

# Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## WHICH CAME FIRST? WORSHIP, ACTION, OR COMMUNITY? COME TO ANNUAL SESSION FOR THE ANSWER!

*Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk*

Some of us come to feel at home with Friends through worship first, some through social activism, and some through community. As we continue on our path with Friends, we inevitably encounter the other two and perhaps integrate all three into our Quaker experience. What has your experience been? Have you discovered how all three of these interact with each other as essential elements of the Quaker way?

Join us at Annual Session this year to share in our exploration of this question. This year, the theme of our annual session is Discernment and Action in Spiritual Community. Through a truly exciting variety of plenaries, workshops, interest groups, Junior Yearly Meeting, through fellowship at meals, worship sharing, and other times, and also through our business sessions, we will have an opportunity to live out all three of these core elements of our faith.

Imagine if you left our Annual Session feeling you had a clearer sense of how to incorporate and balance these elements in your own spiritual journey. Wouldn't that help energize you? Wouldn't it help energize our shared Quaker communities and our witness, locally and in the Yearly Meeting?

In your home Meetings, you have some amazing Friends, deep worship, and do rewarding work, I'm sure. You may also have interests and concerns that your Meeting just doesn't have the capacity or the people to explore as you might like. Imagine how rich it would be to experience what other Meetings have. Annual session is a great opportunity for just that.

Come. Be a part of it. All are welcome, for a day or for the whole week.



*Annual Session 2015 photo by Cy DeVries*

## JOIN US AT THE 2016 ANNUAL SESSION! — AUGUST 1 TO 7

*"DISCERNMENT AND ACTION IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY"*

What can we expect at Annual Session? Retreat and plenary speakers Nancy Bieber, Christina Repoley, Lauren Brownlee, Jen Cort, and George Lakey will offer their various insights. Workshops and interest groups will educate and challenge us. Business sessions will carry on the work of the Yearly Meeting. Our children will learn and grow and have fun together, and adults will share a week of sharing and getting to know one another in spiritual community. See the details of various program elements elsewhere in this issue of the *Interchange*.

The new site at Hood College in Frederick, MD promises ...

- easier travel for most Friends
- a green, shady, and walkable campus
- well-maintained dormitories
- convenient dining facilities with no other large groups sharing
- comfortable program space for children and adults

So make sure your summer plans include attending Annual Session at Hood College. Register NOW!

## ANNUAL SESSION 2016 THEME

### DISCERNMENT AND ACTION IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

*Sometimes people understand “God’s will” or “God’s plan” as something imposed on us by God, something we must discover and decipher. I understand it differently. I feel that God’s path for our lives is constantly being developed. It rises within us and is something we develop in partnership with God as we learn to see and understand more clearly. With this seeing and understanding, we find the courage to step into the future.*

- Nancy Bieber, *Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment*

In our Quaker communities, discernment provides the spiritual basis for finding the pathways for our service and action. As our roots grow deeper into the ground, finding a spiritual source, our limbs and branches grow too, reaching out to each other and the world, bearing fruit. If our roots weaken, our harvest diminishes. If our branches weaken, so do our roots. When our inward and outward lives nourish each other, we thrive best and have more to offer each other and the world, both as individuals and communities. Younger

Friends and diverse newcomers are more likely to be drawn in, bringing new life and helping sustain our beloved communities and our Quaker witness.

You are invited to come, explore, and experience these dynamics in community with other Friends at Annual Session. Come grow your life, then your Meeting, and then share with the world, so that it may share with you. We will consider these queries together:

What paths to spiritual growth have we found?

In our spiritual lives, how do worshiping and ministering interact?

How does worship guide our ministry?

How does our ministering feed and test our spirit?

As we extend our ministry, what else develops? What costs result?

### ANNUAL SESSION GATHERING EXPECTATIONS

All Annual Session attenders should read the Gathering Expectations carefully. Please indicate that you have read these expectations by signing the bottom of the Registration Form or clicking the box during online registration. Please note that Young Friends need to read the Gathering Expectations as well and sign the Letter of Understanding.

*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, page ii.) 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 and illegal drugs are not permitted at Annual Session. Recognizing the addictive nature of tobacco, we strongly discourage its use.*

### PRE-SESSION RETREAT: NANCY BIBER

DISCUSSION ON DISCERNMENT, DRAWING FROM *DECISION MAKING & SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT THE SACRED ART OF FINDING YOUR WAY*

During this retreat, Nancy Bieber will offer guidance in “finding our way” using spiritual discernment: the practice of attending to the wise and loving Spirit whose wisdom and light exceed our own. She believes that when “the Spirit illuminates the complexities of our decisions, we can see and understand more about ourselves and our choices.” Drawing from her book on spiritual discernment, she uses stories, discussion, exercises, and participant concerns to gently guide participants in considering various aspects of their decisions and how, with God’s help, to choose wisely.

Nancy Bieber is the author of *Decision Making & Spiritual Discernment the Sacred Art of Finding Your Way* (SkyLight Paths, 2010). She has been an English teacher, a clinical psychologist, a spiritual director, and a retreat leader. Her book has risen from these experiences of working with people through the years. She taught with School of the Spirit and is presently on the staff of ecumenical Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development. She has offered retreats at Pendle Hill for 20 years. An active member of Lancaster (PA) Quaker Meeting, she lives in the country with her husband, Larry, where they enjoy gardening together.



## 2016 PLENARY SPEAKERS

### TUESDAY EVENING PLENARY SPEAKER: CHRISTINA REPOLEY

If the Religious Society of Friends is to have a future, it will be key to have dynamic engagement and leadership of young people. Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is a new expression of a deep seed within our tradition; an experience which encourages the faith of young adult Friends and draws spiritual seekers into the Religious Society of Friends through transformational experiences of service and communal living, grounded in the context of supportive Friends Meetings, Churches, Yearly Meetings, and conferences. QVS is dedicated to working with local Friends Meetings and Churches in the United States to offer these opportunities for leadership development, spiritual formation, training in Quaker practices, professional experience, service and justice. QVS connects with the Quaker movement at a place that has been critical for generations of Friends—at the intersection where our experience of God leads us to Spirit-grounded service with and for others. Christina, the founding executive director of QVS, will share from her experience of discerning this leading and the role of community in the process of both the formation of QVS and the ongoing experience.

Christina Repoley is the founding executive director of Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) and a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

She is a 2002 graduate of Guilford College and received a Master of Divinity in 2011 from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. She serves on the Board of Directors of Friends Fiduciary Corporation and the advisory board of Peace Builders Camp at Koinonia Farm. Her writing has appeared in *Friends Journal* and *Quaker Life* and she has been the invited speaker at various events including the 2014 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting William Penn Lecture and Guilford College's 2014 Commencement Exercises. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and children.



### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SPEAKERS: LAUREN BROWNLEE AND JEN CORT



Lauren Brownlee is a member of Bethesda Friends Meeting and Director of Social Action at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

Jen Cort, LCSW-C is a member and trustee at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. After 20 years of working at Sidwell Friends and Sandy Spring Friends Schools Jen went into school consulting. Many of the organizations she works for are Quaker including Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session/Young Friends Programs, Friends Council on Education, Friends Meeting School, Greene Street Friends, Sandy Spring Friends, Sidwell Friends and William Penn Charter.



### FRIDAY EVENING CAREY LECTURER: GEORGE LAKEY

For some people George Lakey is an extremist, even risking his life in actions others would not find prudent. Some others see a 78-year old who has lived in the same house for four decades, worshipped in the same Meeting for five decades, and is still nurturing children (now a great-grandchild). He will share stories that reveal how he experiences God's leadership, and how that relates to Friends' legacy.

George Lakey is a Quaker activist and expert in nonviolent activism. George is active in the Earth Quaker Action Team. Over the course of his career, Lakey has led 1,500 workshops on five continents. He has founded and co-founded numerous organizations, including A Quaker Action Group, Training for Change, Movement for a New Society, and the Philadelphia Jobs with Peace Campaign. In addition to his activism, he has authored eight books as well as numerous articles. George is a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends. He is a committed pacifist and activist who strongly believes in nonviolence and social justice.



Save the Date

The Young Adult Concerns Committee of the New York Yearly Meeting invites YOU to join us for a weekend of joyful connection, and deepening of spiritual relationships with Friends old and new for...

Quite-possibly-the-first-ever  
Quaker Party\*  
JUNE 17-19, 2016

Who's Invited?

Every Friend, friend of Friends, long-lost Friend, relative of Friends, or friendly person wandering by who finished high school in 1990 or after...ish from NYYM, NEYM, PhYM, BYM and Beyond!

Where?

NEW YORK CITY  
(Couches/Hosts will be provided!)

## JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING (JYM) AT ANNUAL SESSION 2016

This is a great year to join us at Yearly Meeting Annual Session, and be part of new beginnings: changes in our program and a new location. JYM's "child friendly" version of this year's theme is: *Settle In/Become clear together/Help Others*.

As always JYM provides programs for your children during times that there are scheduled adult programs, Children in nursery and early preschool will have their own place to explore and have fun. The rising Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will continue to have activities designed to explore our theme together, learn and still have time to run and play. These "free play" times provide a wealth of "teachable moments" for children and staff to explore Quaker principles! JYFs (Junior Young Friends-rising 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) have their own scheduled activities of outings, games and crafts.

In addition to their own programmed activities, JYM joins the larger community for the Wednesday Inter-generational plenary and the children share some of their crafts and games with the larger community in the All Age Celebration.

Join us! Give your children (and you) the place and time to grow, have fun, and make long lasting friendships with other Quakers. Without you, our gathering is not as rich!

### BECOME PART OF JYM'S TEACHERS AND HELPERS:

Although we have a fairly stable contingent of JYM workers, there is always room/need for more. You may be eligible to receive a work grant to help offset the price of Annual Session. If you are interested, contact Ellen Arginteanu at [ellenandjulesarginnteanu@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenandjulesarginnteanu@yahoo.com) or Carol Seddon at [carolsed217@gmail.com](mailto:carolsed217@gmail.com).

## A PARENT AND TEACHER'S VIEW OF JYM

*Windy Cooler, Adelphi*

Our family has been coming to BYM's Annual Session for five years. We love it and can't imagine summer without it! For families with children it offers a kind of camp experience, but in the presence of your entire extended Quaker family. The same kids come back year after year, building community with each other across BYM, from the nursery to the teens, who have their own business meetings and tight knit community. Our family spends recreational time with one another as well as having some time with our friends and in doing activities. Obviously, we come together to do business, but Annual Session is so much more than that. It is the time we do the work of building community and strengthening families. I love being a teacher at Annual Session, watching our kids grow and develop over the years.

## AD HOC GROWING DIVERSE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKING TO BECOME A MORE INCLUSIVE, MULTICULTURAL, AND WELCOMING WORSHIP COMMUNITY BY INCREASING AND SUSTAINING PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR

Last year the Yearly Meeting applied for and received a three-year grant from the Shoemaker Fund to help the Yearly Meeting work intentionally to overcome barriers that keep the Yearly Meeting from truly creating an environment of welcome toward and equity with young adults and people of color. The grant instituted a program that undertakes discerning how to be more welcoming in Local Meetings, Yearly Meeting committees, and BYM Camps by drawing from the example of programs developed in the Working Group on Diversity at Camps, now known as STRIDE (or Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments) groups<sup>1</sup>. The program will be overseen by the ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee (GDLC).

Best practices show that initiatives around diversity and inclusion work best when there is 1) clear accountability and leadership, 2) broad participation and shared sense of responsibility, and 3) thorough integration of equitable values and practices into each aspect of an organization. The GDLC structure allows for just this. The GDLC consists of a core group of dedicated members and members who are representatives from other Yearly Meeting committees including: LIST of Committees. Core members help give structure and coordination, while the broad representation of many committees allow us to share both perspectives and work in many different areas of BYM. Many committees are working toward these goals in their own ways. Youth Programs Committee, for instance, is developing a video to help connect young people from camps, STRIDE groups, or underrepresented local meetings to Young Friends and Junior Young Friends programming. The Working Group on Racism is working on discerning the appropriate presence of a strong stand for equity in BYM's vision. Advancement and Outreach is developing and presenting workshops on sharing the appeal of meetings in ways that resonate with all kinds of newcomers. The GDLC will allow a place for the collaboration and coordination of such activities to find new soil and to blossom towards a common goal.

The ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee Core has met three times since its formation in November. The focus has been on getting to know each other, the Yearly Meeting, and the Growing Diverse Leadership Program. Given that each of these are complex topics to understand, they sought to develop these within the small group to be able to provide structure for the full group meeting of the ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee.

In their meetings, the GDLC core group re-affirmed the Shoemaker Goals that underwrite the work - "To renew and strengthen the

<sup>1</sup> Some of these principles include: 1) recruiting new attenders through existing attenders, and bringing new people in pairs or groups, so that any new person comes in with a network of community around them. 2) open conversations about the current state of race in america among existing community members, particularly leadership, to prepare them to deal with any issues that might come up. 3) open conversations about the nature of the new attender's experience and the realities of Quaker communities; we call it preparation before attending, support during, and evaluation after. 4) and scanning the community's traditions, and changing any that are exclusive.

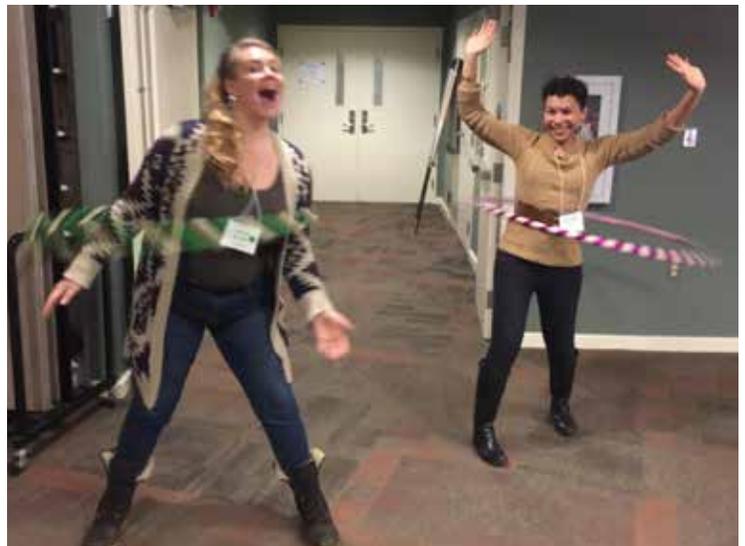
Religious Society of Friends", and to "Bring innovation and vitality to Monthly Meetings that can be replicated in other Meetings." They affirmed and clarified the goals of the Growing Diverse Leadership Program - "To become a more inclusive, multicultural, and welcoming worship community by increasing and sustaining participation of People of Color" and "To establish and sustain greater young adult participation in the active life of the Yearly Meeting while helping them to develop as leaders now and into the future."

As one of its first acts, the GDLC is requesting information about individual Meetings' interest in working toward these goals, and about current demographics of the Yearly Meeting, so that we can chart progress. To that end, the annual Community Statistics report now asks for details of membership on age through the lifespan and racial identity. Asking local Meetings to report the racial identity of members and attenders will help them learn what progress we are making in reducing those barriers.

Although race is a social construct—drawing lines that make little sense from a biological perspective—people who are perceived as being of one race go through life being treated differently from people perceived as being of another race. That reality both results in serious unfairness and creates major barriers among those who are treated differently from one another based on their racial identities. (For more information on the thinking behind the survey, please see Survey FAQs at [http://www.bym-rsf.org/file\\_download/bfc16c28-f660-4d12-be5f-00e5598c41f2](http://www.bym-rsf.org/file_download/bfc16c28-f660-4d12-be5f-00e5598c41f2))

BYM is trying to lower those barriers because it seems likely that they are keeping away some people who would find the Quaker approach to spirituality speaks to their condition. We are also making this effort because there are people who would strengthen our Meetings and enrich our experience, were it not for those barriers. Additionally, there is research indicating that a very good way to

*GDL continued on 17*



*BYM Staff Members at the 2016 Women's Retreat*

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK

### ORIENTATION

New to Annual Session? Lots of questions? Be sure to keep your eyes open for notices about two sessions planned right after dinner on Wednesday and Thursday. See the *Daily Minute* for details.

### PRE-SESSION OPENING RETREAT

#### DOOR BEFORE

Nancy Bieber will lead this year's pre-session retreat. For more information, see the article on page 3.

### WORSHIP SHARING

Worship sharing at provides occasions for spiritual deepening through shared, prayerful listening, and speaking from one's heart in response to queries related to the theme. Meeting with your group each morning also can be a way to develop new or deeper relationships with other Friends. One group has a special focus for families to meet together. To join a group, find the sign up sheets on the lobby tables in Whitaker Student Center.

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is from 8:15 am to 9:15 am, Wednesday through Saturday. The Bible Study will focus on scriptures that address the Yearly Meeting theme, and will use several different approaches to studying scripture.

### WORKSHOPS

Informative and thought-provoking workshops on a wide variety of topics of interest to Friends are presented on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4pm. Workshop leaders are experienced BYM members or representatives from other Quaker organizations. Detailed descriptions of workshops are on pages 13-15. Sign up for one Workshop or a Connecting Local Meetings session each day. Some workshops limit attendance, so make sure you get the workshop of your choice!

### 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. Topics and locations are announced in the *Daily Minute*. Since we can only have up to 15 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.

Please sign up at least a day before the event for a room. Write a short blurb to be included in the *Daily Minute*. If your request is accepted, that information will be printed in the *Daily Minute* along with a room number. Leave your request in the folder at the Information Table in Whitaker Student Center. Please note: If a major item arises in Meeting for Business that requires a threshing session, this could take precedence over Interest Groups, even if already scheduled.

### PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:15 pm, Friends gather to participate in this inter-generational activity of games and worship 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. We hope to see you there!

### COFFEE HOUSE

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

### 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.

### ANNUAL SESSION BOOKSTORE

The Annual Session Bookstore is located in room 220 of the Whitaker Student Center. Hours will be published in the Agenda. Friendly vendors and organizations are welcome to bring displays. Tabletop spaces are limited to 3 feet in width. Reserve yours on a first-come, first-served basis by e-mailing your request to [bookstore@bym-rsf.org](mailto:bookstore@bym-rsf.org). There is a minimum charge of \$20 per booth. Vendors pay 10% of gross sales to the Yearly Meeting. If you sell less than \$200 worth of merchandise, you will have to pay a \$20 minimum fee to the Yearly Meeting.

### EVENING SINGING

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

### HEALING CENTER

The Healing Center is a place to BE, just as we are, with our talents and strengths, our ills and wounds, centering in the Light. All center participants support and are supported by each other, as a spiritual community in this work. Our daily worship sharing with a concern for healing in the Healing Center space at 8:15 am is open to everyone to come and share in the healing energy. If you would like to experience a healing session (modalities of healing depend on the practitioners volunteering their time as led):

- Sign up for an available time. Signup cards will be posted on or near the door of the Healing Center each evening for the next day.
- Drop in on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4:15-5:15 pm. Talk with a greeter, ask questions, and find out when a volunteer might be available.
- Center yourself while waiting. Bask in the energy.

Volunteer healers are welcome to join our spiritual community by contacting the coordinator or coming to the workshop sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We would love to know what gifts you can share and if you can bring specific tools or supplies for the Center. For more information, contact Steph Bean ([steph@iano.org](mailto:steph@iano.org)).

### REGISTRATION DESK

The BYM Registration Desk will be open at these times:

<b>Monday:</b>	12:00 pm - 2:15 pm 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	12:30 pm - 2:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
<b>Thursday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
<b>Friday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
<b>Saturday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm

## IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Rates:** Register before June 27, 2016 for lower rates!

**Flexible Arrival:** If you have paid in full prior to July 25, and have provided completed medical forms for everyone under 18 years of age (and Letters of Understanding for Young Friends), you can check in to your room at any time. When you are paid in full, you will receive instructions on how you can pick up your name tag, meal card and room key.

**Arrival Information:** If you will be arriving after 9:30pm on any day, you must prepay in full or make special arrangements in advance with the Yearly Meeting Office to be able to get into your room. If you arrive when the BYM Registration Desk is not open and you are not entitled to Flexible Arrival, feel free to join the scheduled adult activities until the next registration time. Children, however, may not join the children's program and must remain in the care of their parents until we have copies of their Medical Release forms.

**Medical Release Forms:** We MUST have a medical release form on file for each minor child. They cannot be permitted to participate in youth activities (JYM or YF) without this form. It is available on the Yearly Meeting's website at [www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession](http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession).

**Room Occupancy:** The College allows up to two children to sleep on the floor in the room of other family members. No more than four people in a room, please!

**Housing Information:** All bedrooms have one or two single beds and a matching number of desks, chests of drawers, and closets. Bathrooms are a short distance down the hall and are shared. Beds come with pillows and blanket. You will be charged \$25 if you lose your room key.

**Linens:** These can be rented from the College for \$5 per week, per person. A linen set includes two sheets, one pillowcase, two towels, a wash cloth, soap and laundry detergent. Alternatively, you may bring your own linens (including towels). Most dorm beds have extra-long twin mattresses.

**Other things you may wish to bring:** Desk lamp, alarm clock, fan, bath mat, bathrobe, shower shoes, swim suit, hangers, soap, toiletries caddy, extra pillows, computer network cable for internet access, umbrella, *Interchange*.

**Comfort and Convenience:** In August, Frederick tends to be hot and humid in the days, but can be cool in the evenings. It's wise to bring a sweater for comfort, just in case, and for long sessions in the air-conditioned Meeting for Business room.

**Meals:** All adults and older children staying on campus receive meal cards to use in the University dining room. You cannot eat without them and there may be a \$20 charge to replace a meal card. Three meals are included in each day's fee. Meal-days begin with dinner on the day of arrival and continue through lunch the following day. Individual meals may be purchased at the dining room if you arrive before lunch or want to stay for dinner on your day of

departure. The cafeteria will have vegetarian and non-vegetarian options at every meal. Attenders with very specific dietary requirements should bring what they need. There is a gluten-free area.

**Accessible Transportation Rides** are available for those with mobility issues from the dorms and dining hall to Whitaker Student Center and Rosenstock Hall. Signs will be up at all these locations. If you'd like to volunteer to drive others, check the box on your registration form, and thank you!

**Neighboring Friends** who cannot make it to daytime and overnight activities are welcome to drop by for evening plenary sessions free of charge. Eating dinner on campus would cost \$15.00 and you need to register and pay if you wish to stay overnight.

**Commuters:** Those who prefer to stay off-campus may register as commuters. You have the option to receive meal cards for lunch and dinner. If you would like breakfast, make arrangements for that at the BYM Registration Desk.

**Travel Directions:** From Baltimore: take I-70 West to Frederick, then take US 15 North. Continue to the Rosemont Avenue exit. Turn left at the light and proceed 1/2 mile to the main entrance to the campus. Turn left at the big brick gates. Proceed to the parking lot behind Rosenstock and Whitaker.

From western Virginia: take I-81 north toward Hagerstown. Just before Hagerstown, take I-70 East, and see "From Baltimore."

From central and eastern Virginia: take I-95 north toward Washington to I-495 West (Fairfax, Falls Church, Bethesda, MD and north) Take I-495 to I-270 toward Rockville, Gaithersburg and Frederick. At Frederick, take U.S. 15 North and see "From Baltimore."

### Approximate Travel Times:

Baltimore.....	1 hour	Harrisburg.....	1 hour
Oxford.....	2 hours	Washington.....	1 hour
Charlottesville....	3 hours	Roanoke.....	4 hours
Williamsburg.....	3.5 hours	Abingdon.....	5.5 hours

**Train Service:** MARC offers evening service to Frederick via two stations, as well as from Point of Rocks via a free shuttle. Check the MTA website for schedule and route details.

**MTA Commuter Bus:** Route 204 offers evening service from College Park to Frederick, while Route 515 does the same, but departing from Shady Grove. Check the MTA website for further details.

**BayRunner Service:** BayRunner provides daily van service from the Baltimore area to the Frederick TransIT Center. Consult BayRunner ([www.bayrunnershuttle.com](http://www.bayrunnershuttle.com)) for details.

**Frederick TransIT:** All buses route through the TransIT center, which is also served by MARC and BayRunner. The #51 offers a short ride from there to a block or so away from campus. The #20 picks up from the MTA bus drop point and offers a timed connection to the #51 at the TransIT Center. Check the website for details.

## LOOKING TO REDUCE THE COST OF ANNUAL SESSION?

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

1. **First-Time Attender certificates:** Each Local Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders, or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free nights at the Early Registration rate. Contact your Meeting Clerk!
2. **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 consider take some time to consider this, and if you wish more information, contact Ellen Arginteanu ([ellenandjulesarginteanu@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenandjulesarginteanu@yahoo.com)). If you are interested in Friendly Adult Presence (for Young Friends) contact Jossie Dowling ([youthprograms@bym-rsf.org](mailto:youthprograms@bym-rsf.org)) for clearance and training.
3. **Maximum Fee Cap:** Annual Session fees are capped at \$1,500 per family.

4. **Tent space:** Tent space is a low-cost option available nearby at Frederick Friends Meeting, but must be requested by no later than June 30. Showers and bathroom facilities are available.
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 so 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 as soon as possible,
  - 3) If more assistance is needed from BYM, please get a letter from your Meeting stating the amount of assistance being provided by your Meeting,
  - 4) This letter and the regular application to attend Annual Session must be received in the BYM office by the early registration date. (June 27)
7. **Ask your Local Meeting!**

## THE BOOKSTORE IS STILL LOOKING FOR ARTISANS/CRAFT PEOPLE AND LOCAL AUTHORS INTERESTED IN SELLING THEIR GOODS IN THE BOOKSTORE AT ANNUAL SESSION.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL [MICHAEL HANSEN AT BOOKSTORE@BYM-RSF.ORG](mailto:MICHAEL.HANSEN@BYM-RSF.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FORMS.

## HEALERS NEEDED TO VOLUNTEER IN THE HEALING CENTER AT ANNUAL SESSION

Our Healing Center welcomes those who are willing to share their gifts of healing, touch & deep listening with other friends. The space for healing will be available Thursday & Friday from 4:15-5:15pm and Saturday from 2-4pm. If you are willing to offer a 15-30 minute session to others during any of the these times, please let us know. Contact Bette Rainbow Hoover. ([bette@justpeacecircles.org](mailto:bette@justpeacecircles.org) or 202-329-4667)

## 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 ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS BY

E-MAILING YOUR REQUEST TO [BOOKSTORE@BYM-RSF.ORG](mailto:BOOKSTORE@BYM-RSF.ORG).



YAF Schedule for Annual Session 2015 by Katie Caughlan

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Please write the Charge Plan letter on the Registration Form

	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	6 Nights
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The Young Friends Program begins Tuesday after lunch. Young Friends attend for a maximum of 5 nights.

**Plan A - Adult or Young Friend Bed**

Through June 27	\$95	\$190	\$285	\$380	\$475	\$570
After June 27	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600

**Plan B - Child with Bed (age 6 through 8th Grade. For younger children there is no charge.)**

	\$45	\$90	\$135	\$180	\$225	\$270
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**Plan C - Child Meals only (age 6 through 8th Grade. For younger children there is no charge.)**

	\$30	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	\$180
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*\*Note: Up to two (2) children may sleep on the floor only if both beds are paid for. No more than four (4) people are permitted in one room.*

**Plan D - Adult Commuter with two meals**

	\$63	\$126	\$189	\$252	\$315	\$378
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**Plan E - Adult Commuter without meals**

	\$48	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$240	\$288
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Each lodging night includes three meals, beginning with dinner on the day of arrival, continuing through lunch the following day

**ANNUAL SESSION FEES ARE CAPPED at \$1,500 per family.**

**If sub-total is greater than this, enter \$1,500 in the Total Fees Box on Registration Form on page 10**

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
June 27, 2016**

**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/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/)  
We accept major credit cards and debit cards electronically. Checks, cash, and credit/debit cards are accepted on campus

**TO ENSURE REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL SESSION, 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, you request (mail or email only) must be received by July 18. 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 18**



**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK**  
**AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 7, 2016**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)					7:00
8:00		Worship Sharing, Worship, Bible Study (8:15-9:15)					8:00
9:00		Retreat (8:30-11:00)	Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting			MfW Business (9:00-10:30)	9:00
10:00			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)				10:00
11:00		Worship				Worship	11:00
12:00		Lunch (12:00 - 1:30)					12:00
1:00	Retreat Registration	Annual Session Registration	<i>Annual Session Registration (1:15-1:45) Wednesday - Saturday</i>				1:00
2:00			Siesta (1:15-2:00)				
3:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)	<b>Plenary Session: Lauren Brownlee &amp; Jen Cort</b>	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	2:00
4:00			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) <i>Annual Session Registration (5:00-5:30) Tuesday - Saturday</i>					5:00	
6:00	Singing (6:15-7:15) Orientation on Wednesday and Thursday (7:00-7:30)					6:00	
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	<b>Plenary Session: Christina Repoley</b>	Committee Meetings	All Age Celebration	<b>Carey Lecture: George Lakey</b>	<b>Coffee House (7:30-10:30)</b>	7:00
8:00							8:00
9:00		Registration	Produce Department		Produce Department		9:00

## MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS AND LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

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

Young Friends also need to complete the Letter of Understanding, which is available in the same section of the Yearly Meeting website.

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## JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Junior Yearly Meeting Staff welcomes families to the wonderful community at Annual Session. Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) provides fun and learning within a Friendly community for children from infancy through rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a great opportunity for your child to meet other kids from different Meetings. The JYM program involves morning classes, which are divided by grades and filled with fun, structured activities focused on the YM theme, and in the afternoon and evening sessions the children participate in less structure fun activities and games either inside or outside. The rising 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

We know that it is difficult for new families to make the newcomer orientation in the evening, so we will have a table at lunch set aside where new families can sit with people who are able to provide information and help. Look for our sign.

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## YOUNG FRIENDS

During Annual Session, Young Friends (YFs) gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm housing on the campus of Frostburg. 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 Alison Duncan at the Yearly Meeting office or Young Friends BYM Co-planners, Genevieve Legowski and Max Thoburn. 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) If you realize that you can make it after the June 29 deadline, CALL the Yearly Meeting Office. 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 **Alison Duncan** 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 attender' voucher from your Local Meeting or Young Friends.

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## 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 talent show. 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.

Members of YAF also serve as Yearly Meeting Bookstore Managers, Friendly Adult Presences for the YFs and JYFs, Junior Yearly Meeting group leaders and Yearly Meeting committee members. For more information about the YAF program, contact Becca Bacon or Maggie Cooler-Stith—and for information about opportunities for YAFs to save money on attending Annual Session, check out the information on page 8. We'd love to have you join us!

## 2016 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOPS

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

**CLMT Connecting Local Meetings: Discernment and Action on Inclusion in BYM** – Local Meetings have been asked by the Working Group on Racism to season a proposed revision to the BYM Vision Statement. The revision will state explicitly our vision of BYM as including people of all races, ethnicities, and gender orientation, and that we will commit ourselves to making that happen. This session will help the WGR discern if we are ready to move forward with this proposal. (D) *Facilitated by David Etheridge, Clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism.*

**T1 Sustaining the Peace/Justice Builder Within** – Ruth Flower (Adelphi and FCNL): As we serve and advocate and create and build, how do we feed our souls? What keeps us going and lively and alive in our work? (Also offered this year at the BYM Women's Retreat). (D) *An activist and advocate for many just causes for more than 40 years, Ruth has picked up a lot of ideas and learned from many masters of the craft. She is willing to share and eager to learn more.*

**T2 Focusing Partnership as a Structure for Spiritual Friendship** – Andy Hoover (Carlisle): At its simplest, Focusing is asking another person or yourself how you feel about a particular situation, but asking it as if it were a real question. Many people realize that they have never taken the time to discover how they really feel. Focusing is ultimately a political act. (E) *Andy has led Focusing partnerships and groups for more than 30 years, both in the community and in his Meeting. He studied with Eugene Gendlin, the originator of Focusing, and Ann Weiser, one of Gendlin's original trainers.*

**T3 The Quaker Art of Dying** – Heidi Koring (Lynchburg Indulged): In the Middle Ages, books called "Ars Moriendi" taught Christian faithful the art of dying well. Today Friends see the Testimonies as guides for faithful living. This workshop envisions a modern Quaker "Ars Moriendi" discussing the Testimonies as a guide to discern the path to a faith-filled death. (D) *Heidi is a Quaker educator and writer, who writes about themes related to death and dying; more importantly, she is at an age where she is aware of mortality.*

**T4 Room for Everyone: Four Vital Roles for Resolving the Climate Crisis** – George Lakey (sponsored by BYM Unity with Nature): This workshop will help Friends discern how to maximize their contribution to resolving the climate crisis, and to assist others as well. A participatory activity will lead to a discussion featuring "hard questions." Workshop participants will be the ones to ask those "hard questions," so bring yours! (D) *George Lakey predicted in his 1973 book that world leaders would fail to meet the environmental crisis until grassroots people took the initiative to resolve it, and here we are.*

**T5 Reaching out to Muslims** – Mary Leonard (Adelphi) and Jeannette Smith (Langley Hill), with Hind Essayegh, Communications Associate, and Julia Bizer, Staff Attorney, from KARAMAH: Following the Paris and San Bernardino terrorist attacks, we have been hearing statements that stoke anti-Muslim sentiments. This workshop brings members of KARAMAH, an international Muslim



Annual Session 2015 photo by Cy DeVries

women lawyers' rights group, to discuss the effects of this situation on Muslims and how Quakers can support Muslim Americans. (D) *Mary is the concerned mother-in-law of a Muslim. Jeannette has created a minute out of her concern for the treatment of Muslims.*

**T6 The Power of Enough** – Jackie Stillwell (Right Sharing of World Resources), joined by John Smallwood and Karen Grisez (RSWR Board members): How can we balance our use of time, energy, and "things," to free us for action to do God's work and to contribute to right order in our community? Feedback from this workshop will help shape the model for RSWR weekend retreats. (D) *Jackie is the General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR).*

**T7 Individual Discernment: Receiving, Testing, and Implementing Guidance from a Higher Power** – Jerry Knutson (Monongalia and Orlando): Focusing on Jerry's 15-page pamphlet about discernment techniques, including stories and examples, we will read and worship share on the text and our own experiences. Please bring smart phones and laptops to receive the pamphlet electronically. A few hard copies will be available for the cost of printing. (WS) *Jerry has been following a leading to study, practice, and write about discernment since 1999, including work at Pendle Hill (2002 and 2003) and Earlham School of Religion (2008 to 2014), where he received a Master of Divinity.*

**T8 Learn from Celebrated Native Americans** – Patricia Powers (Sandy Spring): Let's grow our understanding of contemporary Indian experiences through the arts. Those who sign up early will be sent The Round House, by Louise Erdrich, and asked to read at least the beginning chapters beforehand. Portions of the satirical film Smoke Signals, directed by Chris Eyre and written by Sherman Alexie, will be shown. (D) *Pat Powers has a PhD in American cultural studies and is a former clerk of BYM Indian Affairs Committee. Pat will lead the discussion and a Native American speaker will also be invited.*

**T9 Shape Note Singing** – Barbarie Hill and Hank Schutz (Charlottesville) – This Early American music form combines religious poetry with a *cappella*, four-part harmony to create a spiritual community in singing that is accessible to all. All who wish to participate, both beginners and more experienced shape note singers, are welcome. (E) *Barbarie has been singing shape note music regularly for about six years. Hank is a trained musician and has many years of experience with shape note singing.*

**T10 Yoga for Polishing the Inner Light** – Jessica Arends (Friends Meeting of Washington): By aligning gentle movements with the breath, participants will be lead through a series of yoga postures designed especially for Quakers. This moving meditation is appropriate for all levels and those new to yoga are most welcome. Come renew your spirit and polish your inner light. Participants are invited to bring their own yoga mats. (E) *Jessica Arends is a certified Vinyasa Flow yoga instructor who particularly enjoys working with those new to yoga.*

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

**CLMF Connecting Local Meetings: Faith and Practice Revision - Truth and Unity for Today** - Our 1988 *Faith and Practice* is composed of statements of faith and of advice on organization and practices considered relevant at that time. It was “issued in the expectation that another generation of Seekers on the road toward Truth will make changes.” Considerable work has gone into a draft revision. Come to an open forum and explore what we can say today. (D) *Moderated by the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.*

**F1 Preventing Incarceration with Services at the “Front Door” – Pretrial Diversion** – Phil Caroom (Annapolis) and Davis Balderston (Alexandria): Studies show that when youthful offenders are held in detention 3 to 30 days before trial, their re-offending increases by nearly 80%. This workshop will show the need for early “diversion,” including mediation, drug treatment, and mental health programs. (D) *Phil is a Maryland judge (retired) and on the Executive Committee of the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform. Davis is Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.*

**F2 Sanctuary Now** – Linda Rabben (Adelphi): The workshop will help Friends and Meetings learn how they can move from discernment to action on sanctuary, refugee and asylum issues in our communities. (D) *Linda travels to nds Meeting in the BYM region to discuss sanctuary initiatives on the local, state, and national level.*

**F3 Building Bridges to Climate Action through Faith-filled Advocacy** – Jose Aguto (FCNL, sponsored by Unity with Nature): The workshop will address the need for and effectiveness of faith-filled advocacy through lobbying legislators and the Administration, to help dissipate partisanship and build moral unity for meaningful climate action. Examples include FCNL’s Call to Conscience on Climate Disruption and continued engagement to ensure implementation of the Paris Agreement. (P) *Jose is FCNL’s Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy & Environment, who initiated the Call to Conscience in December 2012, and participated in the UNFCCC negotiations in Paris last December.*

**F4 Spiritual Healing through Sound** – Diane Younkins (Goose Creek): Sound and music are known since ancient times to be healing and helpful spiritually. King Saul asked for David to play his harp to relieve his suffering. Using the harp, Diane will offer some background history and modern-day science that demonstrate this. Participants will also experience music as spiritual tool to deepen their own spiritual lives. (E) *Diane is a novice harper and pastoral counselor with an interest in encouraging spiritual healing.*

**F5 How Are Quakers Led to Support the Civil Rights of Religious Minorities in the US?** – Jeannette Smith (Langley Hill) and Mary Leonard (Adelphi): After recent terrorist attacks, violence against Muslims increased dramatically. Politicians now use fear of a religious minority to advance their political agenda, fueling bigotry and hate. In this workshop we will brainstorm ways we can take some specific local actions to promote understanding and respect for all religious minorities. (D) *Jeannette has been concerned about intolerance within the Christian majority toward other minority religious groups. Personal experience with backlash against Muslims has led Mary to work to promote better understanding of Islam.*

**F6 Holding Domestic Abuse in the Light** - Windy Cooler (Adelphi): According to a domestic violence survey done in the mid-1980s, unprogrammed Friends’ families experience domestic violence to the same degree as the general public. In this query-based workshop, we will talk about what abuse is and ways in which our Meetings might address this as a pastoral care issue, holding everyone in the Light. (D) *Windy is earning her Master of Divinity at Earlham School of Religion and is the co-clerk of BYM’s Religious Education Committee. The BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care committee is sponsoring this workshop.*

**F7 Discernment and Action in the Bible** – Michael Newheart (Adelphi and Religious Education committee): This workshop examines the resources for discernment and action that the Bible has to offer, with particular emphasis on the book of Acts. We will address the question: Just as the Spirit called early Jesus followers to specific tasks, how is the Spirit calling BYM Quakers to specific tasks? (D) *Michael is a Professor of New Testament at Howard University School of Divinity and frequent Annual Session presenter.*

**F8 Quaker Social Change Ministry: A Model for Spirit-led Action** – Greg Elliott (AFSC): The AFSC Quaker Social Change Ministry (QSCM) program began in 2015 and currently has five Meetings enrolled in this pilot year. QSCM supports social justice work within Monthly Meetings and facilitates group discernment, centers communities most impacted by injustice, sustains long-term social action, and connects Friends and AFSC. (E) *Greg is the Friends Relations Associate at AFSC and the coordinator of the Quaker Social Change Ministry pilot program.*

**F9 Ministry of Presence: What Canst Thou Say?** – Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring) and others from the Intervisitation Working Group): “Ministry of presence” describes the Intervisitation Working Group’s desired spiritual state for our traveling Friends. Like a “stained glass” of Quaker gifts, we each experience this state uniquely. We welcome Friends of all ages to join our discernment over how this phrase speaks to Friends, whether traveling or receiv-

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IF A WORKSHOP INCLUDES A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF A SPECIFIC FORMAT, IT IS INDICATED BY: (D) DISCUSSION, (P) PRESENTATION, (W) WORSHIP SHARING, OR (E) EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES.

ing visitors. (WS) *Joan and other working group members have been involved in traveling ministry (i.e. intervisitation) in North America, Kenya, Cuba, and Great Britain for the last 10 years or more.*

**F10 Healing Center: Resilience for Spiritual Activists** – Bette Rainbow Hoover (Sandy Spring): Ground, recharge, and renew with massage and movement that address compassion fatigue and build resilience. Practice healing touch, shoulder massage, and learn hand reflexology for better balance of mind/body/spirit – of ourselves and our communities. (E) *Bette is a massage therapist, yoga teacher, nurse, and long-time peace activist.*

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

**CLMS Connecting Local Meetings – Money and Your Monthly Meeting** – Is your Meeting having difficulty meeting its financial obligations? Talking about money in the spiritual community is often difficult. Does everyone in the community realize that the Monthly Meeting requires money to operate? Money doesn't always seem "Spiritual." Come share how your local meeting handles the message of money and learn from others. (D) *Facilitated by Ann Venable, BYM Development Director.*

**S1 Report from the 17<sup>th</sup> White Privilege Conference** – Alex Bell (Bethesda), Elizabeth DuVerlie (Stony Run), and Pat Schenck (Annapolis): Three BYM Friends who attended the White Privilege Conference will facilitate a conversation about it. FGC hosted and BYM sponsored the WPC17, where over 1500 people of all races examined concepts of privilege and oppression. We tried to discern solutions and strategies to work toward a more equitable world. (D) *All three Friends are ongoing members of the BYM Working Group on Racism; Pat and Elizabeth are both former WGR clerks.*

**S2 Quaker Campus Ministries** – Gene Throwe (Friends Meeting of Washington): How do we maintain connections to our students going off to college and how do we reach out to those searching for God in local universities? (P) *Gene is the Quaker Chaplain at American University.*

**S3 Climate Change is Not Inevitable: What Urgent Actions Could Protect our Shared Future** – Frank Niepold (Sandy Spring) and other Sandy Spring Unity with Nature committee members): We Quakers recognize in our shared statement that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently. This workshop will consider the call to conscience and explore how we can collectively address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. (WS) *Frank is the Climate Education Coordinator at NOAA's Climate Program Office in Silver Spring, MD. He is also co-chair of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Education Interagency Working Group and leads the preparation of the chapter on Education, Training, and Outreach in the U.S. Climate Action Report.*

**S4 Testifying for Equality: The Great Quaker Debate of 1672** – Deborah Haines and Tad Jose (Alexandria): This workshop will draw on the war of words between Roger Williams and George Fox, known as the Great Quaker Debate of 1672, to explore how

early Friends understood and publicly defended their testimonies of gender, ethnic, and economic equality in the face of fierce opposition. (D) *Deborah and Tad have been presenting workshops on this topic in local Meetings and at Annual Sessions for the past five years.*

**S5 "Awakening the Dreamer" Symposium** – Noel Marshall & Bob Warner (Blountville, TN): This session invites attendees to bring forth an environmentally-sustainable, socially-just, and spiritually-fulfilling human presence on the planet with information, inquiry, reflection, and a call to action. The "Awakening the Dreamer" symposium is a workshop of the Pachamama Alliance that has been delivered by skilled facilitators worldwide. (P) *Noel and Bob consider themselves closely aligned with Friends' testimonies and have dedicated themselves to serving humanity. They were invited to attend by the BYM Unity with Nature Committee.*

**S6 Quakerism's Basic Theology: the Essence of Christianity? Or Marching Orders for a Chosen People? : A Conversation about Contrasting Models** – Chuck Fager (State College) and George Amoss (Homewood): For many Friends, action follows discernment, and discernment includes thinking and study. Theology is an effort to think about religion. Done well, it can aid discernment and action. We will consider two models of basic Quaker theology, in hopes of provoking thought and enriching discernment. (P,D) *Both Chuck and George are seasoned Friends, who have studied theology for many years, while pursuing discernment and action.*

**S7 From Where Can We Learn Best Practices For Our Testimony on Equality?** – George Lakey (Carey Lecturer): George has spent the past seven years interviewing and studying the Nordic economic model, to identify what they do well to support their deep concern for equality. He will share surprises, comical experiments, and wisdom we would do well to heed. (D) *After the Carey Lecture on Friday evening, George expects Friends will have a lot of questions.*

**S8 Soulful Singing** – Ruth Fitz (York): Singing together can be a powerful vehicle for nurturing us spiritually – both as individuals and as a community. Let us sing soulfully together – fun songs, rounds, sacred chants, peace songs, and spirituals, in the oral tradition. Strong and shy singers are all welcome. (E) *As a convinced Friend who "cannot keep from singing", Ruth has led group singing in a variety of settings, including previous Annual Sessions, BYM Friendly Sings, Spiritual Formation Retreats, and FGC Gathering.*

**Healing Center:** Bette Rainbow Hoover (Sandy Spring) and Nancy McIntyre: Healing practitioners are invited to gather with fellow healers and sign up for a 15 minute time slot to volunteer their services in the Healing Center. *Bette is a massage therapist, yoga teacher, nurse, and long-time peace activist.*

# Spring Family Camp Weekends 2016



Friends, Family, Fun and favorite camp activities at the  
Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camps!

Spring 2016 Family Camp Weekends	
Opequon Quaker Camp	April 29 – May 1, 2016
Catoctin Quaker Camp	May 13 – 15, 2016
Shiloh Quaker Camp	June 3 – 5, 2016

## HELP US DECORATE THE YEARLY MEETING OFFICE!

*Jossie Dowling, Youth Programs Manager*

The BYM office recently updated our office space with minor repairs and a fresh coat of paint. With the redecoration of the office, this seems like a good time to talk about how BYM presents ourselves to the world. We want to make guests and all staff feel welcome when they visit us as well as have our workplace reflect who we are and what values and ideals we hold true. So I want give Young Friends an opportunity to suggest what to put up on our walls, or offer donations for original work.

I want to pose this query: What images, pictures, words, and/or scenes come to mind when thinking about a supportive and inclusive faith community?



*New solar panels at the Yearly Meeting office*

## A COMMUNITY OF GENUINE DIVERSITY AND EQUITY CAN BE THE CORE

*GDL continued from page 5*

reduce unconscious bias is “intergroup contact in collaborative settings where groups have equal status and support from authorities.” A community of genuine diversity and equity can be the core sustenance for creating the world we want. As some Meetings are particularly interested in working on inclusion, they may chosen to be a ‘focus Meeting’ for individual attention. The camps that have been targeted and tracked over the past few years have benefitted

immensely from this individual attention, and from the faithful process of collecting measurements of progress.

The Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator oversees extending the Growing Diverse Leadership program from Catoctin to Shiloh and Opequon through the creation of new STRIDE groups, while the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee oversees extending the applicable aspects of this program and identifying other appropriate ways to work in local Meetings. The GDLC looks forward to its first full meeting, and will publish the fruits of their labor in the next Interchange.

## LATENT POSSIBILITIES

*Liz Hofmeister, Clerk, Development Committee*

One glossary definition for development is “bringing out latent possibilities,” whether these are in a person or in an institution such as Baltimore Yearly Meeting. As a Yearly Meeting we know we have many possibilities – to be more welcoming and inclusive, to live in a more environmentally sustainable manner, to provide our children and youth with the spiritual grounding that will carry them into adulthood.

How do we do all these things -- and more? By attending to those latent possibilities that will make us a true community. To paraphrase the BYM Vision Statement, we do this in part by expanding opportunities for Friends to meet together and know each other in that which is eternal. It is also by serving others in love, sharing our gifts and resources, reaching out to those in need, both friends and strangers, and witnessing in the world to our shared experience of the infinite love of God.

In connecting in this way we become more than just a collection of individual local Meetings We become a larger, interconnected community which is Baltimore Yearly Meeting, caring for and supporting one another.

As a community we know that development is not what is done just by the Yearly Meeting and a small committee and its paid staff person. It cannot be only about raising funds for particular programs and projects, like the new Camp Catoctin bath house. Development also implies intellectual and spiritual development. In this broader sense, development is done by all of us, individuals and local Meetings, working together, sharing not merely our resources but also our collective memories of what camping meant to us as children attending camp, and now to our own and other children. It is our shared vision of those latent possibilities of what a fully resourced camping program can be and do. It is also our shared vision of what a vibrant, growing and thriving Yearly Meeting can be for all of us.

## CATOCTIN BATHHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE:

Our fundraising for the new bathhouse is at 64.6% of our \$297,000 goal.

Site Plans have been approved by Frederick County.

Day of Destruction Celebration at Camp Catoctin is schduled

Date: Monday, September 5, 2016

Come and help us celebrate Labor Day with a little hard work!

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## ADELPHI FRIENDS MEETING

On Saturday, June 4, Adelphi Friends Meeting will hold its 2016 Strawberry Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 2303 Metzger Road in Adelphi, Maryland (between Riggs Road and Adelphi Road). The Strawberry Festival is a long-standing community event and day of fun for the whole family. Annual traditions include a live-entertainment stage, outdoor grilled-food tent, indoor cafe, tie-dye booth, and sale of quarts and flats of just-picked strawberries from Oak Grove Farm in southern Pennsylvania. The large rummage sale is a major attraction, with additional areas for silent auction, clothing, jewelry, plants, and a full room of used books. In recent years the children's area has featured a bounce house, train rides, face painting, and games. Come for the fun and leave with great bargain purchases of clothes, electronics, books, and more. Join us as we celebrate the abundance of summer and the richness of our community! The Strawberry Festival is a rain or shine event. All profits are donated to charity. For more information see [adelphifriends.org/strawberry](http://adelphifriends.org/strawberry) or email John Stith at [john.stith@gmail.com](mailto:john.stith@gmail.com).

## BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

As Bethesda Friends Meeting continues to consider our options for changing the location of our Meeting, the ad hoc committee tasked with helping us in this discernment process has met numerous times and has researched many questions associated with this move. They have also arranged for three meetings open to the BFM community since December. We have met together on December 13, January 17, and February 21. These meetings have been an opportunity to hear of information and developments, to express concerns, ask questions, and simply be with one another as we ponder this very significant change. We have begun to consider questions such as, "What makes us a community, regardless of where our meeting house is located?"; "What do we actually need in order to function well as a Friends Meeting?"; "How might we find ways to hear everyone's needs, concerns, and hopes?"

Bethesda Friends Meeting has reached unity in support of the Shared Quaker Statement on Climate Change. Our Environmental Sustainability Group, in conjunction with our Adult Religious Education Committee recently offered two workshops to help us consider our part in this. On February 14, Phil Favero, a natural resources economist from Annapolis Friends Meeting, led us in an exploration that joined science and spirituality, to help guide us as we try to respond to the threat of global climate change. On February 28, Deborah Haines offered a forum on "Friends and Nature," in which she talked about the significant influence of nature and images from nature on the spirituality of early Friends. On April 3, we will be gathering to discern how we might best respond as a faith community to the threat of global climate change.

In our continuing series called "Spiritual Journeys," our Friend Bernie Benson recently described how he came to be a Friend, and talked about his many sources of spiritual inspiration and nurture. Accompanying himself on the guitar, he also sang three songs he was inspired to write as expressions of his spiritual life. It was a deeply meaningful gathering for all there. We are so grateful for the kinds of sharing and dialog that the Spiritual Journeys series engenders.

The thoughtful and caring outreach of our Pastoral Care Committee to many young adult associate members has resulted in six young adults in our Meeting choosing to become full members. In addi-



Women's Retreat 2016

tion, over the past three months, we have welcomed five other new members to our Meeting. Our new website seems to be a helpful source of information and a welcoming resource, as we have noticed more new attenders in our Meeting recently. At the same time, we very much miss our members who have chosen to move away to be closer to their adult children. Somehow, with all these comings and goings, we still feel ourselves to be the same Meeting; the center holds, and we are grateful for our nurturing community.

## HOMWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

On Sunday, January 31st, the Peace and Social Justice Committee sponsored a forum for the community on bringing Baltimore together in the wake of the uprising in the city in April. Representative Elijah Cummings spoke passionately about his own experience as an African American in Baltimore as well as the experiences of his inner city neighbors to a packed audience of 270 people in the Meeting Room. While fully cognizant of the challenging reality of institutional racism in this society, Representative Cummings conveyed a strong sense of optimism and hope that Baltimore can be a city where people care for one another and seek educational, social, and economic justice together. His talk was followed by a lively question and answer period facilitated by Barbara Bezdek and supported by a group of Young Friends who gathered questions from the audience. It was a kind of event and a level of dialogue that the Meeting hopes to continue sponsoring.

Our dear Friend and member, Mibs Pell, is moving to Peterborough, New Hampshire this spring to live close to two of her children. Mibs, an artist, teacher, healer, and all around inspiration, has touched and made better the lives of so many people at Homewood. The Meeting hosted a show of some of the artwork that Mibs has created in the last 35 years in our dining room on the lower level. Graced by the paintings, prints, and etchings of Mibs, our dining room has never looked better! No one recalls an art show hosted by Homewood, so this event was quite unique. It was a wonderful way to recognize and celebrate a portion of the legacy of Mibs.

Homewood established the Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) early in 2015 to engage members of the Homewood Friends community, individually and collectively, in efforts to save energy, live sustainably, and respond to the challenges of climate change. Homewood Meeting has embraced the "Shared Quaker Statement: Facing

the Challenge of Climate Change.” GOAT helps the community to transform the elements of that statement into personal, local, and regional action. The two points of focus this winter has been supporting key environmental legislation in Annapolis on greenhouse gas emission reduction and the renewable energy portfolio standard and an adult education workshop addressing the personal environmental dilemmas most of us face in our personal lives. Homewood’s GOAT would love to connect with similar groups at other monthly meetings. Please send an email to [homewoodfriends@verizon.net](mailto:homewoodfriends@verizon.net) if you are interested.

## RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to focus on tree basic issues: Racism, the Environment, and the Israeli-Palestinian crisis to which Poverty has been added as an additional concern. To these ends, they held a March forum on reconnecting with nature through organic gardening and straw-bale gardening. They are also sponsoring a forum in April on co-housing as well as holding a listening circle about “Quaker House Program Development.” This committee will co-sponsor a forum in May on Palestine’s Ramallah Friends School with the Adult Spiritual Education Committee. This program will feature Joyce Ajlouny, director of the school.

Ongoing, once a month two members of the committee lead a two-mile silent walking peace vigil along one of Richmond’s main thoroughfares. This vigil is attended by other Quakers as well as peace activists of other denominations. Additionally, for several months the committee has offered Palestinian olive oil for sale to Meeting members and attenders. These sales support Palestinian citizens who are dealing with the difficulties caused by the conflict between their country and Israel.

Meeting has given P&SC approval to move forward to support a refugee family. A sub-committee will soon contact an agency to connect them with a family.

The Adult Spiritual Education Committee continues with the Living the Quaker Life series each second and fourth First Days of March and April. This series has been received enthusiastically and continues to have good attendance.

## YORK MONTHLY MEETING

York Monthly Meeting began celebrating the 250th anniversary of our Meeting House on First Day, March 20, with a presentation of “The History of York Meeting: The First 50 Years.” We plan to have a First Day presentation on our history each quarter during our regular 9:30am. First Hour session. Our next presentation, “York Quakers of Note,” is tentatively scheduled for June 19. We also continue to work on gathering the resources we need to build a new addition to our historic Meeting House.

Since our membership is aging, we held a First Day First Hour Worship Sharing about the concerns of aging and end of life issues. This session was well attended. Friends have a lot of questions which will be addressed in future First Hour sessions.

The Seekers group resumed in March after a winter recess, and is now reflecting on the Pendle Hill pamphlet “The Light Within, Then and Now,” by Rex Ambler.

In light of the request from Baltimore Yearly Meeting for more demographic information, including ethnic information, York Monthly Meeting has been exploring the issue of diversity, and how best to be a welcoming and diverse community.

York Friends have been singing during the First Hour of First Day Meeting for Worship when that First Day is the fifth one of the month. Friends have welcomed the opportunity to worship through music, and we have heard requests for more musical worship opportunities. Therefore we have begun to sing for 15 minutes or more, as Spirit leads, between the end of First Hour at 10:30am, and the regular 11am Meeting for Worship. Singing will continue to be the focus of the entire First Hour when a First Day is the fifth one of the month. The singing is led and coordinated by Ruth Fitz as part of her ministry of music.

As part of our support for Elizabeth Koopman’s ministry with Indigenous Peoples, we would like to inform Friends of an article in the February 2016 issue of Friends Journal that was written by Elizabeth Koopman and three others. The article, “Peace Is Possible: Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation in Maine,” describes the work of the Maine Wabanaki-State Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who work together to uncover and acknowledge the unjust treatment of Wabanaki children and families by the Maine child welfare system. The commission is a collaborative effort of Wabanaki people and the State of Maine to uncover and acknowledge the truth, create opportunities to heal and learn from the truth, and collaborate to operate the best child welfare system possible for Wabanaki children.

YMM will host its annual all-day Sacred Harp Sing on April 23. We expect the usual large turn-out of Sacred Harp singers from several states. A meal is shared at noon. Our annual spring Green Elephant Sale will be held on the same day from 9:30am-3pm, and will offer native and non-invasive plant species for sale, as well as some other donated items. We will be honoring creation in all her spring finery in these celebrations.



*BYM Representatives to World Gathering 2016 in Peru*

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### YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US

Have you moved, or has any of your contact information changed? Please send any updates to [admin@bym-rsf.org](mailto:admin@bym-rsf.org)

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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

- 7 – FAP Training at Charlottesville Friends Meeting
- 13-15 – Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 13-15 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 13-15 – Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat at Priestfield Retreat Center
- 15 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Frederick Friends Meeting
- 27-29 – Young Friends Conference at Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting

### JUNE

- 3-5 – Family Camp Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 16 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Patpasco Friends Meeting
- 18 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting at Maury River Friends Meeting
- 25 – BYM Camps Open

### AUGUST

- 1-7 – Annual Session at Hood College

### STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Kenneth “Ken” Stockbridge	Presiding Clerk <a href="mailto:ymclerk@bym-rsf.org">ymclerk@bym-rsf.org</a>	Dyresha Harris	Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator <a href="mailto:oic@bym-rsf.org">oic@bym-rsf.org</a>
Natasha “Tasha” Walsh	Clerk of Interim Meeting <a href="mailto:imclerk@bym-rsf.org">imclerk@bym-rsf.org</a>	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Manager <a href="mailto:janemegginson@bym-rsf.org">janemegginson@bym-rsf.org</a>
Thomas “Tom” Hill	Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@bym-rsf.org">treasurer@bym-rsf.org</a>	David Hunter	Camp Property Manager <a href="mailto:davidhunter@bym-rsf.org">davidhunter@bym-rsf.org</a>
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