

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

PARTY TIME!

... IN OUR QUIET QUAKER WAY

That was just one response we've heard to "why do you come to Annual Session?" Program Committee has been asking for your input as it explores changes to the Annual Session schedule. We want to hear from attenders and non-attenders alike to determine what is working and what can be improved to encourage even more people to participate. Please join this conversation by taking a very brief online survey at <http://goo.gl/3tAHyJ> or by contacting the Program Committee Clerk at barbariehill@gmail.com. We're listening!

There'll be a whole lot more listenin' goin' on at the 347th Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting this summer, and we hope you are planning to be there to lend your ears and your spirit. We'll meet at Hood College July 30-August 5, 2018 to explore the theme "Radical Listening, Rooted in Love." We will listen as Plenary speaker Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC General Secretary, and Carey Lecturer Colin Saxton, FUM General Secretary, each offer a perspective that draws on their own personal experience with spiritual formation and transformation. With Godly Play leader, Melinda Wenner Bradley, all ages will experience listening to stories as a tool for learning. A wide

range of workshops and interest groups will also carry out various aspects of the theme or give us a chance to experience listening for new ideas and making connections.

As registration for Annual Session begins, you may be interested in a few more of the responses we've heard so far on why people come. One person said "It's like a week-long summer vacation, even with the business sessions!" Another told us that "The fellowship

with Friends I rarely see helps me to clarify my own spiritual journey" and a third commented that "The new location is wonderful: close, dorms are clean and comfortable...very attractive surroundings, and food is very good."

We also heard that one person thought Annual Session was just for muckety-mucks. Nothing could be further from the truth! Annual Session is for everyone, whether for just a part of a day or for the whole week. It's for all ages. It's an opportunity for us all

to come together as one loving community and share in each others' gifts, leadings, experiences, and friendship.



*Annual Session Coffee House
photo by Jennifer Domenick*

INTO THE HANDS OF FAITHFUL GARDENERS:

A FAREWELL FROM BYM'S OUTREACH & INCLUSION COORDINATOR

Dyresha Harris, Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator

It was autumn when I started my role as BYM's Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator (OIC) in 2015 and I remember writing about the richness and possibility of harvest times. Since that time, we have been through many seasons together and accomplished a lot!

Through the OIC role, we have established STRIDE (Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments) groups in Baltimore, Charlottesville, DC, and Philadelphia, where young adults, including 43 STRIDE core members, have worked to increase equity, diversity, and inclusion in BYM camps. We have recruited, outfitted, and supported campers for 40 camper experiences, raising over \$90,000 toward camper tuition, and helped 6 counselors find

and contribute to camp. We've hosted over 20 STRIDE family events, 18 equity and inclusion trainings for camp staff, and 20 visits or collaborations with local Meetings. We've linked young adult STRIDE core members to the broader Quaker community including first time participants on BYM committees, Interim Meeting, and the Women's Retreat.

Simultaneously, the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee (GDLC) has worked to bring equity, diversity, and inclusion to our local and yearly meeting structures. Together, the Working Group on Racism, the OIC, and members of the GDLC have lead over 20 workshops

OIC continued on page 14

ANNUAL SESSION 2018 BEGINS JULY 30 FOR THE PRE-SESSION RETREAT

**REGULAR PROGRAMING, INCLUDING JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING, BEGINS TUESDAY, JULY 31 AFTER LUNCH
AGAIN THIS YEAR: CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO 8TH GRADE ATTEND FOR FREE!**

ANNUAL SESSION 2018 THEME

RADICAL LISTENING, ROOTED IN LOVE

It is a powerful discipline for the “listener” to try to listen without agenda, ... abandoning the need or desire to appear knowledgeable, wise or comforting. There may be no more tellingly difficult spiritual practice than the effort to receive what is being said by someone else hospitably, without editing, without correction, without unsolicited advice. Yet it is this open listening that makes room for the Spirit of God to be present ... --Patricia Loring, 1997

In times of crisis and discord, human instinct urges us to curl inward, to retreat into the familiar. Yet our faith tradition calls on us at precisely these moments to stand still in the Light, to open ourselves; for we know that without opening, rifts deepen and become fixed. At such times being rooted in love helps us surrender our defensive posture and step outward in an act of radical listening. Paul Tillich (Justice Power and Love) said, “In order to know what is just in a person-to-person encounter, love listens. It is its first task to listen.”

Listening deeply and unflinchingly to the spirit within, and in each other, can unlock a revolutionary love and uncover unexpected possibilities. Listening deeply to those who experience systemic injustice, as well as to those whose values seem antithetical to our own, can crack open our comfortable assumptions. Listening deeply to ourselves allows us to examine our biases, our fallibility, our own complicity, and to accept our own humanity. From this humble position, we can ready our hearts and ears to truly listen to another—to “lean in, softly, with a willingness to be changed by what we hear” (Mark Nepo). When we open to the humanity of a speaker, friend, or stranger, then we can see the other in us.

- What makes me reluctant to open to the other and listen?
- To what extent do I open myself to the risks of listening?
- How have I been changed by deeply listening to another?
- How does my own perception affect the way I understand what others say?
- How has loving and listening opened me to living my faith joyfully?

JOIN US FOR THE OPENING RETREAT AT ANNUAL SESSION 2018!

Deep listening helps us to “sink down to the Seed” planted in the soul, and creates a spaciousness in which that Seed can flourish. Through listening and being listened to, we come to know Spirit, ourselves, and each other in “that which is eternal.” This retreat will explore this kind of deep listening through different modalities. The three core teachers of the School of the Spirit’s Spiritual Nurturer program will lead participants in spiritual exercises designed to promote sacred listening and beloved community. These include structured large and small group sharing and listening, praying through expressive arts, journaling, and chanting.



School of The Spirit Teachers Erica Fitz, Evelyn Jadin, and Susan Kight

JOIN THE MORNING BIBLE STUDY AT ANNUAL SESSION

LED BY EVANGELINE (VONNIE) CALLAND

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY MORNINGS

Corporate Bible study is a creative endeavor that allows us an opportunity to access and experience together the “Spirit that gave forth the scriptures.” As Friends situated in time, we are called to engage the mysterious power of the scriptures while also living into a prophetic ministry for today. By engaging the theme of radical listening rooted in love, we will seek to listen to the scriptures in a fresh way and teach one another as the Spirit informs our personal and corporate spiritual and community practice. Central to our study will be exploring the eternal nature of Christ as expressed in

the Gospel of John, and how this can be a lens through which we better understand the scriptures and experiences of the prophets. Friends are welcome to attend one or more of our Bible study sessions this year.

Evangeline (Vonnie) Lynn Calland is a member of Charlottesville Friends Meeting who grew up in Friends Meeting of Washington. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Vonnie also practices as a Hospital Chaplain.

2018 PLENARY SESSIONS

TUESDAY EVENING PLENARY SPEAKER:

JOYCE AJLOUNY



Joyce Ajlouny joined American Friends Service Committee as General Secretary on Sept. 1, 2017. A transformative Quaker leader, Joyce brings to AFSC a depth of experience in strategic planning, financial and personnel management, fundraising, and communication spanning 27 years. Prior to joining AFSC, Joyce served as the director of the Ramallah Friends School in Palestine, where she led a diverse staff of over 170 educators and administrators for the past 13 years.

She spent the prior 14 years working in international development focusing on minority and refugee rights, gender equality, economic development, and humanitarian support. She served as the country director for Palestine and Israel with Oxfam-Great Britain, chaired the Association of International Development Agencies there, and worked as a program officer and project manager at various United Nations agencies. Joyce holds a master's degree in Organizational Management and Development from Fielding Graduate University in California.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ALL-AGES PLENARY LEADER:

MELINDA WENNER BRADLEY

Melinda Wenner Bradley currently serves Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as the Youth Engagement Coordinator, and previously served as the Children and Youth Field Secretary in New York Yearly Meeting. The journey of her work has woven together interests in children's spiritual lives, religious education program development, and how to support families in meeting communities.

She is a co-author of *Faith & Play*TM: *Quaker Stories for Friends Trained in the Godly Play*[®] *Method* and an accredited Godly Play trainer. Since 2010 she has worked with Quaker Meetings and Friends schools to support adults sharing these resources



with children and their communities. In 2014, Melinda co-founded the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC), a grassroots network of Friends holding a sense of stewardship for life-long Quaker faith formation through religious education.

She serves on the Steering Circle of QREC, and on the board of Pendle Hill Conference Center, clerking the board's Education Committee. Melinda is a member of West Chester Meeting (Philadelphia YM) and lives with her husband Matthew and their three children in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania.

FRIDAY EVENING CAREY LECTURER:

COLIN SAXTON

Colin Saxton is a recorded minister in Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM) and a member of North Valley Friends in Newberg, Oregon. Colin and his wife Janine are the parents of four grown children. Recently, Colin concluded his work as General Secretary of Friends United Meeting. He served this global community of Quakers since 2011.

Prior to joining the FUM staff, Colin was superintendent of NWYM for over seven years, spent 16 years in pastoral ministry and ten years as an adjunct professor at George Fox University and Seminary. He has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations including Right Sharing of World Resources, George Fox University, The Center for Peace Learning, Friendsview Retirement Community, Friends Mutual Health Group and others. He has had the privilege of traveling among Friends throughout the US and across the globe.

His educational background includes an undergraduate degree in psychology from Portland State University, a master's degree in theology/church history from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and a doctoral degree in leadership/spiritual formation from George Fox Seminary. During his seminary training in Virginia, he attended a BYM Meeting just outside of Harrisonburg.



ANNUAL SESSION 2018 EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WORSHIP SHARING

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

- In the “Experiment with Light” format, Friends will experience a guided meditation thought to reflect the worship experience of early Friends. The meditation prompts participants to focus on an issue of concern and to be guided by the Light in considering how to move forward. Following the meditation, participants will share about the experience.
- In a session led by Ruth Fitz, participants are invited to sing and chant. “We will listen and sing and wait to share together as we seek to be attuned to the Divine.”
- A “Family Friendly” worship sharing session will make space for laughter, movement, and other gifts of being in intergenerational community.
- Our Unity with Nature committee will hold a worship sharing session out of doors.

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

BIBLE STUDY

One of the joys of Annual Session for many Friends is participating in morning Bible Study (Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 8:15 – 9:15am). We are delighted that Vonnie Calland will be leading Bible Study this year. See the description on page 2 for details

WORKSHOPS

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

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups provide a great way to gather informally to focus on topics of interest to Friends and can greatly enrich your Annual Session experience. They can meet Thursday or Saturday at 4:15, or Friday at 6:15. Topics and locations are announced in the *Daily Minute*. Please share your request in advance with Barbara Thomas (bthomas60@comcast.net) to be sure to get a room. Since we can only have a limited number of groups at a time, there is a priority list for subjects:

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

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

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

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. See the Information Desk for submission instructions.

EVENING SINGING

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

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. Anne Greene will be organizing the Healing Center again this year, but the location will be moved to the lower level lounge in Shriner Hall where the atmosphere should be more relaxing and conducive to healing. If you are an interested healer, please contact Anne at annegreene@hushmail.com.

REGISTRATION

Friends who have registered in advance, and are paid in full prior to their arrival may collect their Welcome Packets (with room keys included) at any time by going to the Registration Desk and looking in the marked container. Friends arriving after the Registration Desk has closed for the day may call 443-602-1221 for assistance.

DESK HOURS

Monday:	12:00 pm - 2:15 pm 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Tuesday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm
Wednesday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm
Thursday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm
Friday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm
Saturday:	8:45 am - 9:15 am 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Register online now at

www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

LOOKING TO REDUCE THE COST OF ANNUAL SESSION 2018? Don't Forget that Children from Birth through 8th Grade Attend for Free!

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

1. **Ask your Local Meeting!**
2. **First-Time Attender certificates:** Each Local Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time adult attenders, or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free days at the Early Registration rate. Contact your Meeting Clerk!
3. **Junior Yearly Meeting Workgrants:** If you have experience and would enjoy working with children, JYM is a great "home" during Annual Session. You can have fun, be valued as an important part of the JYM staff community, and, as a bonus, you would also qualify for a work grant! Please take some time to consider this, and if you wish for more information, contact Ellen Arginteanu (ellenandjulesarginteanu@yahoo.com) or Carol Seddon (carolseddon217@gmail.com). If you are interested in serving as a Friendly Adult Presence (for Young Friends) contact Jossie Dowling (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org) for clearance and training.
4. **Tent space:** Tent space is an option available nearby at Frederick Friends Meeting, but must be separately requested by no later than June 30. Showers and bathroom facilities are available, as is an Electric Vehicle Charging Station. Contact Wayne Finegar (waynefinegar@bym-rsf.org) if you are interested. You should register as a commuter for Annual Session.
5. **Young Adult Friends:** Young Adult Friends aged 18-35 are invited to apply for financial assistance for Annual Session. This helps YAFs participate as fully as possible in the Yearly Meeting. Funds are limited, and are given out first come - first served, with a preference for BYM Committee members and officers. As much as 50% of the registration costs may be covered by BYM. This assistance cannot be combined with first-time attender certificates but may be combined with BYM work grants. If you would like to apply, please:
 - 1) Determine how much you can afford to pay,
 - 2) Apply to your local Meeting for assistance soon,
 - 3) If more assistance is needed from BYM, please get a letter from your Meeting stating the amount of assistance being provided and include it with your registration by the early registration date. (June 25)

50 CAMPERS * 50 DAYS

On June 30th the 2018 BYM Camping season will welcome campers from around the world. It will likely be another life changing summer of learning, challenges and growth. Some campers will need help bridging the financial gap to attend.

This year a 2-week session will cost \$1,500.00. In a few short days we will launch the BYM "50 Campers in 50 Days" initiative. We are raising money to support campers who need financial help to attend BYM Camps this year. Our goal is \$75,000.00

No one wants cost to be the reason a child is unable to attend camp.

Will **you** support a camper for 2 weeks so they can attend BYM Quaker Camp this summer? If you are able to give \$1,500.00 for one camper to attend for 2 weeks, go for it!

If \$1,500.00 is just too much, no problem, why not reach out to 10 or 20 of your closest Friends and Family and ask them to contribute? Lets work together this year. ***Join us and support BYM Campers in 2018!***

Go to <https://www.bym-rsf.org/giving/50-bym-campers-in-50-days.html> to make your gift to support campers today. Need more information, please call Ann Venable at 301-774-7663 or email her at annvenable@bym-rsf.org.



HELP BRIDGE THE GAP



HELP BRIDGE THE GAP



THANK YOU!

ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE CHANGES: PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

The Program Committee seeks your help to explore possible changes to the schedule of Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session that would make it work better for all of us. At Interim Meeting in Charlottesville on March 17th we began a conversation with Friends about what they value most about Annual Session. The committee wants to understand what draws Friends to Annual Session or keeps them from coming and why many Friends leave on Saturday, even though Annual Session continues through lunch on Sunday. Please join this conversation by taking a very brief online survey and inviting others to take it at <https://goo.gl/3tAHyJ>.

2018 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

CLMT—Deepening Quaker Community: Supporting Pastoral Care within Meetings (Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee): Join committee members to listen and share about Pastoral Care topics. What resources (workshops, book groups, experts) could help Meetings in their Pastoral Care work? Have Meetings already developed resources they'd be willing to share? **D**

T1—Listening to Spirit in the Natural World & Tree Walk: Sue Hunter (York): Tree communities have a special way of communicating and relating to their environment. Looking for and interpreting subtle non-verbal messages is a valuable tool that helps us listen to others. After a ½ hour presentation inside, we will spend an hour and a half outside participating in an educational tree walk on campus. *Sue is a career tree propagator, horticulturist and environmentalist.* **P**

T2—Legal Revolutionaries: Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson and the Assault on Jim Crow: Margaret Edds (Richmond): Margaret will discuss her new book: *We Face the Dawn: Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson and the Legal Team that Dismantled Jim Crow* (University of Virginia Press, 2018). The workshop will cover both historical material and strategies for addressing the re-segregation of public schools. *Margaret is an author and retired journalist.* **P**

T3—Pretrial Criminal & Juvenile Diversion: Alternatives for Better Outcomes: Phil Caroom and others (Annapolis): Pretrial diversion is an alternative to prosecution which can send appropriate individuals to problem-solving mediation, counseling, and treatment instead of traditional punitive prosecution. Find out how Friends can promote this process in our own communities. Receive an outline and fact sheets that could be useful in any local jurisdiction. *Phil is a retired Maryland trial judge, former prosecutor, and active advocate with experience supporting local and state initiatives. Other presenters have experience with mediation programs and mental health advocacy.* **D**



Multigenerational Plenary Session at Annual Session 2017

photo by Jennifer Domenick

T4—Confronting Racism: Peirce Hammond, Donna Kolaetis, Various Young Adult Friends: Young Adult Friends and the Working Group on Racism propose a workshop to discuss the need for BYM to name, acknowledge, expose, and confront racism as it has been and as it currently exists in BYM and U.S. society and what we will do about it. **D**

T5—Shape Note Singing: Barbarie Hill and Hank Schutz (Charlottesville): This early American music form combines religious poetry with acapella, four-part harmony to create a spiritual community in singing that is accessible to all. All who wish to participate, both newcomers and more experienced shape note singers, are welcome. *Barbarie has been singing shape note music regularly for about eight years. Hank is a trained musician and has many years' experience with shape note singing.* **E**

T6—Exploring Prayer: Barb Thomas (Annapolis): Using Richard Foster's book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, we will consider several types of prayer (e.g., healing, examen, petitionary, meditative), sharing experiences and concerns. We will conclude with worship sharing. *Barb took this course at FGC some years back and will use much from that, revising it for our audience.* **D**

T7—The Good Seed: A Taste of FGC's Spiritual Deepening Program: Traci Hjelt Sullivan (FGC, Green Street/PYM): We will reflect on the concept of the Good Seed, and then share our reflections. We will practice tender listening which opens up the channels of love. *Traci is on the staff of Friends General Conference, has lead this workshop many times among Friends, and first became a member at Langley Hill in the '90s.* **E**

T8—Images of the Holy: Listening in Tongues: Evelyn Jadin, Erika Fitz, Susan Kight (various): This workshop will use images, scripture, journaling, and small-group sharing to explore our experiences of, and language for, the Holy. We will practice "listening with the ears of the heart." Participants will gain a deeper understanding of their relationship to the Divine and improve ability to listen past the words. *The workshop leaders are core teachers for School of the Spirit.* **E**

T9—Sitting with Ambiguity: Lessons from Intervisitation: Joan Liversidge and Patti Nesbitt (Sandy Spring): Traveling ministry is a practice that BYM has revived to connect with the wider Quaker community to witness and honor, acknowledge similarities and differences, and engage in holy listening. Intervisitation Working Group will share experiences of our ministry of presence with attention to how this ministry may serve our troubled world. *Joan and Patti are active in the Intervisitation Working Group and have both traveled extensively in the ministry both internationally and in this country.* **P**

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.

T10–Listening Ministry in Meeting for Worship: Alex Bell (Bethesda): In Meeting for Worship, most of us rarely speak, but we are all listeners. Vocal Ministry needs both the speaker and the listeners to be complete. We will explore listening for Spirit as a discipline which needs to be practiced mindfully. *Alex is clerk of the Pastoral Care Committee at Bethesda Meeting, and gave this workshop at the 2016 Women's Retreat.* **E**

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

CLMF–Lowering Barriers to People of Color in our Meetings: David Etheridge (Friends Meeting of Washington): BYM is committed to removing barriers that prevent both the Yearly Meeting and its Local Meetings from realizing our vision of being more ethnically diverse. In this session Friends will connect, listen, and share with each other their experiences in working to removing those barriers. *David is on the BYM Growing Diverse Leadership Committee and is also Clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism.*

F1–Eating with Compassion: Dayna Baily and Mary Campbell (Penn Hill and Friends Meeting of Washington): We endeavor to listen to the needs of all life and find a way to eat that harms no one. In this workshop we'll explore the spiritual basis of our relationships with animals. Inspirational readings, worship sharing, some writing, and excellent vegan snacks and recipes. *Dayna and Mary are two active members of the Right Relationship with Animals Working Group.* **E**

F2–Sanctuary Everywhere: Bystander Intervention Training: Jacob Flowers (AFSC): Learn how to intervene in public instances of racist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, and other forms of oppressive interpersonal violence and harassment. Explore “do’s and don’ts” of bystander intervention and consider scenarios and how to respond taking the lead from the person being harassed. Learn how to teach and train others in these methods. *Jacob is the Regional Director for the U.S. South for the American Friends Service Committee.* **E**

F3–Hope for Rwanda: Jim Mustin (Charlottesville): Ihumure Association, a program led by a Quaker minister in Rwanda, practices



Multigenerational Plenary Session at Annual Session 2017

photo by Jennifer Domenick

radical listening modeled on AVP (Alternatives to Violence) and Compassionate Listening. Deep trauma and relationship healings have become common. Trauma healing and conflict resolution form a viable basis for sustainable farming, microcredit loans and clean water. *Jim Mustin, Co-director of African Peace Partners, has photographed and funded trauma healing in Rwanda and Burundi for the last 10 years.* **P**

F4–75 years of Quaker Advocates: Resources and Tools for Influencing Policy Now: Christine Ashley (FCNL, Bethesda): Since 1943, Quakers, through the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) have planted seeds of change for a more peaceful and just world. FCNL’s work addresses many Quaker concerns, from military spending, racial equality, and Native American rights to a healthy environment. Come explore how current legislative asks and public witness offer us opportunities to grow our light and might as Quaker advocates. *Christine is a Quaker activist and educator currently serving as the Quaker Field Secretary at FCNL.* **E**

F5–Best Practices for Virtual Committee Meetings: Erik Hanson (Sandy Spring): Does your committee meet via phone or video conferencing? What has worked well? What hasn’t worked? Come share your experiences and learn how to use some of the phone and video conferencing services available. Bring a laptop if you have one with you. *Erik is co-clerk of the BYM Nominating Committee.* **D**

PLANNING TO SET UP A DISPLAY

AT ANNUAL SESSION? HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

DISPLAY SPACE IS AVAILABLE
ON A FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE BASIS.

TABLETOP SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 3 FEET IN WIDTH.

RESERVE YOURS BY
E-MAILING YOUR REQUEST TO
BARBARA THOMAS (BTTHOMAS60@COMCAST.NET).

GOLF CART DRIVERS WANTED!

Program Committee is looking for volunteer golf cart drivers for Annual Session 2018. A driver's license is required. If you are interested in helping, please contact Martha Gay (marty-lou@gmail.com). Please include your contact information, the days you expect to be present at Hood College, and any prior experience ferrying people around in golf carts.

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.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please write the Charge Plan letter on the Registration Form

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

Plan A - Adult Double Room

	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	6 Nights
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Through June 25	\$105	\$210	\$315	\$420	\$525	\$630
After June 25	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600	\$720

Plan B - Adult Single Room

Through June 25	\$115	\$230	\$345	\$460	\$575	\$690
After June 25	\$130	\$260	\$390	\$520	\$650	\$780

Plan C - Young Friend

Through June 25	\$105	\$210	\$315	\$420	\$525
After June 25	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600

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

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

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

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

	\$20
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**PAYMENT INFORMATION:
EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE
June 25, 2018**

To Pay by Check:

Make check for at least **25% of TOTAL** payable to **Baltimore Yearly Meeting** when mailing completed forms

To Register online:

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

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

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

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860**

Refund Policy

If you cannot attend Annual Session and want a refund, your request (mail or email only) must be received by July 16.

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 16**

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
JULY 30 TO AUGUST 5, 2018**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)					7:00
8:00		Retreat (8:30-11:00)	Worship Sharing and Bible Study (8:15-9:15)	Worship (8:45 - 9:30)	Worship Sharing/Bible Study (8:15-9:15)	Walking meditation	8:00
9:00			Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting		9:00		
10:00		Worship	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)			MfW w/Concern for Business (10:00-12:00)	10:00
11:00			11:00				
12:00		Lunch (12:00 - 1:30)					12:00
1:00	Retreat Registration	Annual Session Registration	Annual Session Registration (1:15-1:45) Wednesday - Saturday				1:00
2:00			Siesta (1:15-2:00)				
2:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	MfW w/Concern for Business (3:00-5:00)	Plenary Session: Melinda Wenner Bradley	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
3:00			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)	3:00
4:00						4:00	
5:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30)						5:00
6:00	Annual Session Registration (4:30-5:15) Tuesday - Saturday						6:00
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Singing (6:15-7:15)			Interest Groups	Coffee House (7:30-10:30)	7:00
8:00		Plenary Session: Joyce Ajlouny	Committee Meetings	All Age Celebration			Carey Lecture: Colin Saxton
9:00			Produce Department		Produce Department		9:00
10							

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS AND LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

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

Young Friends who have attended a YF conference in the 2017-2018 academic year do not need to complete a new form. Young Friends also need to complete the Letter of Understanding, which is available in the same section of the Yearly Meeting website.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

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

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

YOUNG FRIENDS

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

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

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

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

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

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

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

ANNUAL SESSION 2018 WORKSHOP
DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUE

Workshops continued from page 7

F6–Soulful Singing: Ruth Fitz (York): All are welcome to join this circle of friends, singing rounds, spirituals, sacred chants, peace, fun, and world songs in the oral tradition. Singing together will energize our bodies and nurture our souls, with music that affirms our diversity, reflects our beauty, and celebrates our unity. *Ruth carries an embraced ministry of music from York Monthly Meeting, which supports her song leading throughout Baltimore Yearly Meeting, FGC Gatherings, and other settings.* **E**

F7–Listening for a Word: Letting the Bible Speak Through Metaphor: Erika Fitz (Lancaster/Phila YM): Early Friends often found fresh and profound new understandings of biblical images. How might scripture be similarly “opened” for us? After reading some examples of metaphorical interpretation, we will use lectio divina, journaling, and group sharing for one passage to see how its images might illuminate our own experiences. *Erika holds an MDiv and a PhD in Hebrew Bible, has taught Biblical languages and literature at the college and seminary level, and is currently a core teacher for the School of the Spirit.* **E**

F8–A Conversation About Listening from our Spiritual Center: Sheila Kryston and Debbi Sudduth (Goose Creek): Is it becoming harder to listen in our divided world? What gets in the way of our good intentions? How do I listen when everyone is shouting? Do facts matter? In this workshop, we will share our experiences and practice listening to where the words come from and listening more deeply. *Sheila and Debbi are mental health professionals who have done numerous workshops on listening, including AVP workshops.* **E**

F9–Traveling Ministers Down Under and in Northern Europe: Patti Nesbitt and Michael Conklin (Sandy Spring): Patti and Michael went outside their comfort zones to listen, learn, and serve as they traveled under the care of Sandy Spring Friends and BYM, visiting Friends during 2016-2017. They will share experiences as Resident Friends in New Zealand and traveling ministers in Australia, the UK and Sweden. *Patti is a graduate of the School of the Spirit and active in BYM for years. Michael is a retired wandering librarian with years of international service.* **P**

F10–Connecting Quakerism in the Classroom: Jen Cort (Sandy Spring): Educators in Friends schools are asked to teach their content within the beliefs and practices of Quakerism. However, Quaker schools often have few (and sometimes no) Quakers working in them. This workshop explores easy ways to connect Quakerism to curriculum, content, community, and conflict. *Jen has over 25 years of experience in Quaker schools and currently consults on connecting equity, inclusion, and Quakerism to core curriculum and content.* **P**

F11–Zen and Quakerism: Victor Thuronyi (Adelphi): This workshop explores Zen’s approach to truth, compatibility with



*Capture the Flag at Annual Session 2017
photo by Jennifer Domenick*

Quakerism, and a number of fundamental Zen concepts, as well as the role of meditation. We will discuss implications for Meeting for Worship, a number of Zen and Quaker readings and do ten minutes of walking meditation. *Victor is a tax lawyer and tax policy expert, and practices Zen occasionally with a group in Takoma Park.* **P**

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

CLMS–Sharing Regional Friends Initiatives on Immigration (Working Group): In 2017, BYM formed a Working Group on Refugees, Immigrants and Sanctuary. What’s happening in your meeting? What would you like to see happen? Let’s share ideas and support one another in our continuing efforts to empower those most vulnerable among us.

S1–Personal Energy Choices for a Clean Tomorrow: Bob Brunninga (Annapolis): We all face significant energy decisions in our lives when we need a new car, or the furnace or AC or water heater breaks down. Be prepared to make the right decision for clean energy and save money too! *Bob lead Annapolis Meeting into solar and replacing propane with a heat pump to reduce our carbon footprint to near zero and save us \$3000 a year.* **P**

S2–Black People’s Contribution to Quakerism: Cuffee & Others; St. Clair Allmond a.k.a Brother Ace (Richmond): To illuminate how the Negro presence has shaped American Quakers directly and indirectly both individually and institutionally. We will focus on the role of New England families and Mid-Atlantic friends of Friends and of African descent. We’ll also look at reform and reconciliation contexts as well as reparations and repatriation constructs. *St. Clair is a black Quaker.* **D**

S3–Conversations with the Other: How to talk with those we differ with politically: J.E. McNeil (Friends Meeting of Washington): Our political system is broken. Besides the purely political work that needs to be done, there is more: we must work to bring our country back to a broader consensus. This workshop will explore one path toward that goal of learning how to communicate better with people with whom we disagree. *J.E. is an attorney with*

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.

a masters in conflict transformation, and experience with diverse groups, who has given many workshops. E

S4—Life Lessons I have Learned as a Mediator/Conflict Resolver: Ramona Buck (Patapsco): There are many important lessons that I have learned from mediating that can be used in daily life. These lessons are also in line with deep listening and with our Quaker faith. Included will also be interactive exercises. In a sense, we are all mediators, all the time. *Ramona has been a mediator since the 1980's and currently is a federal government mediator. D*

S5—Tools for Effective End of Life Conversations: Katherine Cole and Patti Nesbitt (Herndon and Sandy Spring): Dying in America is often a medicalized and technical process, requiring people to make difficult, unfamiliar decisions about medical interventions at the end-of-life. This workshop provides resources to have difficult conversations about very personal wishes and values at the end. All ages welcome. *Katherine is a family physician and Patti is a palliative care nurse. E*

S6—Guided Meditation on the Bible: Jerry Knutson (Monongalia): We will read passages from the Old Testament about meditation and read passages from the New Testament that will help us to unite with God and rejoice in that union. We will experience these passages in a guided meditation--using the Bible for radical listening and love to God. *Jerry has an MDiv from Earlham School of Religion, travels in the ministry under the care of Orlando MM, and has presented many workshops for BYM. E*

S7—Prayer and Radical Listening: Traci Hjelt Sullivan (FGC, Green Street/Phila YM): We'll look at different names for the Mystery, and experiment with first writing and then sharing individual prayers. Listening to each other's authentic prayers is a powerful way to practice radical listening. Not sure what prayer is or if you believe in it? Come and experiment! *Traci is on the staff of Friends General Conference, has lead this workshop many times among Friends, and first became a member at Langley Hill in the '90s. E*

S8—The Great Quaker Debate of 1672-- How Argument Can Cloud Understanding: Deborah Haines and Tad Jose (Alexandria): In 1672, Roger Williams challenged George Fox and other leading Quakers to defend their beliefs and practices - the Great Quaker Debate of 1672. We'll present portions of the debate from original sources and demonstrate how people misunderstand and misinterpret each other. *Tad and Deborah have done this workshop in various formats for 5 years at BYM. P*

S9—Tools for Traveling Ministers: Clearness Committees and Travel Minutes: Linda Coates and Beth Gorton (Eastland Preparative and New England YM): Do you have a desire to travel among Friends? Intervisitation Working Group will lead you through the nuts and bolts of the clearness process for travel under the care of the Monthly and Yearly Meeting including the roles of elder and minister, the discernment and clearness process, and the travel minute. *Both Linda and Beth are active on the Intervisitation Working Group and have traveled extensively to other yearly meetings with a travel minute for several years. P*



*Annual Session All-Age Celebration
photo by Jennifer Domenick*

ANNUAL SESSION BOOKSTORE NEWS!

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

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

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



Members of the ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee

CHANGE GROUPS DEVELOPING AT LOCAL MEETINGS

OIC continued from page 1

in local, Quarterly, and Interim Meetings, and Annual Session, and supported the development of “Change Groups” in 1 out of 6 local Meetings. We have conducted 3 focus groups with Friends of color in local Meetings and done considerable other research to create both a webpage and binder of resources to support these groups and other local Meeting efforts.

There is much to feel good about. Not only is change possible, it is happening. I am so grateful for all of the folks who have jumped in to cultivate this change whether through the hours and energy of STRIDE, GDLC, and local Meeting members; the resources of donors and volunteers; the brave voices of young and young adult Friends; the trust of new families, or the work of camp staff to be worthy of that trust. These contributors have been the faithful gardeners tending to the growth of Beloved Community and I have been proud to toil

alongside them.

We know also that our work is far from done. As the warm weather arrives, my thoughts turn again to the season. Spring is a time of hope, but also of vulnerability. Through the GDL program and OIC role, we have seen new growth appear in our community. This has shown us that the seeds of Beloved Community can indeed take root in this soil. However, we now face a choice. As the Shoemaker-supported portion of this work draws to a close, what will we do with these tender shoots that have pushed forward? Will we let them wither from neglect? get trod over with other concerns? be plucked up to make the soil available for something else? As I leave the OIC role, I stake my faith in the idea that these seedlings can instead be tended and supported to grow into strong trees that bear their own fruit. So let this spring be the season that we all recommit to becoming gardeners of this Beloved Community together!

For more information on the Growing Diverse Leadership initiative check out our webpage on the BYM website or go to the direct link www.tinyurl.com/STRIDEon to donate.



Eleventh Month Interim Meeting Diversity Workshop

OPEQUON QUAKER CAMP

40TH AND 20TH REUNION

SEPTEMBER 28TH - 30TH 2018

THIS SUMMER MARKS THE 40TH YEAR SINCE THE FIRST SUMMER OF
CAMP OPEQUON ON THE PIGEON PROPERTY
AND WE WILL BE ENTERING THE 20TH YEAR OF THE OPEQUON QUAKER ARTS CAMP!!
JOIN US FOR THIS HISTORIC CELEBRATION



For a weekend of reminiscing, singing around the campfire, camp activities, great camp food, and catching up with old friends.

All camp alumni from both versions of BYM Camps at Opequon are encouraged to come and BYM Camps alumni and friends of BYM Camps are also welcome.

For more information and to register, visit www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/oqcalumni.html

BYM NEEDS A NEW CARETAKER AT SHILOH QUAKER CAMP!

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is seeking applicants to fill the position of Caretaker at Shiloh Quaker Camp in Standardsville VA.

The Caretaker is the onsite arm of the Camp Property Management Committee (CPMC). He or she provides a year-round presence at the camp, cares for the facility, and makes it ready for summer camp and for the groups who rent the facilities in spring and fall. The Caretaker should be an individual who enjoys living in a remote area and who is willing to work within the Friends process of decision-making. The caretaker should be a self-starter who enjoys initiating projects in consultation with a committee and the Camp Property Manager (CPM).

This position offers an opportunity to employ a broad range of skills. Strong applicants will possess these skills or demonstrate a willingness to acquire them. These skills include, but are not limited to, good social skills, safe operation and maintenance of equipment such as a riding lawn mower and chain saw, and safe operation of light machinery and vehicles. A valid driver's license is required and a B Class CDL with a passenger endorsement would be an asset. Carpentry, mechanical, electrical and plumbing skills are also needed.

This is a halftime position. Housing is provided and onsite residence is required.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting consists of more than 4500 Friends organized into 42 Monthly Meetings and 10 Preparative Meetings, Indulged Meetings, or worship groups stretching from southwestern Virginia to central Pennsylvania. BYM focuses strongly on youth activities, including camping programs that develop a sense of spirituality in

nature. BYM also offers adults opportunities to deepen their religious understanding through retreats, workshops, and other events.

BYM does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national or ethnic origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

To apply please send a resume, cover letter of interest, three references and permission to do background check to campproperty@bym-rsf.org, or to:

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Office
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring MD 20860
Attn: David Hunter

Please apply before June 15, 2018. Our goal is to fill the position before July 15, 2018. A draft job description is available at www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/campproperty/caretakerjob.html or a copy can be requested by emailing campproperty@bym-rsf.org.



Shiloh Quaker Camp Caretaker's Residence (the Blue House)

COMMITTEE NEWS

INTERVISITATION WORKING GROUP

IWG now has 13 Friends engaged in our work of reaching out to the wider Quaker family to strengthen the bonds and honor the similarities that connect us all. While at first the IWG began focusing on Meetings within the Friends United Meeting family, we have expanded to reach beyond FUM Meetings to include other worshiping communities in the broader Quaker fellowship worldwide. Our focus has shifted to reconstructing the center of Quakerism and help reduce splintering, to offer a ministry of presence, and to reintroduce the historical practice of traveling ministers. Our mode is to show up and listen actively, to be ready to be used by Spirit as needed where we are led, and to go with open hearts and no agenda. Our hope is to reduce the separation and isolation between Friends where there are theological and/or political differences, by honoring diversity, validating differing persuasions, and speaking truth lovingly.

This calendar year, our members have already traveled to Kenya, Belize, and Durham, NC. We anticipate travel to upwards of 10 other Yearly Meetings this year. We have again invited several Yearly Meetings to send visitors to our Annual Session. Additionally, some Friends have expressed a preference to travel more locally and to reach out to some smaller or more distant Meetings among BYM.

We have encouraged use of clearness committees to clarify Friends' leadings and Travel Minutes that document their Meeting's support of their ministry. Three such Travel Minutes were endorsed by Interim Meeting in March.

IWG is sponsoring 3 workshops during BYM Annual Session. We plan to offer one of those workshops at least two other times this year within our Yearly Meeting, once somewhere in SW Virginia in Fall 2018 and later up north in Pennsylvania next spring.

Spring Family Camp Weekends 2018

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.



Our next meeting date is planned for May 12 at 10:00 to 1:30 in Sandy Spring. All are welcome. We welcome the opportunity to use the new Zoom technology to include others who are not able to join us in person. Inquiries to pattines04@verizon.net.

WORKING GROUP ON RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS

Members of our Working Group have been reaching out across BYM to season a minute on our relationship to animals used for food. We are available to lead discussions and worship sharing at local Meetings. For anyone who is unable to attend one of these discussions before Annual Session, we suggest reading Pendle Hill Pamphlet #440: Enlarging Our Circle of Love.

Spring 2018 Family Camp Weekends

More information is available at <https://bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/>

- Shiloh Quaker Camp April 27 – 29, 2018
- Catoctin Quaker Camp May 18 – 20, 2018
- Opequon Quaker Camp June 1 - 3, 2018

ALEXANDRIA FRIENDS MEETING

Woodlawn Friends Meeting recently had a series of presentations by member Wayne Jonas, on the topic of his forthcoming book *How Healing Works*. Dr. Jonas draws on forty years of research and patient care to explain how 80 percent of healing arises from outside the doctor's office – by drawing on sources of healing from the whole person - physical, behavioral, social and spiritual. With stories from his medical practice and simple illustrations, Dr. Jonas lays out a revolutionary approach to healing and health, detailing how we can tap into our natural ability to heal. His well-tested advice will transform the way we use health care and, ultimately, our day-to-day health and wellness.

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Bethesda Friends are thrilled to report that the refugee family we are helping arrived here on March 27. Some of us greeted them at the airport and drove them to the apartment which others had furnished

and supplied for them; others brought over a welcome dinner. One member took them to the kite-flying event on the mall the Saturday after they arrived, and another member took them to see the cherry blossoms. Interspersed with these fun activities there has been a great deal of work – though very pleasurable work – to orient them to their neighborhood and the transportation system, help them shop for food and clothing, get their young children registered for pre-K and Head Start, get them signed up for medical assistance, get them social security numbers and identification, work on getting a driver's license for the husband, and work on getting a job for the husband. The family is delightful – friendly, hard-working, and eager to start life anew here. We on this team are so heartened by the level of energy, cooperation and positive spirits with which we have all worked together, and with the deep pleasure of getting to know this family and help them get settled. On a different note, on Sunday April 22, we will be holding our annual Spring Fling at Bethesda Friends Meeting to raise scholarship money for Ramallah Friends School, and many people are also working very hard to make this year's event a great success. It is a deep pleasure to know that we can help send several young children to Ramallah Friends School who otherwise could not have attended.

BLACKSBURG FRIENDS MEETING

Walking in the Light

Once a week a group of five to eight Quakers with another church included, walk for about three miles along the Huckleberry Trail outside of Blacksburg. In the winter the group meets midafternoon; with longer light in the summer, time changes to evening. Dogs are welcome. The walk includes friendly conversation, enjoyment of the natural beauty, the coal heritage site and an occasional train. Age ranges from college students to oldsters who sometimes need to sit on a bench while the rest of the group charges on. It is an enjoyable midweek Meeting for Sharing.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Charlottesville Friends began 2018 as we have for several years by hosting homeless women for dinner and overnight during a two-week period in January. This year the women's experience was enhanced by our new shower facility which we had installed last spring when we decided to become a sanctuary community.

We continue to support Elizabeth Shillue in her ministry for racial justice through Beloved Community Cville (see the web site at <http://www.belovedcommunity-cville.com/>). With the backing of Friends, she brought back the film *I'm Not Racist...Am I?*, and it was presented in twenty different venues in the Charlottesville area during February.

In anticipation of more white-supremacist activity in our town in the coming months, the Meeting has

Celebrating Native Americans Today

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. October 13, 2018
Sandy Spring Friends School (Yarnall Hall)

FOR ALL AGES

Film Festival
Dancing
Drumming
Food
Art Exhibit
Craft Vendors

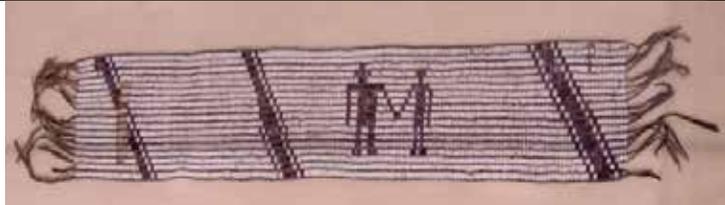
Speakers

Piscataway Mobile Museum
American Indian Society
Tribal Leaders

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

Sponsored by the BYM Indian Affairs Committee

Put the afternoon of Oct 13th on your calendar



formed a rapid response team who will remain in contact with other local groups and plan to meet whatever challenges arise.

In March we took on the task of hosting BYM Interim Meeting and enjoyed very much welcoming attendees from around BYM to Tandem Friends School and to our Meeting House for the day.

GOOSE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Goose Creek Meeting hosted its second Harping for Harmony concert, featuring harp soloist Nicolas Carter, in March. The Harping for Harmony Foundation's mission is "to promote harmony and community, locally and globally, through harp music." Most of its artists and much of its music is Latin American. Stay tuned for more harp concerts at Goose Creek and elsewhere.

Goose Creek Friend and orchardist Eliza Greenman will present a session on pollarding at the Meeting House on June 10, 3pm. This ancient method of pruning trees can result in a sustainable supply of timber for many generations while enhancing a natural state for wildlife and native plants. Please join us!

HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

In February, J.E. McNeil spoke during our First Hour on the topic of Conscientious Objection. We have recently changed the name of this First Hour (formerly known as "Adult Discussion"), and are actively seeking to involve our youth in these discussions. We created a new committee for Communication and Outreach, and are pleased to have youth representation on that committee as well as on our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Peace Awards Committee, and House and Grounds Committee. Our Greening Committee led a discussion on our carbon footprint in March, kicking off two months of a "Carbon Footprint Game," in which we put stickers on a giant footprint each time we commit to another lifestyle change.

HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

The rhythms of our lives together flow on. We celebrated the marriage of Jack Neill, son of Rachael and Charlie Neill, and Mepi Meyers in a specially called Meeting for Worship at Homewood on



Annual Session 2017 All-Age Celebration
photo by Jennifer Domenick

December 16th, 2017. And we are preparing to celebrate the life of our long time member Noelle Zeltzman in a Memorial Meeting for Worship on April 29th at 2:00 PM. Noelle died on Friday, March 23. With her coppery hair and blue eyes, Noelle graced many of our lives over the years, particularly in her work with the children in the Meeting. Our Christmas plays continue to use splendid sets that were made under Noelle's guidance, and at Easter, the children blew eggs and did Russian egg painting, adding rebellious vivid color to Easter that would have scandalized our grey clothed ancestors. Noelle and her departed husband, Michel, were important members of a generation of Homewood Friends that shaped the character of our Meeting.

Six volunteers from Homewood, led by Cathleen Hanson and Bess Keller, engaged 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students at Guilford, a Baltimore City public elementary school, on four Friday mornings in February and March. The group introduced the practice of focused-attention meditation, which can help students with focus and emotional regulation. This pilot program was received well by teachers and students. The volunteers hope to be able to offer and expand this type of program at Guilford Elementary School in the next school year.



Annual Session 2017 All-Age Celebration
photobooth provided by Jennifer Domenick

On April 6th, the Meeting's Working Group for the Arts showcased the talents of two Homewood artists. This included a film by Homewood attendee Exsul Van Helden, which sheds light on the experience of immigration and three short films by member Dominique Zeltzman.

- Titled "Women between Worlds", Exsul's movie is a 30 minute documentary concerning the challenges faced by women who have immigrated to the United States and find themselves between cultures.
- Dominique's shorts have won her recognition in the Baker Awards. This set featured three wonderful videos that Dominique made that illuminate the life of her mother, Noelle who is noted above.



*Annual Session 2017 All-Age Celebration
photobooth provided by Jennifer Domenick*

PATUXENT FRIENDS MEETING

Patuxent Meeting Friends continue to find additional ways to explore and expand upon its concern for the environment and for those in our community who are uncertain about their next meal.

Friends were enthusiastic in their responses to a recent proposal to purchase a share from the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) in our county. We already support a local food pantry; the produce we receive from the CSA would be contributed to this local food pantry.

One Friend has begun attending meetings of the Sustainable Calvert Network to represent our meeting. The Network is a coalition of county organizations that seeks to fully integrate farming fishing, natural and cultural resources along with economic and societal needs. It currently is holding forums to inform residents, especially candidates for elected office of the importance of rural land. It supports measures to increase the amount of preserved land, to support the "eat local" movement and to increase the opportunities for eco-travel as well as passive recreation. Eco-travel or active recreation in nature as well as passive recreation (just being in nature) are keys to better community health. These are just a few of the elements that the Network supports to improve the environment of the area.

We are fortunate to have a Friend attending on our behalf.

WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

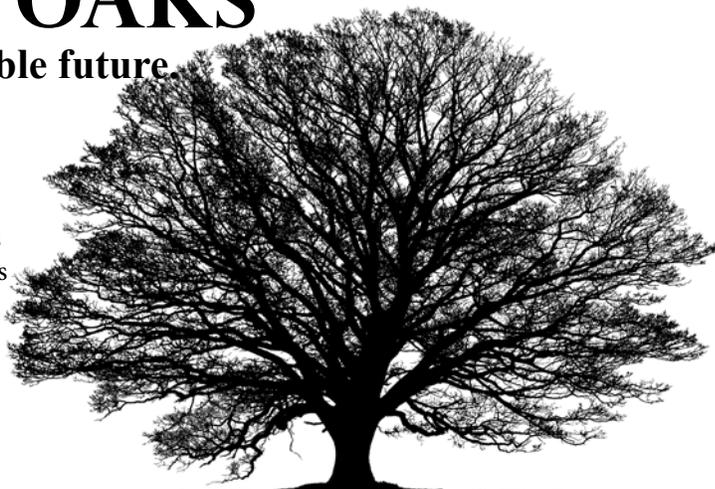
West Branch Meeting welcomed a new member on January 23, 2018. Beau David McGary, son of Justine and Adam McGary. Beau is another one of our new birthright members. West Branch is looking forward to Relay for Life, and Vacation Bible school: an interdenominational program for adults and youth in Grampian. We have also participated in interdenominational Lenten services and Good Friday service in Grampian. Currently we are offering prayer, food bank, and financial support to several individuals and families with life threatening illnesses and other unfortunate circumstances. Many have much, many more have less.

BYM QUAKER OAKS

A planned vision for a sustainable future.

Today, perhaps more than any other time in recent history, assuring sustained growth and a viable future for the BYM Quaker community is vital. The current climate of political instability, issues around equity, diversity and inclusion, mass incarceration, gun control and many other concerns and cries out for a Quaker perspective. The BYM Quaker community knits together 51 Local Meetings, four camping communities and 6,500 Friends across the Mid-Atlantic region into the larger Religious Society of Friends.

The impact of the whole BYM Quaker community can be powerful. Help to assure this legacy of Friends.



What will your legacy be among Friends...

How you can create your lasting legacy:

- Name Baltimore Yearly Meeting in your will or trust.
- *Gift from your retirement.
- *Gifts of stock or appreciated assets.
- Gift of Life Insurance.
- *Invest in a Charitable Gift Annuity.
- *Create a Charitable Trust

**May have tax benefits for you and your family in 2018. Call Ann Venable at 301-774-7663 or email her at development@bym-rsf.org for additional information, or go to www.bymrsf.plannedgiving.org/bymrsf/giving/1.html.*

Coming at the 2018 BYM ANNUAL SESSION: Learn how creating a Donor Advised Fund in 2018 may provide the tax benefit you need this year.

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 17100 Quaker Lane
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BYM 2018 APPROVED BALANCED BUDGET FUNDRAISING: \$710,800.00
 As of April 17, 2018 - \$53,471.32 RAISED.

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

MAY

- 4 – 6 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 12 – Peace and Social Concerns Committee Networking Day at Friends Meeting School
- 25 – 27 – Young Friends Conference at Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting
- 28 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed

JUNE

- 9 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting at Frederick Friends Meeting

JULY

- 4 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 29 – 31 – Nuts and Bolts Committee Conference (Steering Wheel) at Frederick Friends Meeting
- 30 – 31 – Annual Session Pre-Session Retreat at Hood College
- 31 – August 5 – Annual Session 2018 at Hood College

AUGUST

- 6 – 12 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed

2018 BYM Camp Registration Is Open!

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Kenneth “Ken” Stockbridge	Presiding Clerk ymclerk@bym-rsf.org	Dyresha Harris	Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator oic@bym-rsf.org
Martha “Marcy” Baker Seitel	Clerk of Interim Meeting imclerk@bym-rsf.org	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Manager janemegginson@bym-rsf.org
Thomas “Tom” Hill	Treasurer treasurer@bym-rsf.org	David Hunter	Camp Property Manager davidhunter@bym-rsf.org
Ned Stowe	General Secretary nedstowe@bym-rsf.org	Jossie Dowling	Youth Programs Manager youthprograms@bym-rsf.org
Wayne Finegar	Associate General Secretary waynefinegar@bym-rsf.org	Amrit Moore	Administrative Assistant amritmoore@bym-rsf.org
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Ann Venable	Development Director development@bym-rsf.org		