

Second Month 2026

# Homewood Friends Meeting

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## Newsletter

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### From the BYM Advices

#### 1. Conduct of Business

[...] Meetings for business are held in a spirit of worship. This does not mean they must be overly solemn or devoid of humor. It means they should be conducted in a spirit of inward recollection out of which will come a flexible and informal dignity fitting to the conduct of the work of a Religious Society.

Friends believe that the right and satisfactory decision in any matter is reached when those present understand and consent in the proposed judgment, finding it in accordance with their understanding of the will of God for the Meeting's action. Therefore, they act on a basis of the "sense of the Meeting" rather than by decision of the majority [...]

*Read the full Query's advices: [BYM Faith and Practice, p 27.](#)*

### Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

#### Second Query: Meeting for Business

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding, and forbearance?

When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth?

Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course?

Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

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

### FROM TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

In late January, we emailed year-end statements of contributions to the Meeting in 2025. We sent via USPS if requested or if we have no email address for you. If you expected a statement and didn't receive one, or if the amounts don't match your records, please contact Luke in the Meeting Office or Polly Heninger, clerk of Trustees, [peh616@msn.com](mailto:peh616@msn.com).

## SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING

### SPECIAL WORSHIP TIME ON 2/22

Every year, Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) asks all monthly meetings to submit a report on the meeting's spiritual state. These reports are later shared in BYM committee meetings and publications. To guide this annual process, the BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee proffered queries which the Ministry and Counsel Committee (M&C) of Homewood Friends Meeting reviewed and revised. The queries to be discussed are listed below.

On February 22nd, as part of an extended Meeting for Worship ending at noon, there will be group worship-sharing to consider the three queries. Attendees' responses will be recorded by three seasoned Friends. The responses together with observations recorded by M&C members throughout the year will be distilled into a draft report by M&C that hopefully accurately captures the spiritual state of our meeting. It will come to Business Meeting for discussion and possible revision.

A special lunch will follow the worship-sharing session.

### Queries *for our Spiritual State of the Meeting Report*

1. What do we mean by "Spirit" and how do we live together faithfully amid our different understandings of it?
2. Are our lives- individually and as a Meeting- truly aligned with what we say we believe?
3. Are we listening and responding to Spirit together in ways that nurture one another and lead us into loving action?

### Unable to attend?

You can still send your responses in writing to any member of Ministry & Counsel.  
These must be sent by February 15th.

— from Ministry and Counsel Committee  
(Rich Bruning, Mina Brunyate, Tara Reilly, Kevin-Douglas Olive)



# GOAT's Noats

Hail to Early Bloomers!

In the next two and a half months in Maryland, a large number of non-profit organizations will be promoting and advocating for legislation that addresses issues and opportunities. One organization that we will be hearing from and supporting is Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM) now in its sixth year of advocacy with the Maryland General Assembly (MGA). We are also closely connected to a sister organization – Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR).

With a few minutes let us take a tiny but essential check in with nature and our connection with her. Late February through late March is truly a transitional period for early spring blooming plants. Some will even push through snow! Among these is Helleboris (aka Lenten Rose) a hardy flower that first came to my notice thirty or so years ago growing in a woodland close to where I live. I felt a kinship with Lenten Rose – or maybe an aspiration or inspiration - for its toughness and resilience as well as beauty.

So dear Friends I have a question for you. What of nearby nature inspires you? How can we keep our connection with the natural world vibrant and relevant?

--John McKusick, Member of GOAT

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*Members of the Green Organizing Action Team are Andrea Judson, Gary Gillespie, Bess Keller, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, Thom Price, Heather Ravlin, Kathy Rogers, and Jamie Sumague. We invite you to join us for team meetings that are scheduled for the fourth Monday at 7:30 PM via Zoom.*

## STUDENTS! SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FROM MILES WHITE:

The Miles White Beneficial Society of Baltimore City (MWBS) is now accepting applications for scholarships of up to \$7,000 from students who are planning to enter, or currently attend, an undergraduate college, university, or post-secondary trade school. The MWBS is a 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Deadline: 3/6/25.

Application and more info at [mileswhite.org](https://mileswhite.org)

## UPCOMING

**BLACK FIRE READING GROUP: Sun. 2/1 at 9:15 AM in the Lucretia Mott room** This is the first session! Gather on 1st Sundays of the month to read from the book Black Fire: African Americans Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights. Copies may be purchased online at [Quakerbooks.org](http://Quakerbooks.org) (or you can find used copies on other sites). If you don't have a copy yet, you can share. The readings will be short enough so that we can do them aloud and discuss.

**MEETING FOR BUSINESS: 2/1 (First Sundays) 12:30 PM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person.**

**VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE: 2/6 (First Fridays) at 5 PM in front of the meetinghouse**

### **CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING:**

**Sunday 2/8 at Stony Run Friends Meeting and Zoom.**

CQM offers education, worship, fellowship, and hospitality between 8 Monthly Meetings in central and southern Maryland. This one will be close to home since Stony Run Friends is hosting, right up Charles Street. There will be a session covering the Quaker Voice at the Maryland General Assembly, along with general sharing amongst Meetings and, of course, silent worship time with our quarterly Friends.

[More details and registration here.](#)

- 9:00 Welcome & Coffee
- 9:30 Meeting for Sharing
- 11:00 Meeting for Worship
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 **CQM's Maryland Legislative Forum**
- 2:00 Conclusion and Farewell



**VIVA HOUSE FOOD AID: 2/8 (Second Sundays)** See exact list of requested food items on page 4

**FAITH & PRACTICE STUDY: 2/8 (Second Sundays) at 9:15 AM** Great for newcomers and old timers alike. What are our living traditions? Also good if you're thinking about membership. We will read from short segments of BYM Faith and Practice. We will have hard copies available, but you can also [read it online](#).

**PALESTINE/ISRAEL MEETING: Sun. 2/8 at 12:30** The Spirit Led Action Group on Palestine and Israel is working on many ways Homewood Friends can support a just peace in Palestine. If you'd like to help, please come to our next meeting on First Day, February 8 from 12:30-1:30pm in the Lucretia Mott room, following simple lunch.



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Homewood's Green Action Team (GOAT)

presents

## Electrifying our Homes

Wednesday February 11, 7 pm at the Meetinghouse

Join us for this workshop on electrifying our homes. This session will cover strategies for electrification, focusing on building shell improvements and equipment, including HVAC, water heaters, stoves, and solar options. Incentives for market rate customers and programs for low-income households will also be discussed.

Thom Price is a Home Energy Auditor who has been helping people make their houses more comfortable, efficient, and green for 15 years, mostly within the Weatherization Assistance Program and more recently with EmPOWER MD. In the previous administration he was a Building Technologies Engineer with the US Dept. of Energy, working on decarbonization projects.

Andrea Judson is a resident of the Remington neighborhood. Andrea will share her experience of going all electric last summer, including answering questions about cost, logistics, and everything in between.

For more information contact Thom at [gondolaguy@gmail.com](mailto:gondolaguy@gmail.com) or Andrea at [andreajudson1@gmail.com](mailto:andreajudson1@gmail.com)

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**CLIMATE CAFE: Sat. 2/14 at 2 PM** A "Climate Café" is coming to Homewood on Feb. 14. Drawing inspiration from the "Death Café" concept, a "Climate Café" is a space focused specifically on ecological grief. The grief may be prompted by climate disruption, loss of ecosystems and species, or fear of a deadly future, if not for us, for our neighbors and descendants. Tara Reilly, who brought Death Cafés to Homewood Meeting in the past year, will facilitate the Climate Café. There is free-flowing conversation for an hour and we conclude with coffee, tea, and cake. Participation is capped at 15 people;

[SIGN UP FOR THE CLIMATE CAFE.](#)

**BIBLE STUDY: 2/15 (3rd Sundays) 9:15 AM in the Lucretia Mott room** We discuss a fairly short section that we read out loud together, while also sharing some silence and journaling time.

**FASTING FOR PALESTINE: 2/19 (Third Thursdays) Sunrise to 6 PM** Join Friends in a one-day fast, as we hold in our hearts the devastation and our hunger for change. Then gather at 6 PM in the dining room to break fast with a small lentil meal, to demonstrate the 245 daily calorie intake of people in Gaza. You can also consider making a donation to [AFSC's Gaza relief fund.](#)

**SIMPLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP: 2/22 (Last Sundays) 9 AM in the Library** An additional worship time in a smaller setting without microphones or computers.

**Extended Meeting for SSOM: Sun. 2/22 10:30-12 PM** Meeting for Worship will be extended by 30 minutes to allow for worship sharing in response to our Spiritual State of the Meeting queries.

**Rise-of-Meeting Quaker 101: 2/22 (4th Sundays) 11:45 AM** Screening and reflection on a short QuakerSpeak video. Open to all - just stick around in the meeting room after Meeting for Worship.

## *C o M i n g   i n   M a r c h*

**WELCOMING SAM: Sun. 3/8 12:30 PM in-person** Friends will come together to welcome new member Sam Hack. Join after simple lunch for worship sharing and reception...with lemon cake!

**Homewood Friends Meeting Presents:**

### **Quaker Foundations**

Five Mondays in March  
March 2-30 - 7-8:30 PM  
via ZOOM

This basic class in Quakerism provides an introduction for newcomers and a refresher for members and attenders through a diversity of perspectives. These sessions provide a strong foundation of understanding regarding the ideals of Quakers as well as opportunities for spiritual and personal development within the Religious Society of Friends.

**Five Sessions:**

- Mar 2      Quaker Faith and Practice
- Mar. 9      Quaker Worship and Vocal Ministry
- Mar. 16     Quaker History
- Mar. 23     When Friends Get Down to Business: Our Process
- Mar. 30     Living your Quaker Testimony

Friends are encouraged to commit to participating in all five sessions. However, if that is not feasible, participate when you can.

Please [\*\*REGISTER\*\*](#) in order to get the Zoom Link.

*Homewood Friends, with gratitude, has developed this series based upon an adaptation of the [Friends Meeting of Washington \(FMW\) Quakerism 101 course](#). For those of you who are unable to attend the Homewood course the FMW course can be used as a self-study course.*

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED

### Meeting for Worship

Every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM  
At the Meetinghouse  
and on Zoom ([Zoom link here](#))

Afterwards: Join for simple lunch downstairs or stay on the same Zoom link for a fellowship chat.

### Experiment with Light

**EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 7:00 PM**  
[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#) (Zoom only)

*free and open, no experience necessary*  
[Learn more](#) about Experiment with Light on our website.

**Vigil for Nonviolence**  
**FIRST FRIDAYS 2/6 5-6 PM**  
Outside of the Meetinghouse  
✓ All are Welcome

**Nelson Mandela Study Group**  
**FIRST SUNDAYS 2/1 9:15 AM**  
Lucretia Mott Room  
✓ All are Welcome

**Meeting for Business**  
**FIRST SUNDAYS 2/1 12:30 PM**  
In the Meeting Room and on Zoom  
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)  
✓ All are Welcome

**BYM Faith and Practice Study**  
**SECOND SUNDAYS 2/8 9:15 AM**  
Lucretia Mott Room  
✓ All are Welcome

**House and Grounds Committee**  
**SECOND TUESDAYS 2/10 6 PM**  
Contact the committee if interested in attending:  
[houseandgrounds@homewoodfriends.org](mailto:houseandgrounds@homewoodfriends.org)  
✓ open committee

**Bible Study**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 2/15 9:15 AM**  
In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)  
*All are welcome, no prior readings needed.*  
✓ open group

**Library Committee**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 2/15 12:15 PM**  
In the Meetinghouse Library  
✓ open committee

**Community Building and Outreach Team**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 2/15 12:30 PM**  
Susan B Anthony Room and Zoom  
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)  
✓ open committee

**Simple Meeting for Worship**  
**LAST SUNDAYS 2/22 9:00 A.M.**  
In the Meetinghouse Library  
✓ open worship

**Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)**  
**FOURTH MONDAYS 2/23 7:30 PM**  
Zoom only. Contact office for link.  
✓ open committee

### ***Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings***

Administrative	<b>Last Sundays in Odd months</b> 12:30 PM, hybrid
Community and Outreach—OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> 12:30 PM, SBA Room
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN	<b>4th Mondays</b> 7:30 PM, Zoom
Hospitality—OPEN	<b>As called</b>
House & Grounds—OPEN	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> 6 PM
Library—OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> 12:15 PM, Meetinghouse Library
Ministry & Counsel	<b>Last Wednesdays</b> , 6:30 PM, Zoom
Religious Education--OPEN	<b>1st Tuesdays</b> , 7:15 PM
Trustees	<b>1st Wednesday</b> 7:15 PM

*Committees so-marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk or the Homewood office if you have questions.*

### **FUNDING TO PARTICIPATE IN QUAKER EVENTS**

Homewood has funds to support children and adults who would like to participate in Quaker gatherings, camps, and educational institutions. These funds are intended to supplement resources available to the participant from other sources. For more information and for the application form, please see our website page: <https://homewoodfriends.org/memberresources/scholarships/>.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING**

You can [make a contribution online](#) or make a check payable to “Homewood Friends Meeting”, which you can mail or drop off at the office or put into the contribution box in the meeting room. Thank you for all that you give to and share with our Meeting.

[Homewood Volunteer Form](#) Able to lend a hand? Let us know what ways you like to help by checking the boxes for your interests and telling us a skill we might not know you have.

