

## Sharing information/Planning group activities

**Bulletin Boards:** Looking for something or someone? Personal notices may be placed on the Information Table in Whitaker Campus Center.

**Copies:** Requests for photocopies may be placed in the labeled manila folder at the BYM Information Table. Please save as many trees as possible.

**Messages for the Yearly Meeting Clerk or for the BYM Epistle:** Documents may be placed in the labeled manila folder at the BYM Information Table.

**Put a Notice in the *Daily Minute*:** The deadline for each day's *Daily Minute* is at 5:00pm the previous evening. Concise, legible notices with your name and desired date of publication should be put in the labeled manila folder at the BYM Information Table or send to [dailyminute@bym-rsf.org](mailto:dailyminute@bym-rsf.org).

**Reserving Meeting or Group Space:** If you need a room for an interest group or a meeting, put a request in the labeled manila folder at the BYM Information Table by 5:00pm on the evening before you need the space.

## Rest, peace and quiet

**Get some rest:** Make use of siesta time each afternoon. Leave open an optional time slot or two. Then rest. You can be at your best if you are rested for the events you really want to attend.

## Welcome to BYM's Annual Session

### Here's what you need to know!

#### What is Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Annual Session?

Annual Session has been held for 348 years. Friends gather to strengthen our worshipping body and move our community forward. We hear news of Yearly Meeting Committees and activities, of local Meetings, and of other Friends' organizations. In worship together, we seek to discern Divine Will for our actions as a Yearly Meeting. We also gather for the sheer joy of being in community, whether listening to speakers, making music, or relaxing at mealtime.

The Yearly Meeting is a regional association of Friends' Meetings. It is a member of Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, and Friends World Committee for Consultation, in addition to having connections to a number of other Friends' organizations. The 50-plus local Meetings of Baltimore Yearly Meeting extend from central Pennsylvania to southern Virginia, and from the Atlantic coast into West Virginia. Currently the number of members and attenders in these Meetings adds up to more than 6,000. The character of these Meetings varies greatly, from tiny to large, old to new, and rural to center city.

#### Look at Name Tags for help. Some Friends have colored dots:

**Red Dots** identify members of the Program Committee, who may be able to answer your questions.

**Blue Dots** identify first-time Annual Session attenders. You might be able to help them if they have a question.

**Green Dots** identify participants in the BYM Intervisitation Program between Yearly Meetings.

**Yellow Dots** identify members of the Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee who serve as Listeners. They are available to hear about concerns that come up for people during the week. Though not credentialed counselors, they will listen and possibly make helpful suggestions.

**BYM Information Tables:** The Annual Session Information tables in Whitaker Campus Center provide abundant information. They tell you where worship sharing groups, Bible Study, workshops, and interest groups meet. Whenever possible, a real live person will be there to help you! Tables inside the plenary meeting room will have business meeting agendas, copies of the BYM Annual Reports, special notices, epistles, etc. Keep in mind that many of the documents were sent out in email prior to the beginning of Annual Session and are available on the Yearly Meeting website, so you may not need to take copies of every document available. There will be booklets with copies of the reports that have been received prior to the week, Annual Reports from committees and organizations, and minutes from the past year's sessions of Interim Meeting available for reference.

**Daily Minute:** (our daily news bulletin) is an indispensable source of information about what's happening and where. Listings for Interest groups, special events, and important notices appear here. Make a habit of picking it up on your way into breakfast or lunch, or at the BYM Information Table. Submissions may be made to [dailyminute@bym-rsf.org](mailto:dailyminute@bym-rsf.org) or by filling out the form on the Information Table.

**Orientation:** Are you new here? Do you have questions about what's going on? Come to one of the Orientation Sessions. See the schedule in the Schedule document in your Welcome Packet or the *Daily Minute* for details.

## Emergencies

**Campus Emergency Numbers:** Dial x3111 from any campus phone to report an emergency. In addition, there are 14 outdoor emergency phones around campus.

**Health Services:** In an emergency, call 911. Frederick Memorial Hospital is adjacent to the Hood College campus at 700 West 7th Street, Frederick, Maryland.

## Transportation

**Parking:** Vehicles are allowed to park in any parking lot except where indicated by signs.

**BYM Shuttle Service:** Volunteer drivers provide rides in golf carts for anyone with accessibility needs between dormitories, dining hall, the Whitaker Campus Center, Brodbeck Music Hall, and classroom buildings.

## “Where do I find ...?”

**BYM Bookstore:** Books, crafts, clothes and more! Located in the Commons Room in the Whitaker Campus Center, the Bookstore is open Tuesday to Saturday. Specific hours are printed in the schedule pamphlet, and browsing is possible anytime the doors are open.

**Informational table displays about Quaker organizations** are found on the first floor of Whitaker Campus Center and inside the Commons Room.

**BYM Office:** is located in the Commuter Student Lounge on the second floor of Whitaker Campus Center. Hours are 8:30-9:30am, 1:30-3pm and 9-11pm. The phone number is 301-774-7663.

**College Bookstore:** is located in the Whitaker Campus Center.

**Internet Access:** Wireless access is available in all the public buildings. Information about connecting to the network will be printed on the front of your Welcome Packet.

## Dormitories

**Air Conditioning:** All dormitory rooms are individually air conditioned. Most hallways and bathrooms are not air conditioned and may become warm in the summer.

**Furniture:** Beds are all supposed to be at a regular height. If your bed is too high, please see the folks at the registration desk before you make up your bed. All furniture needs to be kept in the room that it occupied when we arrived.

**Vending Machines:** Soft drink machines are located in the dorms.

**Washers & Dryers:** Washers and dryers are available free in each dorm.

**Keys and Building Cards:** Keys and building cards will be in your Welcome Packet when you arrive on campus. The cards allow access to all secured buildings (dormitories) but are not required for meals. Keys and building cards must be turned in at the BYM Registration Desk in Whitaker Campus Center in the small envelope you received them in. If you forget, you will be charged \$25.00. Please take your name tag holder with you and use at your local Meeting.

## Explanations of activities

**Junior Yearly Meeting:** A complete program is greatly enjoyed by infants to eighth-graders during Annual Session. A schedule is available at the BYM Information table and in the Welcome Packets of JYM families.

**Young Friends:** High school students enjoy a program of activities that intertwine with adult programs at important points. A schedule is available at the BYM Information table and in the Welcome Packets of Young Friends.

**Meeting for Worship:** Annual Session begins with a Meeting for Worship on Tuesday at 2:00pm, followed by the first business session. All of our business sessions are held in a spirit of worship, and Friends are invited to enter the Meeting space a few minutes ahead of the appointed time to join in the worship that will have already started there. On First Day (Sunday) morning, the entire community gathers for worship at 9:00am.

**Morning Worship Sharing and Bible Study:** Following breakfast each morning, many Friends begin the day with worship sharing with a dozen or so others or in Bible study. Sign up for one of these groups on the sheets near the BYM Information table. We hope that you will feel comfortable for the whole week in your worship sharing group. If your group just doesn't fit, it's fine to ask another group's leader if you may join them.

**Meeting for Business:** Meeting for Business in the Brodbeck Music Hall will begin with a reading and a period of silent worship. Copies of the Annual Reports of committees and groups, Interim Meeting Minutes, and other documents were emailed to Friends prior to the beginning of Annual Session; are available on the Yearly Meeting's website; and limited printed copies are located inside the hall. This is core information about what the Yearly Meeting has done in the last year and explains a great deal about what goes on.

**Afternoon Workshops:** Sign-up sheets for afternoon workshops are near the BYM Information Table. Information about locations will be posted here and in the *Daily Minute*. If you wish to change your workshop you are free to do so, but please cross your name off the one you signed up for originally. Pay attention to whether there is a limit on the number in the workshop. Some workshop leaders may have sent information to Friends who signed up in advance, so please ask the workshop leader about changing.

**Interest Groups:** The need for an interest group can evolve quickly, based on issues that come to the business sessions. Check the *Daily Minute* or the BYM Information Table for the latest information on what Interest Groups are being offered each day. Try one—you might find something new and engaging! If you would like to offer an interest group, write a concise legible description including your name and the desired date and put it in the labeled manila folder on the BYM Information Table by 5:00pm the previous evening. The location of your Interest Group will be printed in the *Daily Minute*.

**Evening Produce Department:** Come join these intergenerational activities organized by the Young Friends Wednesday and Friday evenings beginning at 9:15pm. Check the *Daily Minute* for further details, including location.