

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

GEAR UP! ... for your Spiritual Journey at Annual Session

Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk

Quaker Tools for the Journey is the theme for this summer's Annual Session. We will have many opportunities to learn and share Quaker practices and resources that can help equip us on our spiritual paths and in our life together as Friends.

We'll meet at Hood College July 29-August 4, with an opening retreat starting on Monday, led by Marcelle Martin, author of *Our Life is Love*. The length of Annual Session has not changed (as had been considered), but there are a few key schedule changes. We will begin with opening worship at 2pm on Tuesday before our first business session, which starts at 3pm as usual. Also, the Coffee House will be on Friday evening, and the Carey Lecture will be on Saturday evening.

Our week will be enriched by plenary talks and experiences led by Patti Nesbitt, BYM Young Adult Friends, and Eileen Flanagan. See inside for details on the retreat, our plenary programs, and a full Junior Yearly Meeting program for children of all ages. A wide range of workshops and interest groups will also help us deepen our faith and our practice as well as connect with the many wonderful people in our Quaker community.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, is, of course, one of our most unique and remarkable Quaker tools for the journey. Don't you wish we could always make decisions that include everyone in all the domains of our lives? Come experience how our Business Meetings can be deeply spiritual as we discern together and celebrate our way forward on our anti-racism efforts, our peace,



*Annual Session 2018 All-Ages Plenary
photo by Jennifer Domenick*

social, and environmental concerns, our camps, and all that we do together in the Life of the Spirit.

We were all new once. Is this your first time coming to Annual Session? Sign up to have a buddy—an experienced Friend who can introduce you to folks, show you around, and answer questions during the week. Are you an “old-timer?” Consider being a buddy for someone attending for the first time.

Annual Session is for everyone. Do join us, whether for just a part of a day or for the whole week. It's for all ages. It's an opportunity for us all to come together as one loving community and share in each others' gifts, leadings, experiences, and friendship.

BYM EMBRACES STRIDE

Marcy Baker Seitel, Clerk of Interim Meeting

BYM Friends were in unity at our Spring Interim Meeting about supporting the further work of our STRIDE program. A three-year grant from the Shoemaker Fund covered the costs of the program, including the salary for a staff person to organize and support the many young adult volunteers who do the work of this program. For the program to continue, those expenses now need to be covered by BYM. At Interim Meeting, our discernment was clear—we

want STRIDE to continue. You can read the minutes from Interim Meeting at www.bym-rsf.org/publications/yearbooks/third19.html#i201911

STRIDE members provided a presentation for IM that focused on the vision for their work, the annual cycle of activities that is done by volunteer Core Groups to accomplish their mission, through relationship-building and fundraising. STRIDE focuses on taking away the barriers for low-income campers of color, such as trust,

STRIDE continued on page 14

**Annual Session 2019 begins July 29 for the Opening Retreat
Regular Programming, including Junior Yearly Meeting, begins Tuesday, July 30 after
lunch
Again this Year: Children from birth to 8th Grade Attend for Free!**

BYM 2019 ANNUAL SESSION THEME

QUAKER TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY

“We Friends have some precious tools and insights to help create the conditions for peace, stop the destruction of God’s natural environment, and enable the growth of a just society.” Patience A. Schenck, *Answering the Call to Heal the World*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 383, 2017.

Our world can at times seem bleak: corrupted by injustice, division and self-interest. What does our Quaker heritage teach us of resilience and discernment in the face of discouragement? Which tools, forged in Friends’ faith and practice, will serve us best to meet today’s challenges?

We look back to our Quaker heritage, the deep roots of our faith, for inspiration. We look to history to learn from the practices that gave a few early Friends the strength to effect real change. We also acknowledge that as we celebrate exemplary Friends, our history offers cautionary episodes: dark times when Friends allowed complacency to blind them to the deep wrongs they themselves participated in. We must live with all these examples as we shape our course both individually and corporately.

How has this rich tradition flowered into tools for today? The spiritual paths of early Friends branched out, with turning points and some divergences; we seek to learn from all Friends’ practices. Let us find new uses for the tools offered by our testimonies both in our individual lives and in collective endeavors that work for our communities, nation, and world. By these means we aspire to serve the challenges of this divided world.

How can our work today plant the seeds that will sustain this work through future challenges we cannot foresee? We recognize that willfulness as well as willingness may play a role in our attempts, but by acknowledging the failings that may slow our progress, we allow our faith to nurture us for the journey ahead. As we “answer that of God” in those we meet along the way, let us foster a wider use of our Quaker tools to build a future of reconciliation and connection.

- What are the “roots” we have grown from?
- What are the “flowers” of our faith and practice?
- What “seeds” have we planted that will nurture us for tomorrow?
- What tools will we need to speak to “that of God” in others?
- What do Quakers bring to these troubled times?

NEW FOR 2019:

HAVE A BUDDY—BE A BUDDY

Is this your first time at Annual Session? Would you like to meet an “old hand” who can show you around, answer questions, and help you feel at home? If so, check the “Request a Buddy” box on your registration form. If you would like to help a newcomer feel at home, check “Be a Buddy” on the registration form. Before you arrive, we’ll connect you (via email) with your buddy, so you can get together when you get to Hood College.

MARCELLE MARTIN TO LEAD ANNUAL SESSION RETREAT

Author of widely acclaimed *Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*



Marcelle will lead us in exploring “Quaker Tools for the Journey” as we delve into the spiritual roots and insights of Friends who also wrestled with complex and trying times. Marcelle takes inspiration from early Friends to help us find the courage to become all God has created us to be in our day. From her book, *Our Life is Love*, she will draw on themes in the lives and letters of early and contemporary Friends: seeking, longing, community, abiding.

Marcelle Martin has led workshops and retreats across the country with a call to help nurture the spiritual vitality and radical faithfulness of Friends and Quakerism today. For four years she was the resident Quaker Studies teacher at Pendle Hill. She was a core teacher in the School of the Spirit and the Mullen Writing Fellow at Earlham School of Religion.

It is with great joy that the Ministry and Pastoral Care committee invites Friends to gather in preparation for our Annual Session with this wise and loving teacher of Quaker spirituality.

2019 PLENARY SESSIONS

Tuesday Evening Plenary Speaker:

Patricia Nesbitt

Patti Nesbitt has had a varied and creative free-lance career in environmental consulting, research, writing, and most recently, palliative care nursing. A graduate of the School of the Spirit, she is called to strengthen the Quaker community through Intervisitation and has traveled extensively in the ministry both internationally and in this country. Patti is a member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and has served Friends and BYM in many capacities, including the Friends House Board, the camping program and camp properties committees, and the Intervisitation Working Group.



Wednesday Afternoon Plenary Program:

YAF Talks about Talking About Racism

This year's Wednesday afternoon plenary is being delivered by the Young Adult Friends (YAF), who will be focusing on racial bias and how to talk to each other about it. YAF have spent the past year working to prepare some tools that Friends can use when confronting racism in their daily lives. These tools are drawn from the training given to the Change Groups for monthly meetings arranged by the Working Group on Racism and conducted by Dr. Amanda Kemp. The YAF community feels strongly that BYM as a whole would benefit from learning some of the key aspects of Amanda Kemp's method, and so we have (with her assistance) prepared these tools for Friends' journey through the thorny issue of racism. YAF are a group of Quakers between 18 and 35 years old who meet together during the year for worship and fellowship, and strive to foster a loving and supportive community.

This program is planned for ages 10 and up. A parallel program for K-3rd/4th grade children will be led by Jennifer DeLorge-McKeown and members of the YAF community. Jennifer is a long-time K-12 educator who works on the Junior Yearly Meeting staff, and is a member of Annapolis Friends Meeting.



Saturday Evening Carey Lecturer:

Eileen Flanagan

Eileen Flanagan, a member of Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania, is a Quaker author, activist and teacher. A graduate of Duke and Yale, she is the award-winning author of three books and scores of articles. In addition to helping people to make their activism more effective through her online courses, she speaks to international audiences on how to build a spiritually grounded and effective climate justice movement. For five years, she served as board chair of Earth Quaker Action Team, a scrappy little group which successfully pressured one of the largest banks in the U.S. to stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining.

Note: this talk is on Saturday night, not Friday night as in recent years



ANNUAL SESSION 2019 EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WORSHIP SHARING

On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, our Annual Session day begins with worship sharing from 8:15-9:15am. This year, we will offer many ways to get ready for our days of worship, business, learning, and fellowship. You can sign up for a Worship Sharing group when you arrive on campus. The Worship Sharing groups invite Friends to share deeply around the theme and queries for Annual Session. In addition to the standard worship sharing format, we are pleased to offer some alternatives.

- A “Family Friendly” worship sharing session will make space for laughter, movement, and other gifts of being in intergenerational community.
- Our Unity with Nature committee will hold a worship sharing session out of doors.
- A music focused worship sharing group will include song and chant.

Whatever morning worship sharing session you join, we hope you’ll be nurtured and make new connections while at Annual Session.

BIBLE STUDY

One of the joys of Annual Session for many Friends is participating in morning Bible Study (Wednesday through Saturday, 8:15–9:15am).

WORKSHOPS

Workshops on a wide variety of topics of interest to Friends are presented on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4pm. Leaders come from BYM or represent other Quaker organizations. Descriptions of workshops begin on page 6. Sign up for one workshop or a Connecting Local Meetings (CLM) session each day. CLMs offer a chance to consult with Friends from other Meetings, and share challenges and successes on the topic. Some workshops limit attendance, so make sure you get the workshop of your choice! You may indicate your workshop preferences at the time you register or when you arrive on campus.

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups provide a great way to gather informally to focus on topics of interest to Friends and can greatly enrich your Annual Session experience. They can meet Thursday or Saturday at 4:15, or Friday at 6:15. Topics and locations are announced in the *Daily Minute*. If you would like to hold an interest group, please share your request in advance with Jason Eaby (jeaby@epix.net) to be sure to get a room. Since we can only have a limited number of groups at a time, there is a priority list for subjects:

1. BYM business concerns;
2. BYM activities: committees, working groups, response to issues raised by speakers;
3. BYM Representatives to Quaker organizations;
4. Local Meeting concerns;
5. Other Quaker organizations.

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:15 pm, Friends gather to participate in this inter-generational activity of games and wor-

ship sharing organized by the Young Friends. It is an opportunity to get to know people of different ages in a relaxed, playful, intentional way, as well as to support our rising leaders.

ALL AGE CELEBRATION

Join us Thursday for an evening of intergenerational fun! This year we will be focusing on ways to harness the theme of Annual Session. Enjoy ice cream and other getting to know you activities!

COFFEE HOUSE

The Coffee House is a series of open-mic performances coordinated by Young Friends. It begins at 7:30 pm on Friday. Anyone may sign up to perform. Sign up notices will be posted in several locations around campus.

THE DAILY MINUTE

The *Daily Minute* is the newsletter of Annual Session. Each day it will be available at the dining hall and online, giving highlights and updates for the events of the day. Other messages can provide helpful information for campus services or other news. See the Information Desk for submission instructions.

EVENING SINGING

Gather ‘round, all! You can sing hymns around the piano from 6:15 to 7:15pm Tuesday through Saturday evenings.

REGISTRATION

Friends who have registered in advance, and are paid in full prior to their arrival may collect their Welcome Packets (with room keys included) at any time by going to the Registration Desk and looking in the marked container. All others need to stop by the Registration Desk during the hours listed below. Friends arriving after the Registration Desk has closed for the day may call 814-880-5714 for assistance.

DESK HOURS

Monday:	12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Tuesday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 12:00 pm - 2:45 pm 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Wednesday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Thursday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Friday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Register for Annual Session 2019 online now at
www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

LOOKING TO REDUCE THE COST OF ANNUAL SESSION 2019?

Don't Forget that Children from Birth through 8th Grade Attend for Free!

There are a number of options available to help defray the cost of Annual Session. It is necessary to apply for many of these, and instructions are included. For Friends registering for Annual Session online, you can indicate what form of assistance you are seeking during the registration process.

1. **Ask your Local Meeting!** Many Meetings have funds to assist Friends in attending Quaker related events, including Annual Session.
2. **First-Time Attender certificates:** Each local Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time adult attenders or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free days at the Early Registration rate. Contact your Meeting Clerk!
3. **Junior Yearly Meeting Workgrants:** If you have experience and would enjoy working with children, JYM is a great "home" during Annual Session. You can have fun, be valued as an important part of the JYM staff community, and, as a bonus, you would also qualify for a work grant! Please take some time to consider this, and if you wish for more information, contact Carol Seddon (carolseddon217@gmail.com) or Alex Bean (beansprout.a@gmail.com). If you are interested in serving as a Friendly Adult Presence (for Young Friends) contact Jossie Dowling (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org) for clearance and training.

4. **Tent space:** Tent space is an option available nearby at Frederick Friends Meeting but must be separately requested by no later than June 24. Showers and bathroom facilities are available, as is an Electric Vehicle Charging Station. Contact Wayne Finegar (waynefinegar@bym-rsf.org) if you are interested. You should register as a commuter for Annual Session.

5. **Young Adult Friends:** Young Adult Friends aged 18-35 are invited to apply for financial assistance for Annual Session. This helps YAFs participate as fully as possible in the Yearly Meeting. Funds are limited, and are given out first come–first served, with a preference for BYM Committee members and officers. As much as 50% of the registration costs may be covered by BYM. This assistance cannot be combined with first-time attender certificates but may be combined with BYM work grants.

If you would like to apply, please:

- 1) Determine how much you can afford to pay,
- 2) Apply to your local Meeting for assistance soon,
- 3) If more assistance is needed from BYM, please get a letter from your Meeting stating the amount of assistance being provided and include it with your registration by the early registration date. (June 24)

FIRST TIME CERTIFICATES

Each local Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time adult attenders or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free days at the Early Registration rate. Contact your Meeting Clerk or the BYM Office (302-774-7663) for more information.

ANNUAL SESSION BOOKSTORE NEWS!

Quakers love to read! This summer, the Bookstore can be found in the large, comfortable area on the first floor of Whitaker. Plan to stop in and browse. Many new titles to choose from, plus a wide selection of crafts and clothing. Plus, titles and book signings from BYM and Quaker authors. To contact the Bookstore Manager, just send an email to bookstore@bym-rsf.org.

Workshop leaders: There is still plenty of time to order books to support workshops—let the Bookstore know how we can help.

Vendors: If you would like to offer items for sale in the Bookstore—let the Bookstore know! Tabletop spaces are limited to 3 feet in width. The application process is easy, but we need to know that you plan to come. That way, we can provide enough table space for everyone to fit comfortably. The cost to vendors for a booth is 10% of sales (with a minimum charge of \$20).

Register for Annual Session 2019 online now at
www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

2019 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOPS

Thursday Workshops

CLMT: Nominating Committees' role as elders, naming and nurturing gifts. Let's bring sensitivity and openness to a deeper, broader, and newer understanding of this role. Quakers have some habits of the heart and thinking about nominating that would be good to shake loose and open up some to new light and energy. **Joan Liversidge** facilitating.

T1—In the Shade of our Ancestors: Trees play an integral role in evolution and cultural practices. We are called to live our Stewardship Testimony through conscious caring for our landscape. Following a brief introduction indoors, the group will participate in an informative, educational nature walk around campus, providing suggestions for use in home or Meeting landscape. **Sue Hunter** is a Professional and Career Horticulturist, Grower, Forester; **David Hunter** is our BYM Camp Property Manager.

T2—Valley Friends Went Carbon Neutral: Valley Friends Monthly Meeting has taken a multi-year path of discernment and action to become carbon free. Using Quaker practice and values of simplicity and environmental stewardship, we share how we found our way forward. **Don Crawford** "After our meeting passed a minute on climate change, we decided to take action. We reduced our Meeting House carbon footprint from about 23,000 pounds of CO2 per year to zero."

T3—Friends Committee on State Legislation: Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting invited all MD. Friends to consider forming a state organization equivalent to FCNL. How would it work? Could non-Friends participate? Let's talk. **Jamie DeMarco** is a former FCNL staffer, co-manages the MD Clean Energy Jobs Initiative; **Phil Caroom** is clerk of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and leads the MD Alliance for Justice Reform.

T4—Building a Culture of Multi-age Inclusion: Many Friends yearn for vibrant, intergenerational meetings; it's often difficult to see how our Quaker culture can get in the way. We'll examine cultural barriers to multi-age inclusion and the tools we can use to flip them. Come prepared to talk, move, write, and draw our way through this work! **Emily Provance** has facilitated workshops at

Powell House retreat center and in a variety of local meeting settings, working across generations.

T5—The Language of Unity: Upstanding Against Racism, Homophobia, Genderphobia, and Xenophobia: This workshop draws on the Friends tradition of deep listening, and on the long history of Friends standing up for those facing violence and discrimination. We offer de-escalation strategies, basic self-defense, and tools for skillful interactions, focusing on responding safely and effectively to identity-based harassment. **Zola Z. Bruce** MSSW, Columbia School of Social Work; **Sarah Chepkirui Creider**, EdD

T6—Inward Truth, Outward Witness: The Future of Quaker Testimonies—A 3-day series: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship – in recent years 'SPICES' have become 'TOOLS' for how Quakers are to 'LET OUR LIVES SPEAK.' In three days of workshops we will engage our Testimonies—**Thursday**, as inward experience. You may take 1, 2, or all 3 workshops. **Jim Fussell**: during the past year has undertaken extensive study of the 20th century emergence of 'SPICES' as Quaker Testimonies at Swarthmore's Friends Historical Library.

T7—Shape Note Singing: Early American sacred music combines religious poetry with acapella, four-part harmony. Pitches are represented by different shapes of the notes to facilitate learning and make tunes accessible to all. All are welcome. **Barbarie Hill** was introduced to shape note singing in Ohio and has been a part of the Rivanna River Sacred Harp Singers since moving to Charlottesville.

T8—Exploration of Discerning a Call: An exploration of the Quaker tool of discernment, particularly as it relates to discerning a call. How do you know if you're called to something? What does a call feel like? How do you know the call is from God? **Nikki Holland** has been called to ministry in a number of capacities, most recently to start a Quaker house church in Mexico, to attend Earlham School of Religion, and to be the Director of Belize Friends Ministries.

T9—Faithfulness Groups: Participating in a faithfulness group is like having an ongoing clearness and support committee. Members



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

GOLF CART DRIVERS WANTED!

Program Committee is looking for volunteer golf cart drivers for Annual Session 2019. A driver's license is required. If you are interested in helping, please contact Martha Gay (martylou@gmail.com). Please include your contact information, the days you expect to be present at Hood College, and any prior experience ferrying people around in golf carts.

Register for Annual Session 2019 online now at

www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

provide mutual assistance for faithful, Spirit-led lives. This workshop reviews the guidelines and practice skills that make these small groups a wonderful opportunity for spiritual intimacy and an aid for long-term faithful action. **Marcelle Martin** has participated in Quaker faithfulness groups and Shalem Institute-style peer groups for twenty years.

T10—Finding the Spirit Everyday: Quaker writers, like Thomas Kelly, tell us that the Spirit longs for us, that the way of peace is always with us. How can we better focus on the Spirit's guidance, comfort, presence? Let's share ways we nurture our inner lives, and consider Quaker writings and practices for further inspiration. **Marcy Seitel:** In raising a family, finding life work, and being a busy Quaker, she has had plenty of practice with this subject!

T11—Back from the Brink at Two Minutes to Midnight: Several Quaker Meetings in BYM have endorsed the Back from the Brink campaign, which aims to reduce the threat of nuclear war and ultimately to eliminate nuclear weapons. Why is this campaign so essential now, and what is the special role of Quakers in its implementation? **Jean Athey** is coordinator of Peace Action Montgomery (MD) and a founding member of Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland. Jean is past co-chair of the Board of the national organization Peace Action and is on the BYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

Friday Workshops

CLMF: Lowering Racial Barriers in our Meetings: BYM is committed to removing racial barriers that prevent the Yearly Meeting and Local Meetings from realizing our vision of being more ethnically diverse. In this session both Friends of color and white Friends will connect, listen, and share their experiences in working to remove those barriers. **David Etheridge** is a member of the BYM Growing Diverse Leadership Committee and Clerk of the Working Group on Racism. **Peirce Hammond** is a member of the Working Group on Racism and Clerk of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee.

F1—Honoring Promises—Justice in Indian County: (film and discussion) *100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice*. Elouise Cobell, exemplar yet traditionalist, received the Medal of Freedom for successfully securing justice for Native people. Join us in learning about a modern Native woman taking on the Federal Government—and Winning! What were the roots of this injustice?

What fruit now? **Patricia "Pat" Powers** former director of FCNL's Native advocacy program, consistent Native advocate. **Sue Marcus**, Co-clerk of BYM Indian Affairs Committee; former USGS national Tribal liaison, former board member of the Society of American Indian Government Employees.

F2—Tools to Connect Each Other to Nature: After discussing "marketing" tools for drawing people into the native plant movement, we will photograph and document some of the plants and wildlife in the Hood College neighborhood, using either smart phones or regular cameras. Smart phone owners: please download the free iNaturalist app ahead of time. **Margaret Fisher** is one of the organizers of the Plant NOVA Natives campaign (which works to inspire people to use their own properties to provide wildlife sanctuaries) and an enthusiastic insect photographer.

F3—Inward Truth, Outward Witness: The Future of Quaker Testimonies: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship—'SPICES' have become 'TOOLS' for how Quakers are to 'LET OUR LIVES SPEAK.' In three days of workshops we will engage our Testimonies. Friday: guidance for community. You may take 1, 2, or all 3 workshops. **Jim Fussell**.

F4—Sitting with Ambiguity: Lessons from Intervisitation: Traveling ministry is a practice that BYM has revived to connect with the wider Quaker community to witness and honor, to acknowledge similarities and differences, and to engage in "holy listening." Intervisitation WG will share experiences of our ministry of presence with attention to how this ministry may serve our troubled world. **Joan Liversidge** and **Jade Eaton** have traveled among Friends as ministers of presence and are eager to share their experiences and engage Friends in applying this practice.

F5—Panel Discussion on Supporting Public Ministry: Join a panel discussion on how our meetings have supported vital ministries in our community and how we can grow this work, featuring experienced public ministers in the yearly meeting. **Linda Coates** is a longtime member of Intervisitation Working Group. **Windy Cooler** is a public minister who has traveled under the care of BYM.

Workshops continued on page 12

**PLANNING TO SET UP
A DISPLAY
AT ANNUAL SESSION?
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:
DISPLAY SPACE IS AVAILABLE
ON A FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE BASIS.**

TABLETOP SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 3 FEET IN WIDTH.

**RESERVE YOURS BY
E-MAILING YOUR REQUEST TO
JASON EABY (JEABY@EPIX.NET).**

Register for Annual Session 2019 online now at

www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please write the Plan letter on the Registration Form in the Plan Column

Each lodging night includes three meals, beginning with dinner on the day of arrival, continuing through lunch the following day

	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	6 Nights
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Plan A - Adult Double Room

Through June 24	\$105	\$210	\$315	\$420	\$525	\$630
After June 24	\$115	\$230	\$345	\$460	\$575	\$690

Plan B - Adult Single Room

Through June 24	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600	\$720
After June 24	\$130	\$260	\$390	\$520	\$650	\$780

Plan C - Young Friend

Through June 24	\$105	\$210	\$315	\$420	\$525
After June 24	\$115	\$230	\$345	\$460	\$575

Plan D - Child between birth and 8th Grade *(there is no charge but registration is required)*

\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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Plan E - Adult Commuter with two meals

\$90	\$180	\$270	\$360	\$450	\$540
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Plan F - Adult Commuter without meals

\$70	\$140	\$210	\$280	\$350	\$420
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Plan G - Single Event Attendance

\$25

PAYMENT INFORMATION:
EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE
 June 24, 2019

To Pay by Check:
 Make check for at least **25% of TOTAL** payable to **Baltimore Yearly Meeting** when mailing completed forms

To Register online:

www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/

We accept major credit cards and debit cards
 Checks, cash, and credit/debit cards are accepted on campus

TO ENSURE REGISTRATION, YOU MUST EITHER REGISTER ONLINE OR FILL OUT AND MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM TO:

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
 17100 Quaker Lane
 Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Refund Policy

If you cannot attend Annual Session and want a refund, your request (mail or email only) must be received by July 15.

Your registration fees, minus a \$25 service charge, will be refunded as soon as possible after Annual Session

No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after July 15

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION REGISTRATION

Please fill out and mail to: 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Attendees Names		Youth Programs			Workshop Choice			Annual Session Fees				
Deadline for Early Registration is June 24, 2019		Rising Grade	Enter workshop #		Arrival date • number of nights • plan							
Last Name	First Name	M/F	Age	Birthdate	Grade	Thu	Fri	Sat	Arrive	# Nights	Plan	Dollars
												\$
												\$
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Registrant's Contact Information (please print)	
	Street Address
	City, State, and Zip Code
	Phone Numbers (home, work, mobile)
	E-mail Address
	Local Meeting

TOTAL FEES	\$
Donation	\$
1st Time Attender Certificate Received	\$-
Meeting Assistance Expected	\$-
Young Adult Friend Assistance Expected	\$-
Other Adjustments:	\$
TOTAL ADJUSTED FEES	\$
Payment Enclosed (minimum 25% of Total)	\$
Balance Due	\$
Roommate Requested (for Adults in Double Rooms)	

Expectations at Annual Session

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we are a community of Friends living in the discipline of the Spirit. Attenders of all ages are asked to observe a level of conduct appropriate to Friends' principles; to take care that all of their personal behavior is bound by a respect for the sensitivities of all, including those of the host community; and to remember that our individual actions reflect on the Religious Society of Friends.

As a Religious Society, we profess a belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. (Faith and Practice, 1988) We cannot permit violent physical, verbal, or other behavior that we find, through corporate discernment, violates that Divine Spirit. Those in our midst whose behavior disrupts program activities and/or threatens the physical and emotional safety and integrity of another will be asked to leave.

Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. Attenders are asked to help make a safe and supportive community for all children. If unable to function within the guidelines of the community, any attender may be asked to leave. Alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco products (including vaping) are not permitted at Annual Session.

☐ I/We have read and agree to abide by the BYM Gathering Expectations:

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
JULY 29 TO AUGUST 4, 2019**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)					7:00		
8:00		Retreat (8:30-12:00)	Worship Sharing and Bible Study (8:15-9:15) <i>Annual Session Registration (8:45-9:15)</i>				8:00		
9:00			Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting				Worship	9:00	
10:00			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)				MfW w/Concern for Business (10:00-12:00)	10:00	
11:00								11:00	
12:00			Lunch (12:00 - 1:00)					12:00	
1:00	Retreat Registration	<i>Annual Session Registration (12:00 - 2:45)</i>	<i>Annual Session Registration (12:00-2:00) Wednesday - Saturday</i>				1:00		
2:00			Siesta (1:00-2:00)				2:00		
3:00	Retreat: Marcelle Martin (2:30-5:00)	Worship	Plenary Session: Young Adult Friends	Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Workshops (2:00-4:00)	3:00		
4:00		MfW w/Concern for Business (3:00-5:00)		Meeting f/Business (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Committee Meetings (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	4:00	
5:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30)					5:00			
6:00	<i>Annual Session Registration (4:30-6:00) Tuesday - Saturday</i>					6:00			
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Singing (6:15-7:15) Interest Group on Friday (6:15 - 7:15)				7:00			
8:00		Plenary Session: Patti Nesbitt (7:30 - 9:30)	Committee Meetings	All Age Celebration (7:30 - 9:00)		Coffee House 7:30 - 9:30	Carey Lecture: Eileen Flanagan (7:30 - 9:30)	8:00	
9:00			Produce Department			Produce Department	9:00		

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS AND LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

Everyone under the age of 18 must complete the medical information form available in the Annual Session section of the Yearly Meeting's website at www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession. No one under 18 can be allowed to participate in youth programs until a medical form is on file.

Young Friends who have attended a YF conference in the 2018-2019 academic year do not need to complete a new form. Young Friends also need to complete the Letter of Understanding, which is available in the same section of the Yearly Meeting website.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Staff welcomes families to a vibrant community of adults and children. At Annual Session, your child can meet and get to know children from other Meetings, have fun and learn Quaker values and history. We provide programming for children from infancy through rising 8th grade. The JYM program is divided into the nursery, elementary and Junior Young Friends (JYF) groups. The Nursery provides child care during morning, afternoon and evening sessions in a space filled with loving, creative adults, who are always ready to play, read books and run! In the morning The Elementary group further divides into classes, by grades. During this time, teachers lead activities and fun focused on the YM theme, then during the afternoon and evening sessions the elementary children participate in less structured fun activities and games both inside and outdoors. The rising 6th through 8th graders (JYFs) meet in their own community to learn experientially about Quaker process and participate in a wide variety of activities. Together they write an epistle to share with other JYFs around the world. Rising 9th graders may choose to stay with JYFs or join the Young Friends.

For safety reasons, children attending Annual Session are expected to either participate in JYM programs or be under the direct supervision of a parent or other designated adult during JYM program times. A co-op aftercare will be offered after the JYM afternoon program on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4 pm (when workshops end) until 5 pm (when dinner begins). Parents who want their children to participate must sign up at the Afternoon Program to work one shift. Please attend the interest group on Wednesday afternoon to organize and sign up.

YOUNG FRIENDS

During Annual Session, Young Friends (YFs) gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm housing. Although the YF schedule is very full, Young Friends are welcome to attend all events of Annual Session, and are especially encouraged to join the all-age events. The schedule makes time to build the YF community through workshops, business meeting, committee meetings, worship sharing, and games. YFs integrate with the larger BYM community at meals, evening lectures, Produce Department, and Coffee House. If you have never attended Annual Session before, some of the information in the Interchange may seem confusing. If you have questions, contact Jossie Dowling (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org) at the Yearly Meeting office or the Young Friends Annual Session Planners. Read through all of the information in this Interchange to learn more.

The Young Friends program begins Tuesday afternoon. Anyone of high school age who arrives prior to this time should plan to participate in the Yearly Meeting Retreat and must stay with a parent or sponsor in their room.

EVERYONE must pre-register. (Complete the forms in this Interchange and mail to the Yearly Meeting office or register online) YFs are welcome to register for just a day, or for a few days. Keep in mind that unlike Conferences during the year, Young Friends must have an adult sponsor present at Annual Session. Many adults from your Meeting might be excited to be your sponsor if you need one. PLEASE NOTE THAT to be on campus at all, you must GET YOUR NAME TAG from the registration desk. Please check the registration hours listed earlier in this Interchange. Please look for Jossie Dowling if you show up on campus and have not checked-in yet at the BYM Registration Desk.

Financial Assistance: First apply to your local Meeting for assistance. The Yearly Meeting Youth Programs will match your Meeting's contribution. You could also consider a work grant from Junior Yearly Meeting as a way to defray costs. If you are able, please consider making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Also, if it is your first time attending Annual Session, you may request a 2-day 'first time attendee' voucher from your local Meeting or Young Friends.

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

Young Adult Friends (YAF) is an intentional community of Friends aged 18-35. At Annual Session, members take part in all aspects of the program, from attending business sessions to leading workshops to providing acts for the Coffee House. YAF also has its own programming: it does its own business, has a special dinner out, holds late night swims, takes the rising YAFs out for ice cream—and writes an epistle telling the rest of the Yearly Meeting and the wider Quaker community what it has been up to at Annual Session and over the course of the rest of the year.

For more information about the YAF program, contact Dylan Phillips or Jennifer Vekert—and for information about opportunities for YAFs to save money on attending Annual Session, check out the information on page 5. We'd love to have you join us!

Friday and Saturday Workshops

Workshops continued from page 7

F6—Acknowledge the Darkness; Embrace the Light: Using Poetry, we will engage in discussion and contemplation on how to celebrate the joys in our lives while at the same time accepting our pain and the pain of others. Participants may bring a favorite poem to share, but not required. **Sheila Kryston** and **Debbi Sudduth**—are retired therapists and members of Goose Creek Friends Meeting.

F7—Facing Our Fears in Tumultuous Times: Whether you are just trying to stay grounded during scary times or building your courage muscles to follow a bold calling, this interactive workshop will explore Quaker tools to help us face our fears, so we can be more faithful. **Eileen Flanagan**, former clerk of Earth Quaker Action Team, has helped hundreds of people deal with their fears both in her online courses on effective activism and in her years of teaching discernment at Pendle Hill.

F8—Listening to Spirit in Spain: In 2016, **Kendra Biddick** spent 58 days walking on Camino paths from southeastern to northwestern Spain. She will show slides from her pilgrimage and discuss the spiritual awareness she gained that helps her speak to that of God in others.

F9—Exercises for the Quiet Eye—A Quaker Way for Guided Looking at Art is a guided look at art. It fosters sensory, emotional and intellectual reflection, and patience. Rather than “figure out” images, we seek Tolerance of Ambiguity, sharing human experience across time and place. **Annie Storr** (Adelphi) is a longtime museum educator, a Resident Scholar in Womens’ Studies at Brandeis University, and teaches Museum Studies at Harvard. **Tara Tappert** (Friends Meeting of Washington) is an independent art scholar, whose calling is art-making and exhibitions by military veterans.

F10—Let’s Go To Camp! Field trip to Catoctin Quaker Camp: We will take a ride to Catoctin Quaker Camp to visit one of the places where we run our Summer Camps. We will look at the new bathhouse, tour the facility, and learn about what is being done to improve the health of the forests at Catoctin. Departure: 1:15; Return: 4:00 **David Hunter**, BYM’s Camp Property Manager, served as Camp Director at Catoctin for several years in the late 80s and 90s.

F11—Vegan Cooking—nutritious and cheap—the basics: We’ll hear basic nutritional information about a vegan diet, offer pantry and recipe-finding tips, and cook a couple of delicious things during the workshop. **Mary Campbell**—vegetarian since 1977, vegan since 2014, excellent cook and cookbook connoisseur.

F12—Spirit-led Caregiving Before and During a Crisis: If you love someone, you may find yourself in a caregiving role. In this workshop, leaders will guide you through a series of queries and discussion to prepare our hearts and minds for ongoing caregiving challenges and for those to come. **Katherine Cole**, **Elizabeth Willson**, **Abbey Compton**. Katherine is a retired family physician and active caregiver to multiple family members. Elizabeth is a health care administrator with substantial personal experience with end-of-life care. Abbey has a decade of hands-on eldercare experience and runs both a three-generation household and a small business.

Saturday Workshops

CLMS—How to Grow Our RE Program While Celebrating our Current Programs: Many Meetings have experienced shrinking attendance in their RE programs. This presents challenges in designing our current programs and leads us to ask “what should be our response?” We will share our, current strategies and brainstorm others. **Ellen Arginteanu** and **Marcy Seitel** bring many years of experience in teaching and organizing Religious Education programs with strong commitment and passion.

S1—Energy Choices for a Sustainable Future: It’s time to move on with clean, renewable energy and distance ourselves from big-oil and international wars over energy supplies. Switching to solar, electric cars, and heat pumps cannot only save our planet but also save us money. **Bob Bruninga** is author of QIF book “Energy Choices - Opportunities to Make Wise Decisions for a Sustainable Future.”

S2—Run for Democracy (Or Help Someone Else Run): Navigating Electoral Politics; a tool neglected by Friends. Friends participate in demonstrations and rallies; FCNL leads lobbying. This workshop provides primarily information through presentation and some discussion about skills in how to run for office or to support people who do. Regardless of your ability to talk to strangers, there is always a place to help. **J.E. McNeil**, First Amendment attorney and member of FMW, has spent more than 50 years engaged in electoral politics and 16 years protecting voters rights.

S3—Inward Truth, Outward Witness: The Future of Quaker Testimonies: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship—‘SPICES’ have become ‘TOOLS’ for how Quakers are to ‘LET OUR LIVES SPEAK.’ In three days of workshops, we engage our Testimonies. **Saturday:** as outward witness in the wider world. You may take 1, 2, or all 3 workshops. **Jim Fussell**.

S4—What is Quaker about Quaker Advocacy? How do Friends stay spiritually-centered and resilient in the face of challenges and obstacles for peace and justice? Discuss our lived experiences, struggles, and strengths. Grow and nurture faith practices that help us in advocacy work. We will share findings within the group. **Christine Ashley** is the Quaker Field Secretary at FCNL, training Friends in advocacy. **Shoshona Abrams** is the National Field Organizer.



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S5—Quakers in Palestine: Ramallah Friends School and the Military Occupation: Under military occupation in Palestine, a Quaker school is thriving. How are Quaker values providing hope and building a foundation for a peaceful, just future? How does the Israeli-Palestinian conflict affect daily life? What might the future hold for this troubled region? **Arthur Meyer Boyd** and **Margaret Boyd Meyer** spent 6 months at Ramallah Friends School and traveled in Israel seeking to gain perspective from both sides in 2018-2019.

S6—Quaker Family Life: An Open Conversation About the Research: In 2018 Windy Cooler, supervised and supported by ESR and BYM, attended eight yearly meetings interviewing Friends about the health of families in our community. The results of these conversations are fruitful and of interest to Friends. In this workshop we will hear and respond to the research with emphasis on next steps. **Windy Cooler** is a current MDiv candidate at ESR and a member of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting.

S7—Praying for the World (and a little yoga): Using yoga to prepare our minds and bodies, we will follow Rex Ambler's Listening to the Light practice, holding the World in the Light and seeking clarity. Participants should bring a yoga mat, towel and one or more pillows. **Debby Churchman**, Member of Friends Meeting of Washington, is a yoga and peace activist.

S8—Soulful Singing: Strong and shy singers are welcome to join this circle of Friends singing rounds, spirituals, sacred chants, peace, fun, and world songs in the oral tradition. No experience necessary. Let's sing our love and joy into the world! **Ruth Fitz** carries an embraced ministry of music from York Friends Meeting through which she leads singing in a variety of Quaker circles from BYM's Friendly Sings, Spiritual Formation Retreats, Annual Sessions, and JYM, to Arizona's Half Yearly Meeting.

S9—Theological Diversity in BYM: Do our Monthly Meetings embrace theological diversity? Does this diversity include those not believing in God or an afterlife, and those with traditional Christian beliefs? What role do beliefs play in our meetings? How can we communicate our theological diversity so as to be welcoming to diverse newcomers? **Victor Thuronyi** has been studying and writing about this topic.

S10—Individual Spiritual Discernment — a Fundamental Tool for the Quaker Journey: Jerry will guide participants through his Pendle Hill Pamphlet #443 "Individual Spiritual Discernment," focusing on practicing methods of discernment, testing and implementing the discernment, and practicing spiritual disciplines. Participants are encouraged to read the Pamphlet in advance and bring it to the workshop. **Jerry Knutson** has presented workshops in 24 States and has a Master of Divinity from Earlham School of Religion

S11—A White Historian and a Black Poet Confront Lynching: Following her leading after the 2015 murders at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church, Susan Strasser provides historical perspective to people grappling with contemporary issues of race and racism. Marcia Cole will read her poem, "A Bitter Suite," which is her own response to the phenomenon of lynching. **Susan Strasser**, Richards Professor of American History Emerita at the University of Delaware, is a prize-winning historian and author. **Marcia Cole** has won the College Language Association Creative Writing contest across three genres.

S12—The Spiritual Opportunity of Decluttering: The mundane process of decluttering mirrors the spiritual process of forgiveness of self and others. This workshop includes lecture, visualization exercises, and light-hearted role-playing to explore how you can release what no longer serves you, discern "needful" from "acquired," and use this freedom to better hear God's still, small voice. **Abigail Burford** is a long-time Friend (NYYM) and one-time English instructor, now a professional declutterer.



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STRIDE Now Under the Care of Growing Diverse Leadership Committee

STRIDE continued from page 1

access, money, gear and culture. STRIDE members described the process of recruiting campers, preparing with them for camp, providing feedback for camps from STRIDE families, and then staying in a supportive role so that campers can have a full transformative experience at camp, and if they choose, become counselors when they are the right age.

What is STRIDE? The Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments Working Group, now under the care of the new standing committee (no longer ad hoc), Growing Diverse Leadership Committee. STRIDE members are young adults who have come through our camping program and some now serve in leadership roles at the camps. Their love for the BYM camps has brought them to work with great energy to bring genuine diversity to our camps. BYM's collective support of STRIDE can be seen as a commitment to continuing to grow genuine diversity within our camping program as well as growing young adult leadership of our organization through working group and committee work.

For general information about STRIDE please see www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/campdiversity/.

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The Young Adult Friends will be hosting a conference for our community the weekend of June 14-16, and we would love to see as many of our wonderful Friends there as possible. On the one hand, we will be focusing our business meetings and workshop time on planning for our presentation at the upcoming Annual Sessions, making this a doubly important conference to attend due to the implied relevance of our discussions. On the other hand, there will be plenty of shenanigans and splendid free time to enjoy within the company of fellow Friends, thus putting into question what potential activities you would be otherwise engaged in during the previously mentioned weekend. And, with zero fees and free food, the former and latter are dually improved. So, follow the details below and please reach out if you have any further questions. We look forward to seeing each other in June.

Date: June 14-16, 2019

Price: \$0 (Donations always accepted)

Location: The Home of Several YAFs

Contact: BYM.youngadultfriends@gmail.com or via Facebook/Instagram

FRIENDLY ADULT PRESENCE (FAP) TRAINING

The best way to support the Junior Young Friends and the Young Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting is to serve as a Friendly Adult Presence, (also known as a "FAP"). These adult chaperones are dedicated volunteers that help foster a loving community for our young people through healthy relationship-building and supportive mentoring. FAP Training is FREE and will be the weekend of September 7th and 8th, location TBA. Please e-mail Jossie Dowling for more information and to be added to the registration list. youthprograms@bym-rsf.org.

A PEACEFUL PATH. QUIET REFLECTION.

T E N D E R H O S P I T A L I T Y .

G R E A T F O O D . F R I E N D L Y F E L L O W S H I P . . .

A N D Y O U .



Join us for our annual Spiritual Formation spring retreat, and explore the role spiritual friendship plays in our sacred journey together.

When: Friday, May 17th - Sunday, May 19th, 2019

Where: [Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center, Sharpsburg, MD](#)

For more information, or to register visit: www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/

Or contact: marilynrothstein@comcast.net

Registration closes soon!

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their everyday lives. By taking just 10 steps from our normal routine and making a 1 to 2 minute video of our experience of Nature, we hope to broaden our appreciation for and love of God's creation.

To view sample videos, please visit, our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCxRrG2BZq5pMfbkuRhOZ_Ow. You are welcome to subscribe!

Then use your cellphone camera or other digital camera to record your own 10 Steps to Nature video that captures your experience and any influence on your sense of Unity with Nature. You may create this on your own or with others. This is a good activity for First Day School, Earth Day celebrations, Young Friends Conferences, Junior Young Friends Conferences and Friends of all ages.

Send your 10 Steps to Nature video or a link to your video to the Unity with Nature BYM committee at unitywithnature@gmail.com. We will upload it to the YouTube channel for sharing with our Friendly network. (Please note: we reserve the right to edit for length.)

Please contact the Unity with Nature committee at the email above if you have questions. We look forward to sharing your experience with Nature!

If you took ten steps from the door of your house, school, Meeting House or workplace, where might you be? Once you got there, if you took time to reflect, what might you notice or feel?

The "Ten Steps" project is an invitation to engage with Nature through a personal video. The unique aspect of this project is that we are encouraging Friends to "discover" Nature as it presents itself in

SPRING BRINGS NEW GROWTH AT FRIENDS HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Spring is coming to Friends House Retirement Community. Daffodils are pushing their way up to the blue skies and sunshine. Our Garden is beginning to come alive as our residents tend to its care. Soon part of our old building we call "E" wing will be torn down. A brand new building "Homes on Quaker Lane" will be built on the footprint of E wing. This new affordable living building will be home to 80 residents. Friends House has been planning for years this major renovation and growth.

The plans are beginning to come to life—construction of the "Homes on Quaker Lane" begins this spring and is expected to be complete by spring of next year (2020). Our residents are also looking forward to their new homes. Most of our residents will be in larger spaces. Everyone is looking forward to a new library, thrift store, and dining room. For more information about our affordable housing, lodges and cottages, contact Barbara Brubeck,

FRIENDS HOUSE – Homes on Quaker Lane

HFA Building - Courtyard



Residential Living Director at 301-804-4213 or bbrubeck@friends-house.com. Also take a look at our website: www.friendshouse.com.

FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Faith and Practice Committee continues to meet once a month. At March Interim Meeting we announced that for the sake of clarity and to be consistent with our decision in 2013, we suggest that the 2013 draft be re-titled: *The 2013 Resource for Faith and Practice (2013 Resource)* so as to distinguish it from the 1988 Faith and Practice, which is our official version. We look to revise *Faith and Practice*, section by section, relying on much of the *2013 Resource*.

Because of the demand for access to both of these we have put them on the BYM website at www.bym-rsf.org/publications/fandp/, but are also working on making printed versions available. The details and process for ordering will be announced on the BYM website. We will also be planning an interest group to be held during Annual Session. We look for this committee to grow to about 10-11 people, so if you are interested in finding out more about our work, please contact us, or Nominating Committee.

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www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

WORKING GROUP ON RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS

“Two Book” Project Announced

The BYM Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals invites all members and attenders in the yearly meeting to participate in our “Two Book” project. We invite you to gather together with others in your Meetings to read and discuss one or both of two books we have carefully selected and highly recommend.

The gathered meeting at Annual Session last August united behind a minute to encourage people to “discuss how to extend our love and compassion to animals, and to consider their welfare when making food choices.” In order to facilitate those discussions, members of our Working Group sorted through many books and found two that seem most appropriate for our setting, being readable, informative, and plain-spoken with a minimum of hyperbole.

In past years, Yearly Meeting Committees have invited Meetings to participate in “One Book” projects, which Meetings have been free to choose to do or not. As our experience with The New Jim Crow illustrated, there is great power in joining together to wrestle with

the pressing issues of our time. We suggest reading either book, depending on the genre you prefer – both provide the same general background about the environmental impact of animal agriculture and pose the same ethical questions about the way animals are treated.

- *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer uses personal stories to cover the material. Notably for the purpose of Friends within BYM, the book includes a discussion of the common goals of small farmers and vegetarians to reduce animal suffering and on their strong differences of opinion about how to go about it.
- *A Plea for the Animals* by Matthieu Ricard takes a more intellectual approach to the many ethical questions inherent in raising and killing animals. The European perspective of the author adds an extra interest.

Both books necessarily include details about how animals are raised and killed. *Eating Animals* covers this information more thoroughly (and thus may require more skimming by people who find the information disturbing.)

Spring Family Camp Weekends 2019

Join us for a weekend of fun, friends and fellowship!

Family Camp Weekends at BYM Camp Properties offer a chance to enjoy our camp properties at a special time of year. Friends are invited to spend the day or the weekend. Each weekend has a program coordinator who plans activities. These may include playing in the creek, crafts projects, or hiking around one of the most precious places on earth. There are also plenty of work projects to do! They offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to enjoy some meaningful and satisfying work! We will enjoy meals together, have time to explore, and even spend some time around a camp fire in the evening.

Spring 2019 Family Camp Weekends

Shiloh Quaker Camp	April 26 – 28
Opequon Quaker Camp	May 10 – 12
Catoctin Quaker Camp	May 17 - 19

COST: We will be asking participants to contribute according to their ability - \$25-\$50 per person. Please send an e-mail to davidhunter@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend. We will need to know the names and ages of all members of your party, when you will be arriving and departing, and any dietary restriction you may have. More information is available at bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/.

WELCOME MARY BRAUN: BYM’S NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Mary is a member of Patuxent Friends Meeting. She brings a wealth of experience in organizational leadership. Most recently she has served Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum in Winchester, VA, where she helped advance the museum’s financial wellbeing through their annual fund, endowment campaign, and special fundraising events. Recently, the museum concluded a \$5.3 million capital campaign leaving it debt-free.

Mary starts work at BYM on May 6. She is very much looking forward to getting to know you and your local Meeting. She would welcome invitations to come visit. Her email address will be marybraun@bym-rsf.org and she will be able to receive messages sent to development@bym-rsf.org as well.



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MEETING NEWS

BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, STONY RUN

Our Burial Ground Committee has completed significant maintenance projects on the property's residence as well as major repairs to the wall that dates back to 1860. A Meeting for Worship is being planned there later this spring. A new working group, Cooperative Outreach, promotes and supports the efforts of members involved in social concerns outside of our own worship community. Their first newsletter can be found here: medium.com/@sandi.morton/baltimore-monthly-meeting-of-friends-stony-run-cooperative-outreach-news-63fa08b2445. Our Ad Hoc Committee on Vision, Functions and Structure is headed down the home stretch, preparing recommendations on the structure we need to carry out the functions necessary to achieve our vision.

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

On March 9, 2019, Bethesda and Annapolis Friends gathered at Collingwood retirement community for the memorial service of Ted Hawkins, beloved member of Bethesda and later, Annapolis. Moving messages testified to Ted's warm and loving spirit, his many talents, the high regard in which his colleagues held him, and the deep love and appreciation of his family, his friends and his community at Collingwood. He will be deeply missed.

Bethesda Friends will soon be holding a celebration to mark the first year of our connection with the Zazai family. They immigrated to this country from Afghanistan in late March of 2018, and the Meeting has taken them under our wing, helping them with furnishings and clothing, transportation, finding employment, understanding and accessing medical help, and more. They are a real success story; the husband has a job he loves and at which he excels; the children are healthy and enrolled in school; the wife (who had been illiterate in her own language) is learning to read, write and speak English. Moreover, they give back to us in warmth, enthusiasm, and courage as much as they receive from us in care and help.

On April 28, Bethesda Friends will gather for our annual Spring Fling, which raises money for 3-5 scholarships to Ramallah Friends School. We get together to enjoy Middle Eastern Food, listen to music, browse the "white camel" sale, and participate in our silent



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

auction. This is a great community building event and it gives us great joy to support Ramallah Friends School.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Charlottesville Friends have been active beyond Sunday morning. Eleven Friends participated in the first of three planned programs sponsored by the Charlottesville Clergy Collective to dialog over issues of faith and race. It was followed by a presentation at Meeting about the event and possible next steps. In addition, two friends attended the White Privilege Conference in Iowa last month. In response to asylum seekers traveling through Charlottesville with bus tickets and little else, we put a line item in our budget to cover the expense of packing snack bags on a monthly basis. Friends have also taken on the responsibility of meeting some of the buses with food, clothes, and medicine for the travelers. We are part of a support team for a woman in sanctuary at a local Methodist church, who needs 24/7 accompaniment in the church and food shoppers. We also continue to collect household items for the International Rescue Committee. The Religious Education Committee is encouraging intergenerational activities outside of Meeting for Worship times. Response has been enthusiastic to their sponsorship of bowling, roller skating, and a morning of work at a local food pantry.

GOOSE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Friends had the honor of leading the Virginia House of Delegates Invocation at the start of their daily session on January 23. This was in response to a request from our member and Friend in the House, Delage Wendy Gooditis from Virginia's House District 10. A group went to Richmond to lead the Invocation which opens each session. Wendy feels that her Quaker roots inform her work in the legislature and that Friends have much to offer in silent worship. In less than a minute, we described to the Delegates that, in silence, we listen for openings and the Divine Light; we seek to share that Light with others in our lives; and we pray for Divine guidance for those charged with the work of our Commonwealth. We asked that the Delegates listen to one another with open hearts. After a minute of silence, all turned to their neighbors and shook hands. There is a lot of ceremony in the Capitol proceedings, and we felt that we contributed to a true opening of hearts and a better understanding of who we are as Quakers. Later in the Assembly Opening remarks, Wendy gave a brief background of the long history of Friends in Virginia. Wendy has been invited to come to the Meeting later this year to tell us more about her experiences and the work before her.

HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

In February, Herndon Friends Meeting hosted a gathering we called Women Together. We invited Muslim women from the nearby ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) Center to meet with Quaker women to learn more about each other. After introductions, we had time to ask each other questions about our lives and faith practices. We were sad to hear of the prejudice and harassment our new friends experience in our community. We brainstormed ideas about combatting ignorance and bigotry and look forward to meeting with them again. Sadly, only a few weeks later, 50 Muslims were killed while they worshipped in a terrorist attack in New Zealand. Our Meeting reached out to the ADAMS Center to express our sympathy and support.

Register for Annual Session 2019 online now at

www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

HOMWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

Homewood's Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT), in conjunction with Blue Water Baltimore and with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, is in the process of installing two cisterns to collect excess rain water for use later and planting a native plant and pollinator friendly garden in our side yard. While it will be a few months before everything is finished including signage, we anticipate that by the summer, this will not only help us be greener neighbor but will also provide educational opportunities and a contemplative place for the walkers who pass through our yard. These improvements have been made possible by Homewood's participation in the One Water Partnership of 30 faith congregations in the Jones Falls watershed in central Maryland. We would love to share our experience, thus far. Feel free to call or come for a visit.

On February 23rd, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) gathered at Homewood for a program entitled "Growing a Quaker Voice in Annapolis". In addition to worship and fellowship, Friends heard from advocates for clean energy, immigrant rights, prescription drug pricing, and criminal justice reform. In particular, participants learned about legislation before the Maryland Assembly this year and how to take action in support of favorable bills.

The focus, however, was not only on current legislation but also on exploring how Quakers might be stronger and more effective in their legislative advocacy on the state level. With that purpose in mind, the day closed with Meeting for Business to discern next steps to establish a Quaker advocacy program. The following Friends agreed to serve on a working group: Molly Mitchell (Homewood; first-named), Jamie DeMarco (Homewood), Suzanne O'Hatnick (Stony Run), Jo Brown (Homewood), Molly Finch (Annapolis), and Sarah Bur (Homewood). Phil Caroom (Annapolis) will serve *ex officio*, liaising with BYM's Peace and Social Justice Committee.

Friends also approved that the first step for the working group is to gather information on issues of concern to Friends both in Maryland and throughout the BYM region as many issues, (such as fracking), transcend state borders. The working group will report on their findings at the next CQM meeting for worship with a concern for business on June 9 at Patapsco Friends Meeting. The working group is also charged with coming up with a few options for how a Maryland Quaker legislative Witness group might be organized and what it will be called; it will make these proposals at September's CQM business meeting.

HOPEWELL CENTRE MONTHLY MEETING

Hopewell Centre has been abuzz with activity these past winter months. We hosted two WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter) dinners in area churches. Our new ads to promote positive conversations in this time of discord, are now in the local newspapers. And Meeting has sent representatives to BYM's Change Group and to lobby with FCNL.

Social and spiritual activities continue to build community within: our men's group, Quaker Oats (Open & Thoughtful Sharing); the Women's Lunch Circle; and Friendly '6s and '8s. Our Spiritual Growth Group, led by Martha Hanley, Kristin Zimet and Julia



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

Storberg-Walker, marks another year of intense exploration of spiritual practices and sacred space. And Linda Wilk has begun a study group on Parker Palmer's new book, *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old*.

In Religious Education, we have read and studied *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*; heard one member's telling of his pilgrimage to Ethiopia; and welcomed an enlightening talk on Sufism by guest, Kareem Makhlauf. Discussions on our *Building a Community of Faith* pamphlet and Sunday morning T'ai Chi are ongoing.

Of course, more practical matters occupy us. Though the cost is worrisome, we expect to have the replacement of the roof at Hopewell Meeting House completed this spring. And though our new shed is temporarily on the back burner, we have enjoyed surprising success with two jewelry fundraisers. Happily, we welcome a new member, John Guiser, to our Meeting.

Twenty years ago, Hopewell Meeting (in Clear Brook) and Winchester Centre Meeting (in Winchester) came together as one meeting—Hopewell Centre Meeting. We will celebrate this union at our annual Homecoming in August. *Would that thou would be with us!*

SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING

Sandy Spring Meeting is dancing in the Light! Our new regularly scheduled activities include:

- **Second Sundays Hymn Sing** in our Lyceum/Community House from 10:10am to 10:50am
- **Third Saturday Evenings from 6p-9pm** we offer a Simple Dinner followed by activities. Third Month we all enjoyed a *Talent Show* with singing, music and antics. During Fourth Month we will have a **Tails & Scales** presentation with live birds and reptiles!
- **First Sundays** during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (10:15am until rise of Meeting) Craft Projects for kids, followed by a family pot luck.

Our usual activities continue, including: Second and Fourth Sundays 9am **Bible Study**, Fourth Sundays 10:10am **Quaker Reading Group**; Third Sunday 4pm **Sacred Harp Sing**; Every Monday 7:30pm free **Ballroom Dancing Lessons**.

Register for Annual Session 2019 online now at

www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

Our new **Rain Garden** is blooming! This natural species garden was developed with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Fund. We look forward to our **Spring Graveyard & Grounds** clean-up on Seventh Day May 11th. We have returned to an annual **Mother's Day Bird Walk** which was started by Martha Ligon. Please join us early First Day, May 12th to discover what birds are in the area. The walk will be followed by a breakfast in the Community House.

Also in May, we are happy to host a "**Not In Our Town Conference**" event for middle schoolers in the Olney-Brookeville-Sandy Spring areas. This was a program developed by one of our Junior Young Friends to support anti-bullying and anti-discrimination teaching within communities. (www.niotobss.org/)

The compiled cookbook by Sandy Spring Friends and Sharp Street United Methodist members, **Feast of Goodness: A Collection of Two Communities**, is available again in a limited number. It is a scrumptious book! If you would like a copy please contact Deborah Kahn, deborahmckahn@gmail.com or Donna Hamilton, dhamil@umd.edu. **Olive oil sales for Tent of Nations! Continue at Sandy Spring.** Please stop by for olive oil tasting and purchasing opportunities on the following dates: **April 21 Easter 9-1; and May 19 from 10-1.** Olive oil is perfect for Spring salads and a tasty way to support peace in the Middle East!! Please contact Charles at Charles.Lewis@SSFS.org with any questions.

WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

West Branch welcomed 3 new members in March. Our nursery class continues to grow. Martin and Donna McGary are the proud grandparents to 2 new grandbabies born on March 15. Son Nate and wife Kim welcomed Lainey Rae, and Justin and wife Kara welcomed baby Tucker Martin, note Justin and Nate are twins. March 18 grandparents John and Sandy McGary's son Ben and wife Ashton welcomed baby Sawyer Allen. Our new arrivals are bringing much joy. We will be involved in Relay for Life. As spring arrives; the children are looking forward to our annual Easter egg hunt and lunch. The adults enjoy it as much as the little ones. Fellowship Breakfast is held every 3rd Sunday morning at 9am. It is a potluck meal and enjoyed by all. If you are in the Clearfield County area please stop in and join us.



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

Minute approved by West Branch Friends

For the past several years, West Branch Friends have been struggling with society's ongoing tendencies to stray further and further from the truths we have been taught as followers of Christ. We search scripture and our Faith and Practice to find guidance. However, with recent articles published in the *Interchange*, we are beginning to question the persuasion of such social issues on previously set standards in the Society of Friends. We are questioning if these statements written by our forefathers are being interpreted by many to fit their individual needs rather than as guidance in everyday living. And of even deeper concern, going against what we have studied in God's Word. In our Meeting, we are beginning to feel overwhelmed by the push to accept, what we have been taught throughout our lives as wrong, is now acceptable.

The statements in the *Interchange* concerning individual convictions as to sexual preference, choice of food, and preserving our natural resources have concerned West Branch Friends that the Quaker Faith is becoming a sounding board for groups or individuals to influence others into a way of thinking that disputes the teachings of the Bible.

With these and many other issues facing society, it is hard to know where to begin. Words from Joni Eareckson Tada pretty much sum up the world we live in today in that although we don't know when it happens, wrong is acknowledged, then it becomes tolerable, and then acceptable, and then law.

West Branch Friends do not condemn a person's right to stand up to their convictions. However, we strongly feel these convictions should not be made in, and supported by, written statements within our Meeting. Our goal is to strive to identify "that of God" in every human being and make our voices heard in support of God and the teachings of the Bible. We will stand firm in our learned beliefs in the truth and wisdom of God's word.

...I am the Way, the Truth and the Life....

John 4:6

Many have much, Many more have less. We are continuing to pray for, provide gifts, and support to our friends, neighbors, and community.

WILLIAMSBURG FRIENDS MEETING

Williamsburg Friends have been using the Quakerspeak videos on First Sundays as an outreach vehicle. We invite interested guests to view the videos and participate in discussion or worship-sharing about them, and then join us for lunch afterward. We have had a few visitors for the videos and have enjoyed their participation in considering them. We also hosted Mattaponi Meeting recently to worship together and discuss growing our meetings. A joy for us is that a long-time member who has been hospitalized a number of times over this last year is recovering well and is able to come to Meeting again.

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BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS
[See the Yearly Meeting Website for Details and Other Events \(bym-rsf.org\)](http://bym-rsf.org)

May

- 3 – 5 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 10 – 12 – Family Camp Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 17 – 19 – Spiritual Formation Rereat at Shepherd’s Spring Retreat Center
- 17 – 19 – Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 19 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Warrington Monthly Meeting
- 24 – 26 – Young Friends Conference at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting
- 27 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed

June

- 2 – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting
- 9 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Patapsco Friends Meeting
- 14 – 16 – Young Adult Friends Conference
- 15 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting at Friends Meeting of Washington

July

- 4 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 28 – 31 – Nuts and Bolts Committee Conference (Steering Wheel) at Frederick Friends Meeting
- 29 – August 4 – Annual Session 2019 at Hood College

August

2019 BYM CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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