AUMF was originally [passed](#) to authorize war against Saddam Hussein's government to defend the United States against the alleged threat of weapons of mass destruction. Hussein's regime was toppled two decades ago, but the 2002 Iraq AUMF remained in place.

It has been [controversially](#) interpreted to provide broad authority for military operations far outside its original scope, including as a justification for killing Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in January of 2020. Leaving this AUMF in place risks allowing future administrations to abuse it and further usurp Congress's constitutional responsibility to decide when the United States chooses war.

"A Congressional repeal of the [2002 Iraq AUMF] is a vital step to help heal our country's addiction to war and end endless wars," [said FCNL General Secretary Bridget Moix](#). "What we can invest more in to build a safer world is peacebuilding and global cooperation. True peace is more than the absence of fighting. It is addressing the root causes of war and managing conflict nonviolently. As long as the United States can still attack and kill with impunity in Iraq, neither its people nor ours will know true peace."

The Senate vote follows years of incremental progress towards repeal—progress that FCNL advocates have been a crucial part of. FCNL’s constituents worked for many years to build bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress for repealing the Iraq War authorization. These efforts were vital to the House passage of Rep. Barbara Lee’s (CA-13) bill in 2021 to repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF (H.R. 256). That legislation passed by a strong bipartisan vote of 268-161, including 49 Republican “yes” votes.

It is now up to the House to send a bill repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF to the president’s desk. Read the [full article by FCNL's Kevin Snow](#) here to find out more about the promising prognosis.

Related Article: March 23rd marked the 20th Anniversary of the War in Iraq. Read AFSC’s article about the costs of that war, and the affect it had on our political climate. [How the War in Iraq Militarized Communities in the US](#) by Mary Zerkel of American Friends Service Committee.

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 AM Homewood Meeting House
First Sunday of each month	12:30 PM Meeting for Business, virtual

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:30 PM
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN	3rd Sundays , time TBD
Hospitality—OPEN	As called
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Mondays at 7:00 PM
Library—OPEN	As called
Peace & Social Justice —OPEN	4th Sundays , 9:00 AM
Ministry & Counsel	Last Wednesdays , 6:30 PM, Zoom
Religious Education--OPEN	2nd Tuesdays , 7:15 PM, Meeting House
Trustees	2nd Tuesdays 7:15 PM, location varies

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). Committees so marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk or the Homewood office if you’d like to attend or have questions.



Our Regularly Scheduled

Open Meetings & Events

(In Person and Zoom)

Meeting for Worship

Every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM

At the Meeting House and on Zoom

[Click here to join on Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 255 867 065

Passcode: 438589

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 255867065#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

Join us for social time after Worship at the same Zoom link or downstairs for a simple lunch.

Please follow our [Pandemic Response Plan](#) which requires masks except when eating.

Meeting for Business

FIRST SUNDAYS 12:30 PM

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

Outreach Committee

SECOND SUNDAYS 4/9 9:00 AM

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

✓ open committee

Holding in the Light Group

Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore

SECOND SUNDAYS 4/9 12:30 PM

In-person and on Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

Meeting ID: 899 6600 7788

Passcode: 943260

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 89966007788#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

✓ open group

Peace & Social Justice Committee

FOURTH SUNDAYS 4/23 9:00 AM

Zoom only

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

Meeting ID: 856 8828 9550

Passcode: 213715

One tap mobile: 3017158592,,85688289550#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

✓ open committee

Quaker Bible Study

THIRD SUNDAYS 4/16 9:30 AM

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

All are welcome, no prior readings or experience.

✓ open group

Experiment with Light

A form of worship, the more intimate Experiment with Light is part of the mid-week meeting for worship series.

=== Zoom only ===

free and open, no experience necessary

FOURTH SUNDAY MORNINGS 4/23 9:00 AM

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

Meeting ID: 880 0619 5829

Passcode: 139231

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 84212168159#

Phone number: 301 715 8592



EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 4/6 7:00 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)


Meeting ID: 874 1149 8198

Passcode: 976351

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 87411498198#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

[Learn more](#) about Experiment with Light on our website.

 For phone access: Enter the meeting ID (the 9-digit number in the URL) followed by the # sign. To mute and unmute your phone during the session, you can press *6.



The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century An array of art and cultural artifacts now on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art, April 5th thru July 16th



Thank you, Friends, for reading and responding to the Homewood Newsletter. For questions and comments, and for help getting involved in the life of the Meeting, please contact the Office, HomewoodFriends@gmail.com, 410-235-4438, and we will direct you to the right resources.