

Fifth Month 2023

Homewood Friends Meeting

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Newsletter

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Before the news and updates, you're invited to reflect on the following query, along with Friendly guidance.

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

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths? Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

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

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

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

For those trapped in substance abuse, such advice may seem hollow. Commonalities exist between addictive behaviors with these substances and other compulsive actions, such as in the

areas of eating disorders, gambling, overwork, and physical abuse. The causes go deep and may not be fully understood, but the resulting pain, fear, desperation and denial, damaging the abuser and all those around that person, need to be supportively recognized. A Meeting community should be ready to listen non-judgmentally, offer information about sources of help, refuse to enable people to continue in harmful patterns, and continue to offer an environment free from addictive practices.

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

How we use our working hours, our leisure and our resources has direct bearing on our spiritual life. Time for recreation is needed to refresh spirit, mind and body. Our use of time may determine whether the Divine Spirit grows within us or is crowded out. We are called upon to be stewards of the rich provisions which God has made for all creation. As Friends we are advised to consider the effects of our charitable gifts and of all our expenditures, in the light of our concern for the right and fair sharing of the world's resources.

April Highlights



Rhonda Robinson Trio

Golden Rule

The Golden Rule peace boat visited Baltimore, bringing its message of peace and fervent opposition to nuclear weapons. Homewood hosted events to celebrate the sailing crew, the Veterans for Peace organizers, Baltimore performers and artists, and academic and activist speakers.

Thank you to all who participated!



Lynn Robinson and her team of puppetistas

DOMINIQUE ZELTZMAN AND PAULA CRONAN WERE MARRIED ON APRIL 29, 2023 AS WITNESSED BY MANY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND MEMBERS AND ATTENDERS AT HOMEWOOD. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COUPLE AND THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED.



Stories of Slavery and Freedom

As part of the Johns Hopkins History Project, four JHU students presented their research on Quaker Manumissions in Maryland in the late 1700s. The event was hosted at Homewood Friends and open to the public.

Announcements

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: [GEDCO CARES](#) provides basic resources for people in the community suffering from financial crisis and instability. Donation Requests: canned fruit, canned string beans & peas, boxed pasta, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil, pancake mix and syrup, as well as [financial contributions](#). 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING are needed and gratefully accepted; they support the maintenance of the Meeting and our contributions to designated service organizations. You can donate [online](#) or make a check payable to "Homewood Friends Meeting." The best way to help is with recurring monthly gifts, at a level that is sustainable for your budget.

 >>>

Thank you! If you made an online donation to Homewood in 2023, this was processed on our "Breeze" system. Breeze helps us streamline our financial records and will better organize the receipts, thank yous, and tax information that you receive.

Later in the year you'll see more ways that Breeze can be incorporated into our record-keeping, including a quicker way to view and update the meeting directory, tools for committees to create event invites, and more.

[The Breeze team is Polly Heninger, Sarah Bur, Susan Russell Walters, and Luke Mayhew.](#)

TRUSTEES FUNDING FOR EDUCATION & QUAKER RETREATS/EVENTS

The member-supported Education Fund is available for members and regular attenders at Homewood to help lessen the burden of education costs. This money can support schooling at any level, public or private, as well as 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](#).



**HOMEWOOD CAN HELP
PAY FOR EDUCATION**



Many members have given to support education! This money goes into a general scholarship fund that is available for members and regular attenders of all ages looking for a small way to offset costs of school or educational projects, resources, and supplemental activities.

Applications online and at the Homewood office
homewoodfriends@gmail.com or talk to Megan Shook



Notice of the death of William (Billy) Sparks, on November 30, 2022, and testimony to his life, submitted by Roger Hansen.

TESTIMONY TO THE LIFE OF BILLY SPARKS

William (Billy) Sparks, Jr, was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on July 9, 1962, but soon moved to the Philadelphia area He experienced abuse and neglect as a child and was in several foster homes, but was saved by the nurturing of his mother Wanda until she succumbed to mental illness. He graduated from Chester High School. He later attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, receiving, as a white person, an other-race grant to a historically black college. He majored in elementary education.

He met Roger Hansen in 1982, who was a member of Homewood Friends Meeting. He soon began attending himself, and became a member. He was very active as a First-Day School teacher and in many aspects of the life of meeting and also with several committees of the American Friends Service Committee. He also became a well-loved teacher in the Baltimore Public Schools. He and Roger Hansen had a celebration of commitment (like a marriage) at Homewood Meeting in 1985, one of the very first in the country.

In 1989 he and Roger moved to Cincinnati and became members of Community Friends Meeting. Again Billy became a regular First-Day School teacher. In Baltimore and Cincinnati he served on clearness committees.. He and Roger became caretakers of the Meetinghouse from 1990 to 1991. Billy taught in the Cincinnati Public Schools. Their committed relationship ended at the end of 1991.

Billy remained in Cincinnati for a while and then moved back to the Philadelphia area. He later experienced several misfortunes, including being severely physically attacked and then having a stroke. He died on November 30, 2022 and was cremated in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Despite extreme hardships in both his early years and later in life he always remained hopeful, thankful and trusting. He regularly experienced God's protection, He loved to sing and dance had a good voice and joined a chorus in Cincinnati. Even when he had little in the way of financial resources he was always generous. His life is a testimony to a miracle of resilience.

Anyone who would like to know more or who has memories to share can contact Roger Hansen at johnroger1@sbcglobal.net or 414-988-0605 in Milwaukee.

Thanks and blessings,
Roger Hansen





GOAT Noat

Garden Club The first garden workday for the season was held on April 15th . Ten people joined in on the fun of weeding, pruning, and mulching as we transitioned our plot from a winter to a spring garden. We will hold the next workday on **Saturday, May 6th 10:00 – 11:30 AM**. Hope to see you then! There will be more opportunities to work in the garden throughout the year. If you have questions about the Garden Club, please contact Gary Gillespie.

The 2023 Maryland General Assembly wrapped up its session on Monday, April 10th at midnight, what is known as Sine Die. GOAT members have been following and advocating for several key pieces of environmental legislation. We had a particular interest in the Energy Savings Act of 2023 (HB 0904 and SB 0689). This legislation would have updated Maryland’s energy efficiency program (EmPOWER Maryland) to refocus it on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, it did not get a final vote in the Senate. However, a number of important environmental proposals were approved by the General Assembly and either have gone to or will soon go to the Governor.

If you would like to learn more about environmental bills and this year’s outcomes, we would recommend checking out the [Maryland League of Conservation Voters \(MDLCV\) Legislative Summary](#).

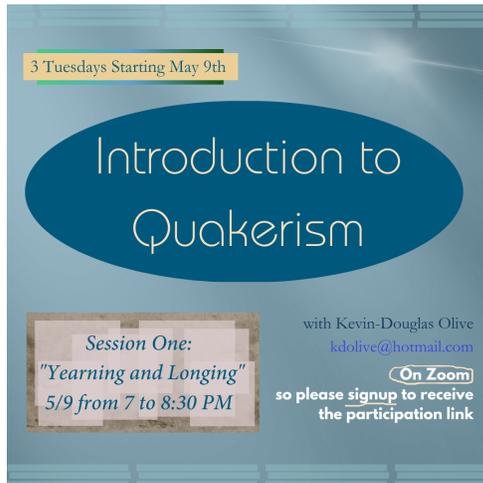
For a press release on three top priority bills that were signed into law by Governor Moore in April, please read this [press release from MDLCV](#).

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.



INTRO TO QUAKERISM: May 9th, 16th, and 23rd, 7 - 8:30 PM on Zoom New to Friends? Join this 3-part (3 Tuesdays) course to get acquainted with the Quaker Way and spirituality, with an excellent facilitator, Kevin-Douglas Olive (kdolive@hotmail.com). [Signup here.](#)

- May 9: Yearning and Longing
- May 16: Surrendering and Yielding
- May 23 Meeting for Worship and Community

WHY COLOR MATTERS: May 11th, 18th, and 25th, 7-9 PM The Center for the Study of White American Culture is presenting a 3-part (3 Thursdays) anti-racism course on the importance of acknowledging color in order to effectively oppose systemic injustices and to appreciate related cultural differences. [More info here](#) . If you are interested in attending, contact the Homewood office so that we can arrange a reduced group rate.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sundays): May 14 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.

MEET THE COMMITTEES: May 21 at simple lunch This event was rescheduled from an earlier date. Come find out how Homewood committees work and what projects each committee is currently undertaking, and how you can join.

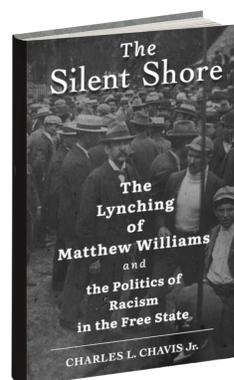
BLACK LIVES MATTER INTERFAITH COALITION: May 21 1:30 to 2:30 Join the monthly multi-congregational rallies across Baltimore to promote antiracism and demand justice and accountability. Location to be determined.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT (fourth Sundays) May 28 at 9 AM: [Zoom Link](#)



BALTIMORE PRIDE MONTH Friends from Homewood and also Stony Run, with other faith group partners, will gather on the Homewood Meeting steps to support the two parades: **Trans Pride Parade on Saturday June 3rd** and the **Pride Parade on Saturday June 24th**. Some will join the parade, while some will be hosts in the building as a comfort station near the head of the parades.

HISTORY OF LYNCHING: June 25th at 2 P.M.
at Stony Run Friends Talk by Charles Chavis on his book *The Silent Shore* about lynching incidents in Maryland and activism (including Lillie Carroll Jackson and Homewood Quaker Margaret Carey Thomas) that reduced the prevalence across the state and the country. This presentation has been organized by the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum and the Homewood Friends Centenary Committee.



[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, [open thru July 16th](#)

U.E. WRITING TUTORS: July 17-21, 10-2:00 PM at Stony Run - Unified Efforts high school students will write for [I Belong Magazine](#). Tutors needed to help polish content. For sign up or questions, email Karie Firoozmand: kariefir@gmail.com.

QUAKERS BEYOND HOMEWOOD: EVENTS AND NOTICES

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

▣ [Young Friends Grad Con, May 26-28](#) ▣

For high school age attenders. At Maury River Friends Meeting.

▣ [Camp Work Days](#) ▣

Help prepare the campgrounds for summer. May 13 at Opequon and June 10 at Catoclin.

▣ [BYM Spring 2023 Interim Meeting, June 10](#) ▣

▣ [Silent Quaker Retreat, June 23-25](#) ▣

Join BYM Friends seeking nourishment and refreshment in communal silence, hosted by Annapolis Friends at the Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, MD.

▣ [BYM 2023 Annual Session August 1-6](#) ▣

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

>>> Listen to [Pendle Hill's podcast, The Seed](#), hosted by Dwight Dunston.

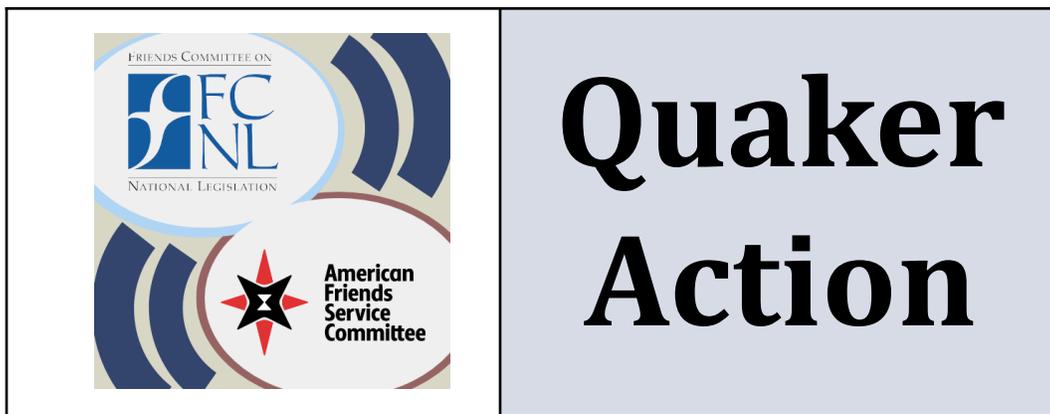
>>> Join PH for [Daily worship on Zoom](#): half-hour Meeting for Worship every day @ 8:30 AM.

QuakerSpeak Learn more about Quakerism through the intros and personal stories told on QuakerSpeak, soon to launch season 10. A recommended interview: [On Quaker Deathways: Practices on Death and Dying](#) (with Carl Magruder).

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE The 2023 FGC Gathering will take place July 2-8 in Monmouth, Oregon -- the first time in Oregon and the first time since 2019 to be held in person. The theme is "Listen So That We May Live". [Learn More.](#)

BlackQuaker Project [Recordings from the Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival](#) are now available online. The film festival was comprised of films and expert panels exploring the lives and legacies of five historic Quaker or Quaker-adjacent African Americans: Bill Sutherland, Joan Countryman, Sarah Mapps Douglas, Benjamin Banneker, and Paul Robeson.





Friends Committee on National Legislation
Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

Through a discernment process that invites input from Monthly Meetings across the country, The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) sets priorities to lobby for with each new Congress.

FCNL acts in faith to create a world free from war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored. FCNL brings Friends' spiritual values and testimonies to bear on U.S. public policy decisions, guided by the legislative priorities below.

(The order of these priorities does not reflect their comparative importance.)

- Promote peacebuilding and confront the paradigm of global militarism at home & abroad.
- Work towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and, as opportunity occurs, conventional and newly emerging weapons.
- Enhance diplomatic capacity to end current wars and prevent new ones. Reassert Congress' role in the use of military engagements.
- Advocate for democracy by working to remedy threats to our electoral processes that limit access to voting and undermine open, secure, and fair elections.
- Advocate for a reimagined justice system that is fair, equitable, and transparent for all. Eliminate mass incarceration and police brutality and uphold restorative justice.
- Work to end gun violence. Encourage the use of nonviolent conflict resolution methods and support programs that promote community safety.

- Center the voices of Tribal nations, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians as we work together to uphold community rights and concerns. Ensure enforcement of the federal government’s treaty and trust responsibilities to protect tribal sovereignty and enhance tribal self-determination.
- Work for comprehensive immigration reform policies to establish inclusion and prosperity for immigrant communities, regardless of their status. Reject systems and processes that violate fundamental human rights.
- Center the voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color as we work together to ensure genuine equity by dismantling institutional racism and discriminatory laws. Promote measures to uncover truth and repair slavery’s ongoing societal impact.
- Address structural economic inequality, through measures such as a more equitable tax system, a living wage for all, and repairing & strengthening the social safety net programs.
- Support expansion of programs that meet basic needs, such as affordable, accessible housing and universal access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- Address the existential threat of climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and harmful land use practices; employ science-based mitigation and adaptation approaches.
- Strengthen environmental protections and advance environmental justice, mitigating both global and local impacts with particular focus on vulnerable or exploited populations.

Visit [FCNL’s website](#) for more information about the priorities and the process to discern them



Interested in volunteering with a team on some of the priorities above? FCNL trains local advocacy teams across the country in collaborative lobbying skills and developing personal testimony.

The Baltimore team is currently accepting new members to fill roles as researchers, discussion facilitators, testers, and art activists, as well as core team members. Please start by reading this recent FCNL article [“Advocates Guide to the Debt Ceiling”](#) Then contact baltimoreMD@advocacy.FCNL.org.

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

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 5/7 12:30 PM
In the Meeting Room and on Zoom
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

Outreach Committee
SECOND SUNDAYS 5/14 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 5/14 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 5/28 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 5/21 9:30 AM
In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)
All are welcome, no prior readings or experience.
✓ **open group**

Green Organizing Action Team
THIRD SUNDAYS 5/21 12:30 A.M.
In the Library
Native plant gardening, zero waste, climate advocacy & more
✓ **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 5/28 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 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.