



*The Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House*

## **SANDY SPRING MONTHLY MEETING**

**OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

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Third Month, Fourth Day, 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Patti Nesbitt and Michael Conklin, beloved members of this Meeting, have opened to us their leading to worship, to listen, to learn, and to serve as they travel among Friends. Enriched by their recent 18 months of international travel among Friends, they feel a continuing leading to travel in the ministry to support the growing community of Friends. Their intentions are to strengthen our fellowship first among local Meetings within Baltimore Yearly Meeting, as a part of outreach envisioned by the BYM clerk and the BYM Intervisitation Working Group. Their understanding of traveling ministry has been seasoned by their yearlong service as Resident Friends in the Northern Monthly Meeting of New Zealand Yearly Meeting. Providing hospitality to both Kiwi and international travelers at Friends Centre in Auckland was a ministry of presence that grew their awareness of the need for more Quaker practices worldwide among both Friends and our troubled world. These knowings were emphasized everywhere else they traveled as they returned to Sandy Spring, including at Britain Yearly Meeting and several Meetings in England, Scotland and Sweden.

Back in Sandy Spring, Michael continues to be involved in peace and social justice issues, serves as our representative to the Friends Committee on National Legislation and volunteers there weekly. Michael is a retired wandering librarian with years of international service and a great sense of humor, and knows how to make everyone feel welcome. His ministry is anchored in Howard Thurman's guidance to honor that of God in all people, of all faiths, of all ethnicities and cultures.

Patti has served in a circle of support for two different Friends since returning home, taken on the clerkship of BYM's Intervisitation Working Group, and maintains an active spiritual friendship with a New Zealander supporting her work in spiritual nurture among Friends. She is emphatic

about how the world needs Quakerism more now than ever. In the last 2 years, she led workshops on end of life care issues and prophetic ministry in multiple settings. She is a dedicated palliative care nurse focused on minimizing suffering and being a Friendly Presence to companion others during major transitions.

Our Meeting recognizes their breadth of vision, thoughtfulness, and empathy. Individually they are gifted, together they have a joyful clarity of purpose. We unite with Patti and Michael's leading and trust you will find their time amongst you fruitful, prayerful, and enriching. We send you our loving greetings, and commend them to your care and hospitality.

Yours sincerely in the Light,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Natalie Finegar".

Natalie Finegar  
Clerk, Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

Marcy Seitel  
Clerk of Interim Meeting  
Baltimore Yearly Meeting