

NEWSLETTER



Homewood Friends Meeting

Homewood Office
3107 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Clerk: Polly Heninger
Asst. Clerk: Rich Bruning
Newsletter Editor:
Molly Margulies

410-235-4438 // homewoodfriends@gmail.com // Sun. 8:30-2:30, Tue., Weds., Thurs. 9-3

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Queries

#7: 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?

From the BYM Advices

Advices for the Seventh Query, “Home Life”

The efforts of making a home should be shared with tender regard for the needs and abilities of all members and appreciation for their unique contributions. As we strive to create the peaceable kingdom at home we need to be particularly careful about anger and its expression. Stressful situations should be addressed openly and lovingly. Anger is an index of our discontent that needs to be heeded and carefully channeled.

[Read the full Query's advices: BYM Faith and Practice, p 30.](#)

Thank you, Sarah!

Friends gathered at a Special Simple Lunch on Sunday, 6/28 to to express gratitude and celebrate Sarah Bur's contributions as Clerk for Homewood Friends Meeting.



Memorial Meetings

We are sad to share that Alex Shook, son of Megan and Walter, passed away on June 13. The memorial service will be on Saturday, July 11th at 11:00 AM at the meetinghouse. All are invited to stay for a buffet lunch of Alex' favorite dish - lasagna - following the service. Please let Megan know you will be joining the lunch.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the memorial, please contact Mina Brunyate or Rich Bruning.

[You can read Alex's obituary here.](#)

Memorial Details

Saturday, July 11th at 11:00 AM | Homewood Friends Meeting
Memorial Meeting followed by buffet lunch
In-Person and Zoom



Alexander David Shook "SHOOK"
June 24, 1982 — June 13, 2026



Kathleen Wilson
April 6, 1947 - June 1, 2026

Homewood member Kathleen Wilson passed away on June 1, 2026. We hold in the Light her husband Ralph and her two daughters. Condolences can be sent to Ralph Wilson: 615 Chestnut Avenue, Apt. 1313, Towson, Md. 21204.

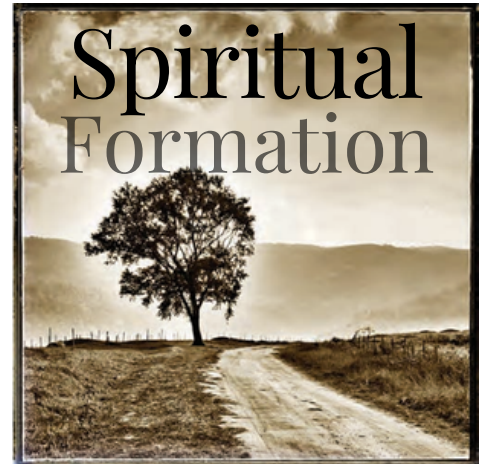
Friends are reminded of Kathleen's life work on Quaker Thomas Kelly which was described in a Friends Journal article by Donna McKusick and Kathleen's website:
<http://www.quakerthomaskelly.org/>.

You can read her [obituary here.](#)

Memorial Details

Monday, August 3rd 11:30 AM | Homewood Friends Meeting
Memorial Meeting followed by a Celebration of Life
In-Person and [Zoom](#)

Homewood Friends are thrilled to resume the Spiritual Formation program at Homewood Friends Meeting. There are multiple ways to participate in the program. Please join us for whichever offerings you can.



**Homewood Spiritual Formation Mini-Retreat with Amy Schmaljohn (Gunpowder Meeting)
Sunday 8/23 @ 12:45-2:15 PM | Dining Room**

Registration and more details to come.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Fall Retreat

9/11 to 9/13 | Claggett Center, Adamstown, MD | Registration opens in August

Monthly Homewood Gatherings

2nd Wednesdays beginning September 9th 6:45-8:30 PM | Library & Lobby

We will share a light dessert from 6:45-7 followed by Worship-Sharing 7-8 PM.

Discussion 8-8:30 PM. Registration details to come.

Optional Monthly Small Groups gather together to share about their spiritual life.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, taking different routes to the same destination. We are all seekers on a quest, searching for that which is greater, and our relationship to it. It is a journey not of miles, but of increments by which we, nonetheless, hope to arrive at the Ground of Our Being. To stand in God's Presence and—once there—dwell in the Center. For much of the way, we journey alone, seeking a course that is uncharted and freely chosen. Yet along the way, we encounter other pilgrims and share the experience in moments of sacred intersection that feed our spirit, deepen our experience, strengthen our resolve, and build community. And we know it to be good. This is the Spiritual Formation Program. And you are invited to journey with us.

For more information about the HFM Spiritual Formation program contact Homewood Office at: homewoodfriends@gmail.com.

For more information generally about Spiritual Formation see the Baltimore Yearly Meeting [Spiritual Formation Pamphlet](#).



GOAT's Noats

The Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) at its last meeting approved a proposal to have a vegetarian/vegan cooking class at Homewood in the fall. There will be 3 sessions, 2 vegetarian and 1 vegan. The vegetarian classes will be led by Stan and his spouse Fannie (a nutritionist) and the vegan class by Stan and Laverne. Recipes will be picked by the group (among those offered by the leaders) as will the day and time of the evening sessions at the Meetinghouse, probably one per month. The leaders will purchase and bring the food, then we will cook together, eat together and after a short presentation on vegetarianism/veganism, we will clean up together. Participants will contribute \$15 ahead to cover costs for all 3 sessions. Please contact Stan if you are interested in participating. (Minimum of 6 and maximum of 12).

~The Homewood Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)~

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR DRAG AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Pastor Marge can be contacted via
email or you can find her on Instagram

Email: theology.queen@gmail.com
Instagram: [@theology.queen](https://www.instagram.com/theology.queen)



Upcoming Events Co-Sponsored by the Peace and Social Justice (PSJ) Coordinating Team

Hiroshima Commemoration

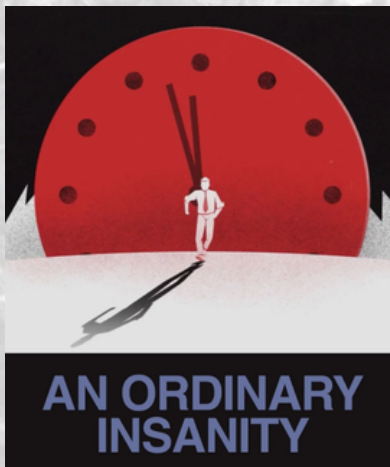
Thurs., August 6th, 5:30–7:30 PM | Dining Room

Join us along with Prevent Nuclear War Maryland to commemorate the victims of the atomic bombing in 1945. From 5-5:30 we will gather at 33rd and Charles St. as a Witness. We will then move to the Dining Room in the meeting house for a potluck and presentations of peace work done over the decades in the Baltimore area, with an emphasis on actions pertaining to nuclear weapons.

Nagasaki Commemoration

Sun., August 9th, 5:30-8 PM | Dining Room

Along with Prevent Nuclear War Maryland, we will be screening the short film *An Ordinary Insanity* by Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg and facilitating a talk by Jasmine Sausedo, a doctoral student at JHU who is doing her thesis on university involvement in military research. There will also be time for a Q&A. Food will be catered so an RSVP is necessary. More details to come.



Faith, Hope, Charity, & Suffering

In a Meeting for Worship last month there was a common theme in the messages shared through vocal ministry, as happens occasionally. It started with a quote from Paul's letter to the Corinthians where he lists the primary virtues of Christianity: Faith, Hope, and Charity. Another message was shared where a question was asked from a Buddhist perspective about suffering and how challenging it is to have hope when there is so much suffering in the world, particularly with the current political climate. Another couple of messages came forth exploring the importance of acknowledging that suffering exists and using that to cultivate hope that motivates action leading to the end of suffering.

My worship is guided by Buddhist meditation practices where I center my concentration on the present moment by focusing on my breath, to calm my body and mind, while opening my heart to any message that speaks to me, whether it be a message that someone else shares, or one that comes from within. At this Meeting for Worship I was exploring a particular type of meditation called Tonglen, which I learned from the Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron. Tonglen is a profound practice not for the faint of heart, where you breathe in the suffering of the world, let it enter your soul to be transformed by your compassion, so that you can then breathe it back out into the world as peace and love.



After the first message about faith, hope and charity, I realized their importance in the practice of Tonglen. As Quakers, our faith is based on the belief that all of us have a divine light within, and that we can cultivate that light and expand our capacity to be enlightened and to radiate the divine light out into the world. Buddhists also believe the same, but they call it the Inner Buddha, which means Enlightened One, and the Buddhist faith is based on everyone having an Inner Buddha that can be cultivated. Quakers and Buddhists may believe in God, but it isn't necessary. It's only necessary to believe in your own capacity to cultivate a divine light in your heart.

I find it helpful to explore different languages to understand concepts more perfectly and Hope is perhaps my favorite example of that. In Spanish the word for Hope is Esperar, and it is the same word for Wait. It's also closely related to the words for Spirit and Breath. Our spirit enters our body when we take our first breath and it leaves when we exhale our last. From that first breath we begin to hope, but suffering is increased by our inability to wait, or as the Buddha would say, clinging to things that are impermanent is the cause of suffering,

Cont'd.

and we can end suffering by letting go and learning to wait. In Greek, the word for Spirit, pneuma, is the same for Air or Wind, as well as for Breath. Words are very useful because they help us to share meaningfulness with each other, but they are just symbols that substitute reality imperfectly.

Charity is the greatest Christian virtue. To me, charity is when the ego has been defeated, and action is motivated by a desire to end the suffering of a loved one, a neighbor, a friend, a stranger, or in the most extreme case, someone who causes others to suffer. May we, as Quakers, perform acts of charity in every opportunity that presents itself to us, big and small, and may those radical acts cultivate a world where suffering and selfishness is transformed into peace and love.

~Thom Price



MINUTE IN APPRECIATION OF SARAH BUR PRESIDING CLERK, HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

JULY 2020-JUNE 2026

Homewood Friends Meeting extends its gratitude for the service, energy, and love that Sarah Bur has provided as Presiding Clerk of the Meeting for the past six years. Sarah faced unprecedented challenges since she took the role with the world closed due to COVID. She worked hard to keep our community connected during that time, was instrumental in bringing us back into the building, and in creating the mechanism for us to offer our Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business in a hybrid form.

During her time as clerk, Sarah oversaw the implementation of the Directory Review process using the Breeze database, which allows us to keep track of and communicate with our community in a more effective way. As clerk of the Personnel Committee, she managed the work of four different Administrative and Operations Coordinators, oversaw the transitions and the hiring so smoothly that the Meeting saw no breaks in support. Most recently she embarked on the huge project of creating a handbook for the Meeting that documents the commonly accepted ways of carrying out the purposes and leadings of our community.

From providing guidance on overhauling the website to leading the effort to develop an ICE Response policy, Sarah has been a key factor in the life of Homewood. Sarah has also supported members of our community on their spiritual paths by encouraging us to undertake the Spiritual Formation program for two years, pushing to get the Spiritual Nurture Working Group going, supporting the Quaker Foundations course for the last two years, and leading the sessions on Faith and Practice for two years. For these and hundreds of other examples big and small, we thank Sarah Bur, and can respectfully say that her hard work has strengthened the foundation of Homewood in ways that will benefit us for many years to come.

July 5, 2026

Pictured from left to right: Incoming Assistant Clerk Rich Bruning, Incoming Clerk Polly Heninger, and Outgoing Clerk, Sarah Bur at the Special Simple Lunch on 6/28/26.



Baltimore Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends
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Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860-1267

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info@bym-rsf.org

June 2026

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Baltimore Yearly Meeting! BYM is the regional gathering of Quakers from the mid-Atlantic region. We are made up of about 50 monthly meetings and worshiping groups from Pennsylvania, Maryland, DC, West Virginia, and Virginia. As your Yearly Meeting, BYM is here to help strengthen Monthly Meetings, nurture our youth through summer camps and year-round programs, help our community grow in Spirit, and help us all connect with other Quakers in our region, our country, and even around the world!

There are many ways you can get involved with BYM!

You can receive one or more of our publications.

In addition to posting information on our website www.bym-rsf.org, BYM sends out newsletters to keep our community informed about local Quaker events and resources. The E-news comes out digitally every week and the Interchange newsletter comes out quarterly—digitally and in print. Those channels are excellent ways to hear what BYM is doing to support monthly meetings and individual Friends and to learn about ways that you can volunteer and participate in actions that our BYM community is taking. You can sign up for one or both of those newsletters here: <https://bit.ly/4nJaVxI>.

You can volunteer for one of our many committees or working groups.

BYM is always looking for people to serve on one of its many committees and working groups. We have more than 20 committees addressing Quaker concerns as well as the operations of BYM. Most are open to all to participate, and you can learn more here: <https://rb.gy/0k57ea>. You can contact our Nominating Committee, at nominating@bym-rsf.org, and I'm sure they will be delighted to connect you with a committee that matches your skills and leadings.



You can join us for Annual Session or a Spiritual Formation retreat.

At Annual Session, held mid-summer, we gather for a week of Meetings for Business and Worship, workshops, plenary speakers, and community fun. All are welcome. Spiritual Formation retreats happen throughout the year and provide opportunities for community and reflection.

- To learn more about attending Annual Session, either to join for the whole week or just to attend a single event online, you can email admin@bym-rsf.org or go to <https://bit.ly/4wDTvGx>.

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- You can find more information about Spiritual Formation retreats here:
<https://bit.ly/3Hsd9QK>.

We would love to see you at one of our events or retreats!

You can volunteer at one of our BYM summer camps or our STRIDE program, which helps youths from localities access BYM camps.

BYM camps always needs volunteers to help with work grants and camp property maintenance, and to make our STRIDE program run smoothly.

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- To learn more about work grants, go to:
<https://bit.ly/4uEkdOd>. There's a special need this year for people who would like to help cook meals for the campers!
 - You can find information about camp work days here: <https://bit.ly/4dOgd5X>. These are days the community comes together to help maintain our camp properties.
 - You can contact our STRIDE coordinator to find out more about getting involved with that program: RaiCarter@bym-rsf.org. They often have opportunities to help drive campers to camps or prepare their equipment before the camping season.



You can join our community in making charitable contributions to help fund all our services and programs.

To send a gift to BYM, you can mail a check to our office or go here: <https://bit.ly/3FHSjwg>. A large portion of our annual budget is made up of charitable contributions from individual Friends like you. We use these funds to send kids to camp, hold youth and spiritual formation retreats, host Annual Session, compensate our staff, publish books, and so much more!

We are so happy that you are a part of our BYM community. I hope that you are able to find just the spot where you feel joyfully connected.

In Friendship,

Sarah Gillooly
General Secretary
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Coming up at Homewood

HIROSHIMA COMMEMORATION

Thurs., August 6th, 5:30-7:30 PM | Dining Room

The Homewood Peace and Social Justice Coordinating Team is co-sponsoring this event alongside Prevent Nuclear War Maryland to commemorate the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing.

NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION

Sun., August 9th, 5:30-8 PM | Dining Room

Along with Prevent Nuclear War Maryland, we will be screening the short film An Ordinary Insanity by Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, and facilitating a talk by Jasmine Sausedo, a doctoral student at JHU.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINI RETREAT

Sun. August 23, 12:45-2:15 PM | Dining Room

Homewood Spiritual Formation Mini-Retreat with Amy Schmaljohn (Gunpowder Meeting). Registration coming soon.

Memorial Meetings

We are sad to share that Alex Shook, son of Megan and Walter, passed away on June 13.

[You can read Alex's obituary here.](#)

Memorial Details

Sat., July 11th 11:00 AM | Homewood Friends Meeting Memorial Meeting followed by buffet lunch

In-Person and Zoom

All are invited to stay for a buffet lunch of Alex' favorite dish - lasagna - following the service. Please let [Megan](#) know you will be joining the lunch.

Homewood member Kathleen Wilson passed away on June 1, 2026. We hold in the Light her husband Ralph and her two daughters. Condolences can be sent to Ralph Wilson: 615 Chestnut Avenue, Apt. 1313, Towson, MD 21204.

Friends are reminded of Kathleen's life work on Quaker Thomas Kelly which was described in a [Friends Journal article](#) by Donna McKusick and [Kathleen's website](#). You can read her [obituary here](#).

Memorial Details

Mon., August 3rd 11:30 AM | Homewood Friends Meeting Memorial Meeting followed by a Celebration of Life

In-Person and [Zoom](#)

In the Wider Community

YOUR VISION FOR YOUR POWER—AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON YOUR LEADERSHIP

Weds., July 8th, 6:30-8 PM | Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia

Reflect on the roots of your interest in organizing and social change, including your faith tradition and/or values.

[Register and learn more here.](#)

LITTLE FALLS SUMMER CONCERT

Sat., July 11th 5:00 - 8:00 PM | Little Falls Friends Meeting, 719 Old Fallston Road.

Free community concert featuring local band, Radish. Music on the Lawn: bring a picnic, chairs and blankets. Rain or Shine!

Complimentary Broom's Bloom Ice Cream and Little Falls Famous Blueberry Sauce. Alcohol and smoke free please.

Using relational meetings to build power—skills, tools, and tips

Thurs. July 23 6:30 - 8 PM | Kittamaquindi Community Church, at The Carriage House, 5410 Leaf Treader Way, Columbia

Learn about relational power, how to conduct relational meetings, and how to plan a relational meeting campaign that connects you with new people and makes new things possible.

BYM ANNUAL SESSIONS - LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH & EACH OTHER

Mon., July 27 - Sun., Aug. 2 at Hood College

[Registration is now open!](#)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Carpooling: Those who are traveling to BYM Annual Sessions at Hood College, please let the Office you are attending to facilitate the possibility of carpooling to and from Hood College.

FRIENDS' DECISION-MAKING AND CLERKING: PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS FOR BUSINESS WITH JOY AND CONFIDENCE

Nov. 20 @ 4:30 pm - Nov. 22 @ 3:30 pm, EST

This is an opportunity for both new and experienced clerks of Friends' meetings and committees to meet and think together about the role of presiding clerk in the spiritual practice of meeting for business.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

| | |
|---|--|
| Administrative | Last Sundays in Odd months, Time TBA, hybrid |
| (Open) Community and Outreach | 3rd Sundays 12:30 PM, SBA Room |
| (Open) Green Organizing Action Team | 4th Mondays 7:30 PM, Zoom |
| (Open) Hospitality | As Called |
| House & Grounds | 2nd Tuesdays 6 PM |
| (Open) Library | 3rd Sundays 12:20 PM, Meetinghouse Library |
| Ministry & Counsel | Last Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Zoom |
| Peace & Social Justice Coordinating Team | 3rd Sundays 12:30 PM, Mott Room (upstairs) |
| (Open) Religious Education | 1st Tuesdays, 7:15 PM |
| Trustees | 1st Wednesday 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.

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.*

Simple Meeting for Worship

EVERY SUNDAY 9:00 AM

In the Meetinghouse Library

✓ open worship

Vigil for Nonviolence

EVERY FRIDAY 5:30-6:30 PM

Outside of the Meetinghouse

✓ All are Welcome

Meeting for Business

FIRST SUNDAYS 7/5 12:30 PM

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

✓ All are Welcome

Nelson Mandela Study Group

FIRST SUNDAYS 7/5 9:15 AM

Lucretia Mott Room

✓ All are Welcome

Spirit Led Action Group for Palestine & Israel

SECOND SUNDAYS 7/12, 12:30 PM

Lucretia Mott Room and on [Zoom](#)

Faith and Practice Study

SECOND SUNDAYS 7/12 9:15 AM

Lucretia Mott Room

✓ All are Welcome

Community Building and Outreach Team

THIRD SUNDAYS 7/19 12:30 PM

Susan B Anthony Room and Zoom

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

✓ open committee

Bible Study

THIRD SUNDAYS 7/19 9:15 AM

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

All are welcome, no prior readings needed.

✓ open group

Peace and Social Justice Coordinating Team

THIRD SUNDAYS 7/19 12:30 PM

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

Library Committee

THIRD SUNDAYS 7/19 12:20 PM

In the Meetinghouse Library

✓ open committee

Green Organizing Action Team(GOAT)

FOURTH MONDAYS 7/27 7:30 PM

Zoom only. Contact office for link.

✓ open committee