

Seventh Month 2023

# Homewood Friends Meeting

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## Newsletter

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### *Queries from Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*

#### The Seventh Query: Caring for Others

Do you respect that of God in every person?

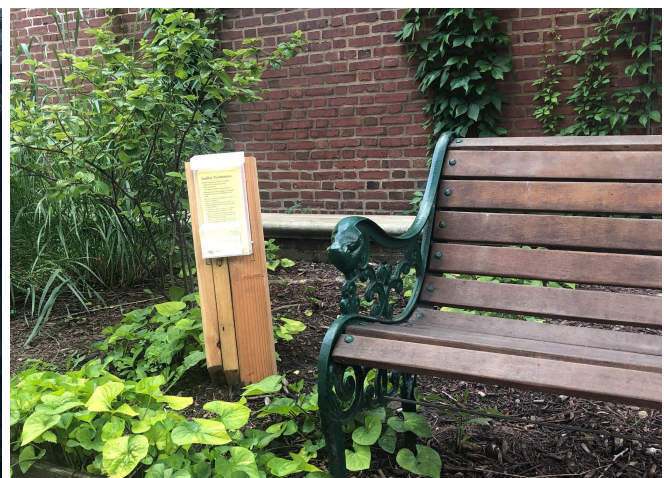
Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic condition?

In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates?

Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

*For references related to the Query see [BYM Faith and Practice](#), page 28.*

👁️ Spot our two new outdoor pamphlet holders in action, below. Thanks to Outreach Team for this helpful way for passersby and guests to learn more about Homewood Friends.





## **BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM**

An Opportunity For Spiritual Growth And Development At Homewood

by Susan Russell Walters  
HFM 2023-24 Spiritual Formation Facilitator

**Are you interested in developing your spiritual life more fully?** Would you like to do this with a group of others who are also seeking? If so please consider participating in the Spiritual Formation Program offered by Baltimore Yearly Meeting through monthly meetings. We invite you to a journey of personal spiritual deepening in the fellowship of Homewood Friends and with Friends from across Baltimore Yearly Meeting. A number of Homewood Friends have participated in Spiritual Formation over the years. We are looking forward to participating again this coming year and hope that many of Homewood's members and attenders will join us.

### **What is the Spiritual Formation Program?**

The Spiritual Formation Program is designed to gather us in spiritual friendship for the deep listening that opens our hearts and helps us to discern how God is at work in our lives. Friends are invited to participate in an optional opening weekend retreat in September, a monthly potluck with reflection on readings that will be chosen by participants, smaller friendship groups within the Homewood community that will meet monthly, and a closing retreat in May. The commitment to a daily spiritual practice is recommended. The goal is to support and encourage one another in finding spiritual practices that nourish us individually and as a community. We will share and reflect on readings that provide wisdom along the way.

### **How can you learn more about the Spiritual Formation Program?**

You can get a taste of the Spiritual Formation Program by attending the **mini-retreat at Homewood on Sunday July 23 from 12:15 to 2:15 pm**. Facilitators Alan Evans and Amy Schmaljohn are members of the BYM Spiritual Formation Working Group, which is under the care of the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, and they are members of Gunpowder Friends Meeting. [REGISTER FOR THE MINI-RETREAT HERE](#). You can also explore the program by reading the BYM pamphlet, *Sacred Intersections: Spiritual Formation Program*, (hard copies available in the meeting room). There are funds available through Trustees to help support participation in the spring and fall retreats.

### **What should you do if you are interested in being a part of Spiritual Formation for 2023-24?**

1. Come to the mini-retreat on July 23. 12:15-2:15 PM at Homewood. [Registration Link](#).
2. Read the *Sacred Intersections: Spiritual Formation Program* pamphlet.
3. Talk to folks who have participated in the past.
4. Talk to your friends about participating together
5. Read the updates in the Weekly Announcements about registration.
6. Attend the optional Spiritual Formation Fall Retreat, 9/22 to 9/24 at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD
7. Contact Susan Russell Walters, Homewood's Spiritual Formation Facilitator, with questions!

**I'm looking forward to being a part of the program this fall and hope that you will too!**



## Sixth Month Review

### Homewood and Stony Run Friends at the Pride Parade



Friends cheered on the Pride Parade and opened the HFM building to parade participants who needed to duck in from the scattered showers during setup. Some Friends marched with Faith Communities of Baltimore with Pride.

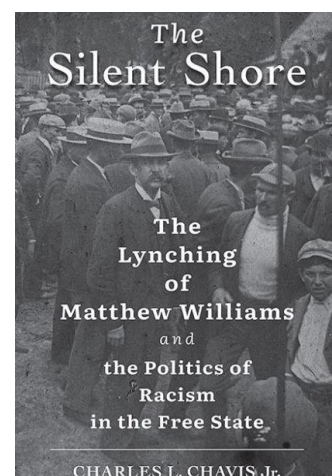
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### History of Lynching in Maryland

Hosted by the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, along with Homewood and Stony Run Friends, Dr. Charles Chavis presented on his historical research into the 1931 lynching of Matthew Williams. His work challenges received assumptions that lynchings were done “at the hands of persons unknown”, instead exposing the ways in which these brutal acts were plotted and protected by prominent beneficiaries of white supremacy, with intricate collaboration across classes and sectors.



[Check out the book from the Homewood Library →](#)



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**Children's Books:** Tanya Hicks successfully delivered a toy chest, books, and more to one of the Afghan refugee families. Thanks to those who brought in books, and to those helping the family in other ways. Interested in other ways to provide continued support, contact Megan Shook [mega330@comcast.net](mailto:mega330@comcast.net) 🌱



Congratulations to our First Day School students for completion of the year.  
*First Day School has sent an epistle to the Meeting, as follows:*

## First Day School, Epistle, 2022-23

This September our group reconvened once more. This year we chose a new Theme; "Quaker Practice, in Practice" The Goal of our year was to understand how our meeting worked and how we can be involved ourselves. Over the year we met with hospitality, ministry & counsel, GOAT, Peace & Justice, and our very own Religious Education Committee. We practiced Quaker Business in our own way thru a D+D style Business meeting. Learning how to let in silence. Our business Meeting led us to the creation of this very Board! This year we also collaborated to recreate Our Christmas Pageant; with a new Script. Where our students chose to focus on a "Villain" Questioning - What MAKES A Villain? Over the course of this year we welcomed new students into our group, And We recognized our 8<sup>th</sup> graders in their journey onto highschool OF our group one First day school student Said: "First Day is my laundry day, I'm all out of clean clothes - But I can still be here because First day is comfortable and routine"

Love & Light, Homewood First Day



# GOAT's Noats

**Garden Club Update:** A Garden Club workday for early summer was held on Saturday, June 3rd. The native plants garden, now firmly established, handled the May and early June drought conditions very well. A small amount of weeding left the garden in great shape. **We will have a workday – really a work morning – at some point in July.** Be on the lookout for an announcement. Tools and gloves are provided. The fellowship is great!

**Spotlight on Homewood's Composting Program Parts 1 (gathering materials) and 2 (turning the batch):** Rachael Neill monitors the composting bin and collection bucket located adjacent to the side porch. Rachael has made three batches of rich, finished compost with the third batch now ready for distribution. Finished compost is made most quickly when there is a 2/1 ratio of "brown" material (dead leaves) to "green" material (fruit and vegetable waste) and the composter is rotated regularly. At this point in time, Rachael has or is getting enough "green" material. Rachael continues to need more "brown" to maintain the essential balance of 2 brown/1 green. If you would like to donate composting material or have questions about composting at Homewood, please email Rachael at [rvneill@yahoo.com](mailto:rvneill@yahoo.com).

**Plastic Free July: Small steps, big difference:** Are you looking for ways to be part of the solution to plastic pollution? This July, millions of Plastic Free July participants from around the world will take steps to beat plastic pollution by choosing to refuse single-use plastic. Every step makes a big difference and shows others they can step up too! This campaign is endorsed and being promoted by Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Unity with Nature Committee. [unitywithnature@bym-rsf.org](mailto:unitywithnature@bym-rsf.org). Which small step will you choose this July? To learn more and to register for participation, please visit [Plasticfreejuly.org](http://Plasticfreejuly.org). This campaign is for individuals and households. You can participate all month or certain days in July. Share with F/friends. Please let John McKusick ([john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net](mailto:john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net)) of GOAT know that you are participating so we can debrief in August.

**Ridesharing for First Days:** Are you interested in carpooling to Meeting for Worship? Are you able to offer a ride? Please fill out this [interest form](#) -- thank you for helping reduce our transportation footprint and making our Meeting more accessible.

GOAT Members: Carol Beck, Luke Early, Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Bess Keller, Cathie Magee, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, and 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 & Counsel continues to offer **Experiment with Light on Zoom** ([link](#)). Please join us for this intimate form of worship.

### **VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE**

**Friday July 7, 5-6 PM**

On the first Friday of each month, we will hold a solemn and silent “*Vigil For Nonviolence*”. This vigil will be unlike other peace vigils held by Homewood Friends in that we will not be specifically focusing on war. Instead, the vigil will seek to bear witness to the root causes of social ills such as racism, poverty issues like hunger, food insecurity and homelessness, gun violence, and other forms of social inequality which are manifestations of structural violence. We have a banner “*Practice Nonviolence*” which we will hold together.

In addition to the monthly vigil, we hope to organize events addressing our issues of concern. These additional events may take place on days other than the monthly vigil.

Next Vigil: 7/7

# VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE

SILENT WITNESS TO INJUSTICE  
COLLECTIVE ENVISIONING OF PEACE TO COME  
FOR OUR CITY AND BEYOND ALL BORDERS

Homewood Friends First Fridays 5-6 PM

 2 Reading Suggestions by Vigil Organizers 

[Why the moral argument for nonviolence matters](#)

[MLK's final marching orders - Waging Nonviolence](#)

**HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sundays):** July 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.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER INTERFAITH COALITION:** July 16, 1:30 to 2:30  
Outside the Timonium Fairgrounds (2200 York Rd) [Visit BLMIC website](#)

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINI-RETREAT:** July 23 12:15-2:15 In the Homewood Library. [Please Register](#). See Page 2 (above) for a full description of Spiritual Formation.

**EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT** July 23, 9 AM: [Zoom Link](#) -- Fourth Sundays at 9 and Every Thursday at 7 PM. See last page for dial-in details.



## ***Our Wider Friends Meeting: Chesapeake Quarterly and Baltimore Yearly Meetings***

**TRAUMA JOURNEY WORKSHOP:** July 29 10-12 at Stony Run For Global Majority Friends in BYM. In-person event with an option to watch the recording. [More info and registration here](#).

**BYM ANNUAL SESSION:** August 1-6 Join Homewood Friends and F/friends from all around the yearly meeting region for shared worship, business, and enrichment. [Register now](#), up until 7/21. [Need help with the expenses? Visit Homewood's scholarships and funds page.](#)

**STONY RUN FRIENDS: JOB POSTING:** Stony Run seeks 4-6 additional paid staff people to work in their nursery (ages 0-6 year olds) as childcare providers on Sunday mornings. [Full Posting Here](#). Questions? Contact Kathy, 443-703-2590 x4 or [Kathy@StonyRunFriends.org](mailto:Kathy@StonyRunFriends.org).

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### ***OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES***

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

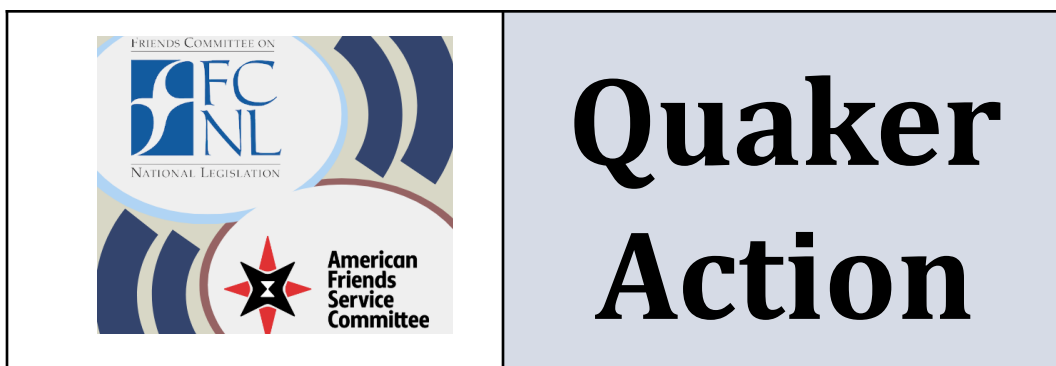
>>> Join PH for [Daily worship on Zoom](#): half-hour Meeting for Worship every day @ 8:30 AM.

**QuakerSpeak** Learn more about Quakerism through personal stories and perspectives. For instance, you might like to learn about [Quaker Clearness Committees](#)—click the link to hear testimonials about them from a diverse group of Friends.

**QUAKERS TODAY** Check out the [latest podcast episode](#), including a thoughtful account from Kat Griffith on her foray into running for county office in Wisconsin and harnessing Quakerly insight to navigate constituent relationship-building as well as the polarizing and ad hominem climate of American [social media] politics.

**"FIND FRIENDS" MAP** The Friends World Committee for Consultation has just published this [online interactive map](#) of Monthly Meetings all around the world. You can use it as a tool when traveling or simply check it out if you're curious about Quaker geographic distribution.





## ***Violence Interrupters: A Key to Making Our Communities Safer***

***By Kristen Archer, from Friends Committee on National Legislation | June 9, 2023***

In March, more than 300 young adults converged in Washington, D.C., (and online) to learn a new strategy for making our communities safer from gun violence: violence interrupter programs. After several days of training during Spring Lobby Weekend, March 25-28, they lobbied Congress for federal funding for these community-level conflict mediation programs. Spring Lobby Weekend took place the same weekend as the Generation Lockdown: Made in America rally on Capitol Hill. The rally demanded more actions, including a federal assault weapons ban, at the federal and state levels to make schools safer.

It is appalling, yet painfully accurate, that this generation of young adults can now be referred to as Generation Lockdown after it has witnessed so much gun violence. As Spring Lobby Weekend participants lobbied Congress on March 27, another heavily armed mass shooter killed six people in a school in Nashville, TN.

There have been 131 mass shootings (those involving four or more people) so far this year in the United States, where there are 120 guns per 100 people. FCNL and our network of advocates have lobbied Congress to reduce gun violence by limiting gun ownership, possession, and use. Still, Congress has failed to pass common-sense, responsible gun control legislation.

### ***Learning From Safe Streets Baltimore***

Although the growing number of high-profile mass shootings is alarming, community-level shootings, and suicides comprise most gun violence incidents in this country. These occurrences rarely receive much publicity, both because of their frequency and the communities they impact the most.

For this reason, we are pursuing an alternative approach: violence interrupter programs.

One such program is Safe Streets Baltimore, established in 2007. It operates in 10 Baltimore neighborhoods that have long experienced structural racism, chronic disinvestment, and high rates of gun violence.

A new study by the Center for Gun Violence Solutions of Johns Hopkins University revealed that Safe Streets reduced homicides and nonfatal shootings overall from 2007 to 2022 in Baltimore. It reduced such shootings by as much as 32% in some sites.

**[Read the full story](#) (including comment from FCNL Director for Justice Reform, José Santos Moreno)**

## Regularly Scheduled Meeting Times

### *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	<b>Odd months last Sundays</b> 12:15 PM
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> , 12:30 PM, Meetinghouse
Outreach Team—OPEN	<b>2nd Sundays</b> 9 AM
Hospitality—OPEN	<b>As called</b>
House & Grounds—OPEN	<b>2nd Mondays</b> at 7:00 PM
Library—OPEN	<b>As called</b>
Peace & Social Justice —OPEN	<b>4th Sundays</b> , 9:00 AM
Ministry & Counsel	<b>Last Wednesdays</b> , 6:30 PM, Zoom
Religious Education--OPEN	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> , 7:15 PM, Meetinghouse
Trustees	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> 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.*

## Meeting for Worship

Every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM

At the Meetinghouse and on Zoom ([Zoom link here](#))

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

### **Meeting for Business**

**FIRST SUNDAYS 7/2 12:30 PM**

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

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

✓ **All are Welcome**

### **Quaker Bible Study**

**THIRD SUNDAYS 7/16 9:30 AM**

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

*All are welcome, no prior readings or experience.*

✓ **open group**

### **Holding in the Light Group**

*Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore*

**SECOND SUNDAYS 7/9 12:30 PM**

In-person and on Zoom

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

✓ **open group**

### **Peace & Social Justice Committee**

**FOURTH SUNDAYS 7/23 9:00 AM**

Zoom only

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

✓ **open committee**

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**Outreach Team**  
**SECOND SUNDAYS 7/9 9:00 AM**  
In the Meeting Room and on Zoom  
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)  
✓ **open committee**

**Green Organizing Action Team**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 7/16 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 7/23 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 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.

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING**

A thank-you highlight on all of our monthly contributors. A monthly contribution (at any level that fits your budget) is one of the best ways to support Homewood Friends; the consistent giving of many F/friends helps maintain our worship space while improving community access to our building and programs, in Quakerly-discerned ways. You can [make a monthly \(or one-time\) contribution online](#) or make a check payable to "Homewood Friends Meeting".

