

# Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## ANNUAL SESSION 2017: LISTENING, READY TO BE CHANGED

*Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk*

As usual, our Annual Session offered a wonderful opportunity to explore many concerns and interests, including care for the environment, welcoming refugees, and seeking diplomatic alternatives to military responses. In particular, a concern for racial justice arose at several points. We also heard the voices of Young Friends and Young Adult Friends leading us and holding us accountable.

On Wednesday, Bette Hoover and Marcy Baker Seitel led us in a highly engaging intergenerational plenary entitled *Nonviolence and Social Action for All Ages*. It began with one-on-one exchanges between younger and older Friends followed by a collaborative and creative activity in small groups, each with mixed ages. A large group of campers from Catocin Quaker Camp hiked 14 miles and camped overnight to participate, adding to the numbers of younger Friends who were attending Junior Yearly Meeting.

Our evening plenaries included a panel of experts discussing the various societal forces that contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline and Shan Cretin, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, sharing her personal experiences working on issues of race, poverty, and privilege. She shared that a Black Panther told her, “We black folks can take care of ourselves. Your white community needs to change.”

The report of our ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee shared about our ongoing efforts to become a more multi-generational and multicultural community. We are working on taking away the barriers to participation of Friends of Color and Young Adult Friends and working on engaging our local Meetings more directly and deeply in this work. We all need to discern how our

*Ready to be Changed continued on page 2*

## CARRYING OUR WORK TOGETHER: COME TO INTERIM MEETING

*Marcy Baker Seitel, Clerk of Interim Meeting*

After clerking Interim Meeting through the past year, I came to understand something more truly than I did before – very busy people sit in prayerful, hopeful silence for long periods of time so that the work of the Yearly Meeting can move forward all year long. There is deep love and commitment and joy when so many Friends worship on long Saturday afternoons.

For me, sitting still—finding stillness—was the hardest thing for me to learn when I first came to Meeting thirty years ago. I am still grateful to the Friends who bore my restlessness through my first visits to Adelphi Meeting. Later, I learned to sit still for Business Meeting, too – held on the same day as our regular Meeting for Worship! Holding anxiety, excitement, anger, eagerness, joy, disappointment (etc.), while sitting still in a group was for me a great accomplishment. It still is!

Why sit still? Because great things can happen. The

greatest thing for me is the feeling of my heart growing and changing during worship. Holding things in the Light and in the loving presence of other worshipers has helped me see things I couldn’t see in my “time torn” life, as Thomas Kelly says. In worship I have felt my heart and the hearts around me change as we have felt led to a decision for our community, even if it was not exactly what each of us would have wished.

When we allow ourselves to be touched by the Spirit’s guidance when sitting all together in Interim Meeting, we are in the center of our faith. We set aside our personal desires to embrace truths for our community. As equals, we join together with no intermediary between the Spirit and us. In fact, we sit with the knowledge that it will take all of us to discern our path forward. Our reach is wider in Interim Meeting and at Annual Session—beyond the scope of a single Local Meeting. No hierarchy – just a wider embrace of concerns.

*Working Together continued on page 3*



*Intergenerational Plenary*

*Annual Session 2017 photo by Jennifer Domenick*

## ANNUAL SESSION EPISTLE SOUGHT PROPHETIC MESSAGE

*Ready to be Changed continued from page 1*

Yearly Meeting moves forward in this work and what our individual roles will be.

Our Epistle Committee sought to find a prophetic message rising up from our gathering and on Sunday brought us a revision focused on racial justice. The prophetic message turned out to be as much for ourselves as anyone else. A Friend raised a concern about using the word “anti-racist,” feeling it better to focus on what we seek to create rather than on what we are against. We found unity in wanting the strongest possible language but were frustrated in finding what that would be. Then a Young Adult Friend movingly shared examples of racist behaviors she had endured at our Annual Sessions over the years. Her words cracked us open, exposing our

own brokenness, our need to heal relationships, and how far we have to go, individually and as a community, in eradicating the disease of racism that infects us. Her comments were appended to the epistle of Young Adult Friends.

Ultimately, we did approve the Yearly Meeting epistle that day. Then, some Young Friends shared their concern about differences in how Young Friends and the wider BYM conduct business. They noted the way “adult Friends squabble and quibble over wording” and how that so easily dilutes the original goal of the discussion. They observed a growing divide between generations in BYM.

May we all listen, ready to be changed by what we hear.

[All our epistles may be found at [www.bym-rsf.org/who\\_we\\_are/epistles.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/who_we_are/epistles.html).]

## Fall Family Camp Weekends 2017



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

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful camp properties at a special time of year. Individuals and families are invited to spend the day or the weekend at camp. Each weekend will have a program coordinator who will plan camp-type activities for Saturday and Sunday mornings, as well as Saturday afternoon and evening. These may include things like playing in the creek, crafts projects or hiking around one of the most precious places on earth. There will also be plenty of work projects to do! Work projects offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to enjoy some meaningful and satisfying work! We will enjoy meals together, have time to explore and even spend some time around a camp fire in the evening. Come and enjoy a camp experience, give the gift of your time, participate with children in activities and find yourself rejuvenated.

Fall 2017 Family Camp Weekends	
Shiloh Quaker Camp	September 22 – 24, 2017
Catoctin Quaker Camp	October 20 – 22, 2017
Opequon Quaker Camp	October 27 – 29, 2017

## MANY DECISIONS REMAIN TO BE MADE AT INTERIM MEETING

*Working Together continued from page 1*

We have a lot of decisions to make this year. We need to pass our annual budget for BYM since a budget was not ready to be considered at Annual Session. We will need to discuss thoughts and concerns in our community about our Growing Diverse Leadership work. We may need to decide how we would like to witness as Friends in the face of community and world events. We will need to make the decisions that help the work of BYM continue through the year. And we need to work on our business process so that it is more considerate and inclusive of everyone.

Participation is key. Please make sure that someone from your Meeting comes to Interim Meeting each time and then reports back to your Business Meeting. If no one can come, please read the minutes on line and follow what is happening. Encourage younger Friends and Friends of color to attend. We need to build a truer balance of Friends in all our Interim Meetings. Very simply, Friends processes work best when Friends participate in whatever way they can. Please come and find stillness and be part of Interim Meeting.

### 2018 BUDGET DELAYED TO OCTOBER INTERIM MEETING

Ordinarily the Stewardship and Finance Committee presents operating and capital budgets for approval at Annual Session. Instead, both will be brought forward at October Interim Meeting.

This decision was made based on review of the annual audit by BBD, BYM’s independent accounting firm. While the audit showed that BYM’s financial condition has improved overall, it also showed that there was an unexpected operating loss for 2016. This refers to the difference between our operating income (apportionment, camping and other fees, contributions) and our operating expenses.

The size of the operating loss led to a search for the cause, and the search ended with the understanding that the problem lay in the way we have included income received for capital projects in our operating budget. At this point we are revising the 2017 budget to correct that error and to determine the effect this will have for 2017, and we are looking for ways to reduce expenses for 2018 so that we can have a balanced operating budget for next year.

In addition, the Committee is working on changes to the budget to make it clearer and more understandable to the membership. The Committee clerks are available at any time to answer questions or respond to concerns: [sandfclerks@bym-rsf.org](mailto:sandfclerks@bym-rsf.org).

## Save the Date!!!

The 2018 BYM  
Women’s Retreat will take  
place January 26-28.

We will gather again at the  
Pearlstone Retreat Center in  
Reisterstown, Maryland.

Stay tuned for  
further information.



## ENJOY WEEKENDS OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WITH BYM'S YOUTH PROGRAMS

CONFERENCES FILLED WITH GAMES, WORKSHOPS, SPIRITUALITY, AND SMALL GROUP BONDING IN VARIOUS QUAKER MEETINGS IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

### 2017-2018 YOUTH PROGRAM CONFERENCE DATES

#### Junior Young Friends (11-13 years old)

November 4 - 5 - Adelphi Friends Meeting

January 13 - 14 - Location to be announced

March 17 - 18 - Location to be announced

May 4 - 6 - Opequon Quaker Camp

#### Young Friends (14-18 years old)

September 29 - October 1st - Goose Creek Friends Meeting

November 24 - 26 - Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

February 9 - 11 - Location to be announced

March/April TBA - Location and dates to be announced

May 25 - 27 - Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting

JYF Conference Registration: [www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/jyfs/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/jyfs/)

YF Conference Registration: [www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/yfs/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yfs/)

Contact Jossie Dowling, Youth Programs Manger for info: [Youthprograms@bym-rsf.org](mailto:Youthprograms@bym-rsf.org)



Junior Young Friends at Goose Creek Friends Meeting

## WORKSHOPS AT ANNUAL SESSION

Annual Session photographs by Jennifer Domenick



### You Are Needed to Work for Peace with Justice Ramallah Friends School, Palestine Friends United Meeting



#### Join 148 years of Quaker Testimony

Ramallah Friends School has been a beacon of hope since 1869. Quaker education in Palestine has survived and thrived under four national governments-Turkish, British, Jordanian, and Israeli. This year RFS served 1413 boys and girls from K-12.

#### What you can be part of:

- Conflict Resolution, both the teaching and practice
- Community Service and caring for others
- International Baccalaureate Program
- Special education
- Gender and Religious Equality
- Environmental Stewardship
  - Solar panels supply electrical needs
  - Organic gardens and a green house
  - Rain-water harvesting and storage
  - Grey-water Filtration System serves landscaping and the gardens

#### Long-term Position:

**Quaker Life Coordinator**-a new position requested by the Ramallah School community  
 Coordinate the Ethics Curriculum, K-12  
 Support teachers in the School's Christianity Curriculum  
 Manage the **Friends-in-Residence** Program  
 Be a listening ear for students and their families living under occupation  
 Deepen the understanding and practice of Quakerism by helping students, teachers, parents, staff, Board members, and the wider community understand and apply elements of Quaker faith and practice

#### Short-term Positions:

**Volunteers**, including **Friends-in-Residence/Chaplains**, 3-9 month commitment  
**Classroom teachers**, 1 year contract

Inquiries and applications will be received until the positions are filled. For more information and to submit a resume and cover letter, contact: Eden Grace, Director of Global Ministries Friends United Meeting 101 Quaker Hill Drive Richmond IN 47374 [edeng@fum.org](mailto:edeng@fum.org)

**Not led to this work? Find someone who is and offer financial support.**



### BYM Quaker Oaks

The Celts believed that the Oak tree is a symbol of strength and endurance, generosity and protection, justice and nobility, honesty and bravery.

The mighty Oak stands tall and strong. Its roots grow deep and its solid trunk supports its life and branches. The beautiful leaves provide shade and cooling. When the strong Oak tree's time is done its legacy continues.

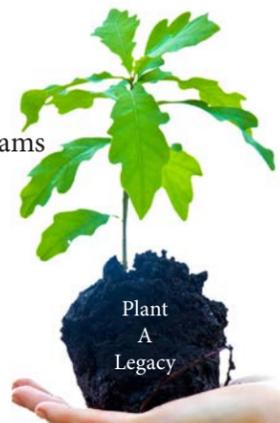
The Legacy gifts BYM receives from Friends provides sustainable support for the programs that matter. Take a moment to remember these special Friends.

Please consider what your desire might be to leave this type of lasting gift to support Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

If you have questions please ask Ann Venable or any member of the Development Committee.

Some of our Quaker Oaks who have had a lasting impact on BYM are listed below.

- Sue Thomas Turner
- Howard Fullerton
- Roberta Warren
- Gudrun and Wendell Williams
- The Greist Family
- Ethel Reynolds
- The Carey Family
- Miles White
- Pat Kutzner
- Mary Wood
- Emily Bayless Graham
- Barry Morley



### You Are BYM

The "You Are BYM" initiative was an idea from the Visiting Meetings group. The concept was to create ways to build the connections with local Meeting members as well as the larger Yearly Meeting community. Over the next year we will visit all 52 local Meetings. We will contact each Meeting to learn of your interests, concerns and leadings. We will then identify Friends from BYM and coordinate a visit to your local Meeting. Together we will have time to learn and share.



You Are BYM

The hope is to connect our broader community one to another. For additional information or to share your interests, concerns or leadings please contact Ann Venable, or visit [visit@bym-rsf.org](mailto:visit@bym-rsf.org).



**Catoctin Bathhouse Construction Completed June 2017!**  
*Campers, Staff and Volunteers LOVE the beautiful new facility.*



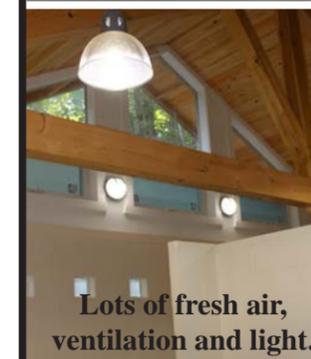
Two Non-Gendered fully Accessible Bathrooms



Environmentally Responsible Composting Toilets



Timbers from trees harvested from the site.



Lots of fresh air, ventilation and light.



Thank You from Catoctin Quaker Camp

The Catoctin Bathhouse construction is complete. The project is not. We still need to raise additional money to finish. Please consider contributing to this important project. Go to [BYM-RSF.org](http://BYM-RSF.org) and click supporting BYM.

### BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

There are several new developments at BFM worth mentioning: One is the “First Monday Events,” arranged by our Peace and Social Justice Committee. These are films, talks and panel discussions which we hold at the Bethesda Public Library and to which the public is welcomed. Recent events included a showing and discussion of the film “Before the Flood;” a talk and discussion entitled “A White Historian Confronts Lynching” with historian Susan Strasser; and “Help Reverse Global Warming” which included five short films and a discussion led by a carbon farmer, a policy expert, and a soil/ecosystem scientist. These events have been well-attended and well-received, usually drawing about half of its attendees from outside Bethesda Friends Meeting. We are grateful for these rich opportunities to connect with and reach out to the wider public. The other relatively new development at BFM is a new section on our web-page ([www.bethesdafriends.org](http://www.bethesdafriends.org)), written by our Environmental Sustainability Group. It can be found under the tab, “Faith and Action” on our web-page, and contains a wealth of information, inspiration, and links to outside resources. The Environmental Sustainability Group has been very active in our meeting, not only creating this rich resource, but also sponsoring workshops for us to inform, engage, and inspire us. We are also taking on a new project, which is being handled by an ad hoc committee: how to best digitize our records and how to use modern technology more effectively in the service of our Meeting.

### HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

Herndon Friends have come to understand the critical role of individual landowners (including Meetings) in determining the health of the ecosystem both locally and in the Chesapeake Bay. We have installed many native plants that support wildlife while beautifying our property. We applied for and were approved for a matching grant of up to \$3500 from the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program to replace lawn with conservation landscaping this fall.



Carey Lecturer Shan Cretin

Annual Session 2017 photograph by Jennifer Domenick



Ending the School to Prison Pipeline Panelists Annual Session 2017 photograph by Jennifer Domenick

We have formed an advocacy team to lobby members of Congress and are undergoing training from the Friends Committee for National Legislation. We have also joined Sanctuary DMV, an interfaith network which is dedicated to protecting immigrants and targeted communities in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

### HOMWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

Homewood Friends have a Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT), which is dedicated to the “greening of the Meeting”. On June 20th, the Meeting sponsored an advance showing of “From the Ashes”. This documentary explores the impact of coal mining, past, present, and future from a variety of perspectives – economic, environmental, climate, health, and social.

Forty people from eight congregations viewed the film and participated in a lively discussion after. “From the Ashes” premiered on the National Geographic Society channel five days later. More information can be found at [channel.nationalgeographic.com/from-the-ashes/](http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/from-the-ashes/).

In June, Homewood signed on to the Maryland Green Energy Jobs Initiative joining many faith groups including BYM, Adelphi Friends Meeting, and Bethesda Friends Meeting. One of the primary goals of this campaign is to commit Maryland to reach 50% of its energy generated from renewable sources by 2030. More information can be found at [www.cleanenergyjobs.org/sign/](http://www.cleanenergyjobs.org/sign/)

Also in June, Homewood was selected to join the One Water Partnership for the Jones Falls watershed. The fifteen partners participate in an environmental visioning program and pledge to implement activities that are Forming (education), Caring (measurable improvement), and Going Forth (engaging the broader community in earth and water care). We are very excited about this project and would love to share with other Meetings what we are learning and doing. More information can be found at [www.interfaithchesapeake.org/one\\_water\\_partnership](http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/one_water_partnership).

### HOPEWELL CENTRE MONTHLY MEETING

In keeping with the theme of this year’s BYM Annual Session, Hopewell Centre would like to report steps we have taken as a Meeting to “Grow Toward Justice” and “Act on Faith.” As 2017

began, our Minute denouncing “all speech that promotes, directly or indirectly, white supremacist ideology” was delivered to BYM and published in our local newspaper. In support of women’s rights, many of us attended the Women’s March in Washington, DC; others protested the travel ban and celebrated diversity at local rallies.

Members of our Peace & Social Concerns Committee participated in “The Day for All People,” in Richmond, sponsored by VICPP (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy), the oldest and largest faith-based lobby organization in Virginia. With the General Assembly in session, we met with legislators and lobbied to restore drivers’ licenses (instead of holding them ransom for court fees); and to shepherd through a bill to increase funding for mental health services in VA. At this present time, Hopewell Centre is even more keenly aware of – and thankful for — AFSC’s (American Friends Service Committee) peace-building work worldwide; and we recognize and support their valuable presence in nearby communities in West Virginia.

Next Steps: Peace & Social Concerns will explore “Sanctuary for Everyone,” educating us on immigrant regulations; on ways to best interact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials; and how other Meetings are dealing with immigrants’ rights. As a whole, Hopewell Centre Meeting, through Worship, Religious Education, and Community Outreach, strives for compassion and the courage to act as way and need opens.

We mark the passing of our beloved, lifelong Friend, Robert Pidgeon, who died on March 15, 2017 at the age of 92. Bob was with our Meeting for all of his life, and a seat in our Meeting House will forever be reserved for him.

### LANGLEY HILL FRIENDS MEETING

Community building, our children’s program, outreach, and exploration of Quaker Practice have all been prominent in life at Langley Hill.



Unity with Nature’s Trash Monster Annual Session 2017 photograph by Jennifer Domenick

Our community building Spring retreat, called “Nesting,” featured a session on non-violent communication, developing interest groups within the Meeting, and literal “nest building” groups, led by our children. One group actually “flew”

to Africa! Our committees continue their work with commitment, though as in many Meetings, our ranks are sometimes a little thin to do the work at hand. Our children’s program is growing and thriving as young families join our Meeting. The Outreach Committee has been very active, inviting people in many places to learn about



Junior Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2017 photograph by Jennifer Domenick

Quakerism and join us for meeting. Our adult RE program called “Quakerism Revealed” is an exploration of present day Quaker practice as it is understood and lived today at Langley Hill, as well as in the wider world of unprogrammed Friends. While using Quaker history as our reference point, we address the question of how our present corporate and individual spiritual practice informs the way we live in the world today. We try to listen to the Light to guide us in the midst of the clamor and noise in our everyday lives.

### MIDLOTHIAN FRIENDS MEETING

Midlothian Friends Meeting is enjoying the next few months preparing for our 30th anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 24th at our Meeting House at 900 Preservation Road, Midlothian, VA 23113. We hope Friends everywhere will consider joining us for this event while also enjoying our park-like grounds, located within a one hundred acre Preserve neighborhood. Directions can be found at [MidlothianFriends.org](http://MidlothianFriends.org). Here are the activities we will enjoy:

- 10:00am - Sharing memories, experiences, and advice about starting a Quaker meeting. Alternatively, Friends may prefer to visit our Meeting library while this discussion is in earshot. It is located just above our worship room in our balcony and contains many historical displays, pictures, and information about Quakerism; and Midlothian Friends Meeting’s historical ancestry in particular. For kids during the adult session: A nature walk that includes a visit to an adjacent llama farm after walking over a running creek.
- 11:00am - Worship in the manner of Friends. “First Day” (Sunday) School will be held in our Religious Education Building for toddlers and elementary/middle school kids.
- 12:15pm - Potluck lunch, followed by a wonderfully

delicious Ice Cream Social. Seating and tables will be on the large front porch of the Meeting House and on the back deck. Indoor seating for dining will also be available. Picnic tables and benches for dining are plentiful on the four acre grounds surrounding the Meeting House.

- **1:15pm** – Burial of a Time Capsule with artifacts on the grounds under a granite marker - for opening every 30 years in order to add future artifacts that future Quakers can enjoy - for hundreds of years to come!

Please come for any or all of the above events. If you would like to come but need overnight accommodations at the Meeting House in order to do so (indoors or camping in a tent/camper), please email [Quaker\\_Town\\_Crier@msn.com](mailto:Quaker_Town_Crier@msn.com).

### PATAPSCO FRIENDS MEETING

Part of Patapsco's submission was omitted in the last Interchange and it was not clear what we were talking about in one section. Here it is again: Patapsco has had two sessions in which we shared with each other our experience and leadings in these challenging times. Most recently, we had a worship sharing session in which people shared:

- How are Friends being led to act?
- What has the time since the election been like for you?
- If you are troubled, what troubles you the most?
- What's helping you through this time? What in the Quaker testimonies is helping you through?

Friends said they were disciplining themselves to pay attention to the present to things that matter besides pressing social concerns – for example, loving family and enjoying music. The negativity is hard to bear, and many of us are seeking way to counter messages of fear with hope. It is also helpful to remember we don't know the future. For now, we seek activities we can support that help build the blessed community.

As a Meeting, we have read and discussed the book *Active Hope*. We found our sessions encouraging, realistic, and helpful.

Our annual retreat in May was led by Marcelle Martin. The subject was "Deepening Our Experience of Worship Together." Marcelle helped us explore how to prepare for and deepen worship. Notes from the weekend are available on request from [susanhillrose@gmail.com](mailto:susanhillrose@gmail.com).

### PATUXENT FRIENDS MEETING

Over the years Patuxent Meeting has gradually built strong traditions around food — traditions that have a practical as well as a spiritual meaning.

A gentle reminder comes monthly from one member via Patuxent Friends' Google Group. This month's quote:

When we think about millions of hungry children, we don't think about America.  
- Kristen Davis

Thus, we are reminded to bring food that will be distributed to local families and persons facing the threat of hunger. The faithful member who reminds us will deliver our contributions where they are needed.

Today, we held our regular fourth first day pot luck. We nourished our spirits with our enjoyment of each other's company. We nourished our bodies with the delicious food we shared. One member brought a large box of produce from his garden to share also. A frequent topic at pot luck or other gatherings is alternative, healthy food preparation—it may likely be focused upon one of the dishes we are eating at the time. Thus we support each other in eating healthy and building a strong spiritual life.

Every month that has a fifth sixth day gives Patuxent another way to share. On those days, Patuxent provides dinner for 40+ persons who are homeless and sheltered at ECHO house nearby. A major effort for a meeting as small as Patuxent; those involved make it look easy.

The strength of these traditions bears witness to the spiritual well-be-



Coffee House performance Annual Session 2017 photograph by Jennifer Domenick



photo booth courtesy of Jennifer Domenick



Yearly Meeting Staff Members at All-Age Celebration photo booth courtesy of Jennifer Domenick

ing of the meeting. Frequently, we remind each other we are seeking to connect with that of God in each person encountered.

### ROANOKE FRIENDS MEETING

Quaker Earthcare Committee has met for over 10 years on the first Sunday of each month. A member has prepared a hearty soup for all the Meeting to enjoy and donate to a fund to fight the pipelines. The proposed pipelines are 42 inches in diameter and would cut swaths across Virginia to transport fracked gas. The committee also monitors and protests open burning of contaminants from the nearby Radford Arsenal (the worst water and air polluter in Virginia). From time to time Virginia Tech threatens to destroy a 10 acre site on campus of old growth forest, appreciated for its beauty and lab for forestry students. The committee has sponsored speakers and works with other community groups.

### SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING

Sandy Spring Friends Meeting has a new Community House. It took two years of construction and more than a decade of planning, but a great effort by the entire Meeting community has given us a refurbished Lyceum to use for a dining room and library, a renovated kitchen, and two whole new floors of First Day School classrooms.

In order to continue First Day School during construction, we met for nearly three school years in the old Ashton Meeting House, now located on the Sandy Spring Friends School campus. Our Friends shared their space with us, and we are grateful. Now we want to share our new space with our Friends. When you come visit Sandy Spring, you will find us in our Meeting House for both 9am and 11am Worship once again, and you may join us for First Day School, pot luck, and coffee hour in our new space.

As our Meeting celebrates its two hundredth anniversary this year, we reflect on all the Friends who have lent their hand to the construction of our community, brick by brick, heart by heart, moment by moment.

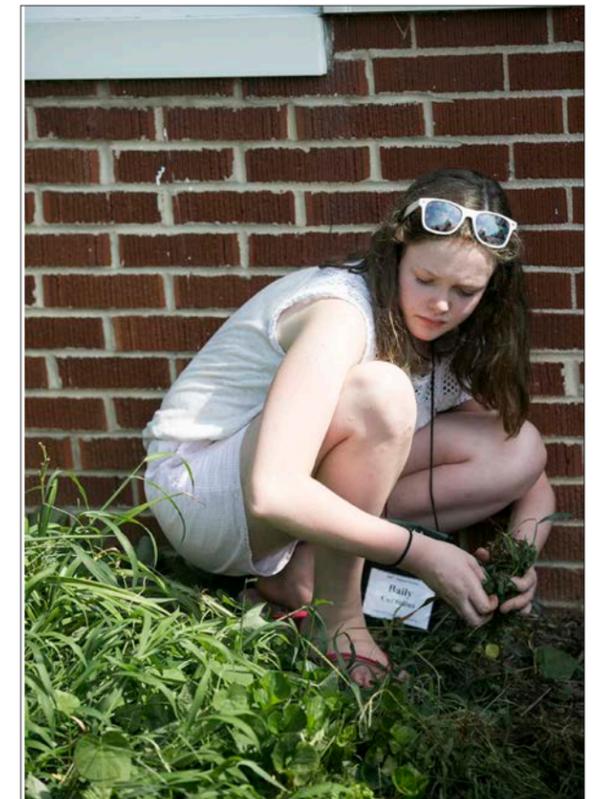
### WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

As West Branch Meeting looks forward to summer; we mourn the loss of Robert "Bob" Wriglesworth, a Quaker and community leader. On March 20,17 a great granddaughter Lila Claire Moslak was born to Marybeth and Jim. Proud grandparents are Lori and

Mike Rancik. Edward McGary was born to Nate and Kim McGary. We recently participated in our community Bible school, an event part of our Grampian days. Over 100 children attended daily and a special thanks to Sue Johnson and Walt Fry. We look forward to preparing and delivering fruit baskets to seniors and shut ins in December and Community Thanksgiving service. We continue to pray and provide for our friends and neighbors. Elliot Thorp, age 15 and a sophomore at Clearfield High School, has qualified for the National Math competition in Chicago. Jeff Wriglesworth and his daughter Elizabeth of Knob Farm received the Farm of the Year award from Clearfield County Conservation District. Note Knob Farm has been in operation since 1840. We continue to participate in Grampian Ministerium events. Concerns are the closing of the village elementary school, Relay for Life, politics, and the community. The Cemetery Committee has been commended for the addition of the cremation cemetery area and the chapel will be re-roofed this summer. We continue to support our community with prayers and gifts. Many have much, many more have less.

### WILLIAMSBURG FRIENDS MEETING

Williamsburg Friends have been enjoying their new Meeting House, which sits on the campus of the local Unitarian Universalist Church. A painting party with the UUs transformed all the walls in a single day, and Friends have contributed furniture, kitchen items, and a piano. We appreciate coming into a room on Sunday morning that does not need to be transformed from a school space to a worship space, and our spacious kitchen makes tea time and potlucks much more comfortable. Our new home truly feels like a Meeting House, and we have already utilized it for non-Sunday morning activities. Over the years we have often hosted BYM Friends who were visiting Colonial Williamsburg. Now we are eager to welcome visitors to our Meeting House at 3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg (worship at 10 AM).



Annual Session 2017 photo by Jennifer Domenick



*Junior Yearly Meeting children at Business Meeting Annual Session 2017 photograph by Jennifer Domenick*

## 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)

## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

[SEE THE YEARLY MEETING WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND OTHER EVENTS \(BYM-RSF.ORG\)](http://www.bym-rsf.org)

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 8 – 10 – Spiritual Formation Retreat at Priest Field Retreat Center
- 16 – Retreat for BYM Committee and Working Group Clerks at Langley Hill Friends Meeting
- 22 – 24 – Family Camp Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 29 – October 1 - Catoctin Quaker Camp 60th Anniversary
- 29 – October 1 – Young Friends Conference - Goose Creek Friends Meeting

### OCTOBER

- 14 – Tenth Month 2017 Interim Meeting at Homewood Friends Meeting
- 20 – 22 – Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 27 – 29 – Family Camp Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp

### NOVEMBER

- 3 – 4 – Junior Young Friends Conference – Adelphi Friends Meeting
- 23 – 24 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 24 – 26 – Young Friends Conference – Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

## STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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