

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

CLEARING THE WAY FOR COMMUNITY: INTERIM MEETING WORKSHOP EXPLORES RACIAL BIAS AMONG FRIENDS

Dyresha Harris, Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator

We are each others' birthright; we were born wanting, deserving, and expecting to connect with any and all human beings on the planet. Just look at babies and how they lock eyes with anyone in their midst, expecting to see and be seen. Over time we are taught (whether through fear, hurt, discomfort, or a sense of superiority/inferiority) to look away from each other. However, it is possible to reclaim our connection by examining the things that interfere with it. This was the impetus behind the workshop Clearing the Way for Community: learning to recognize, understand, own, and respond to everyday forms of racial/ethnic bias among Friends held at November's called Interim Meeting.

Discussions of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee (GDLC) with Friends of Color indicate that the biggest challenges in the Yearly Meeting are not overt acts of racism, but rather recurring biases that



*Dyresha Harris leads workshop at Eleventh Month Interim Meeting
photo by Betsy Roush*

show up in more subtle words, actions, or elements of the physical environment. Some terms associated with this phenomenon are micro-aggressions, micro-invalidations, aversive or implicit racism. While we are focusing here on racial/ethnic bias, "micro-aggressions" can happen around many different groupings, like gender, age, class, etc. As such, most of us have experienced both perpetuating and being the target of these forms of bias at one time or another.

Each of us is constantly being bombarded with inaccurate societal messages about people based on race/ethnicity. Furthermore, much of our mental processing happens on a subconscious level. Because of this, we are often not even aware of acting out our biases or contributing to biased systems. Unfortunately, things done with neutral or even good intentions can still have a negative impact. In fact, research shows that subtle forms of racial/ethnic bias can be more

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SHARING WORDS, TAKING ACTIONS

Marcy Baker Seitel, Clerk of Interim Meeting

Our Yearly Meeting came together in November for a called Interim Meeting, in part to continue with real intention the dialogue we began in October. We had set a goal of talking about race, racism, antiracism - and Friends. First in a morning workshop and later in the afternoon Business Meeting, we came together, sharing across generations, across social categories of race, and we spoke and listened to each other as best we could. About one hundred Friends were present during the day, most staying through the morning and afternoon. We continued our dialogue, truthfully, respectfully, with commitment and love.

A lot of words were shared! In the morning, Dyresha Harris led a workshop that invited us to consider our biases and explore ways

we both hurt others, and are hurt by biases. We also briefly looked at the topic of microaggressions, a topic that continued in conversations over lunch (you can search that term and learn a good bit quickly). This is a great topic for Meetings to look at together as one step toward making our Meetings more equitable and inclusive.

In the afternoon, we broke out of our regular Business Meeting groove to talk in small groups (6 – 10 groups), and then share in the bigger group on our understanding of racism and antiracism. As the groups shared in the plenary, it became clear that we had begun to find common language together. Through talking, we shared perspectives and came to new insights. New understandings of the term antiracism were reached. Instances of racism were explored in some groups, with new perspectives gained by those who hadn't seen them. Each small group had its own learnings, and these were shared as much as could be shared, with everyone.

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BYM 2018 Annual Session
Hood College, Frederick, MD
July 30—August 5, 2018

Families Take Note: JYM Children Attend Free!

Radical Listening, Rooted in Love

Our greatest Treasure [which Friends have to offer a hurting world] is listening – listening to God for nurture and direction, listening to the pain and desire for justice and peace in the human community, listening for our gifts and the way to give them. Georgia Fuller, 1995

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• *Tuesday Plenary presented by **Joyce Ajlouny**, General Secretary, AFSC. A transformative Quaker leader, Joyce served as the director of the Ramallah Friends School in Palestine and spent the prior 14 years working in international development focusing on minority and refugee rights, gender equality, economic development, and humanitarian support.*

• *Wednesday Intergenerational Plenary led by **Melinda Wenner Bradley**.*

Melinda has been a Godly Play® storyteller since 2005, and a trainer since 2010, focusing on trainings for Quaker meetings and Friends schools. She clerks the Faith & Play working group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting which co-authors the stories in Faith & PlayTM: Quaker Stories for Friends Trained in the Godly Play® Method (FGC Press 2008, 2012).



• *Friday Plenary (Carey Lecture) presented by **Colin Saxton**, General Secretary, Friends United Meeting. Colin is in his final year as General Secretary of FUM, having served since 2012. He has degrees in theology and church history as well as in spiritual formation and leadership, and served as a pastor and then as Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting.*

Registration opens at the end of April
PLAN NOW TO BE THERE!

WANT TO LEAD A WORKSHOP AT ANNUAL SESSION?

If you, or a committee you are part of, wants to lead a workshop, please submit this form (www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/workshoppop.html) not later than February 22. Workshops are held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons, and typically cover a range of topics that relate to the theme of Annual Session, and other topics of interest to Friends. Interest group times are also available for those that want to converse with others on a topic, without the preparation needed for a full workshop. Interest group requests can be taken any time before or during Annual Session.

**WORKING GROUP ON RIGHT
RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS**
Have we visited your Meeting yet? Members of our Working Group have led discussions at twenty meetings within BYM so far and would welcome more invitations. Check out our web page, which includes entertaining and edifying videos made by us for you! www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/animals/

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (BYM) IS SEEKING AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

BYM is a vibrant community of more than 50 local Quaker meetings and worship groups in the mid-Atlantic region with a rich history of worship and social witness. BYM has an array of programs, including: a year-round youth program; a summer camping program which serves approximately 550 campers each year; an equity, diversity and inclusion program; an annual gathering of the Yearly Meeting in early August; and a variety of other programs to support local Meetings, to deepen spiritual community, faith, and practice, and to witness for peace, social justice, and earth care.

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing general administrative assistance to BYM staff, local meetings, and committees. For a complete job description, please visit the BYM web site at www.bym-rsf.org.

This is a full-time, non-exempt position. Full benefits are included with this position.

BYM is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, age, or national origin.

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references to applications@bym-rsf.org. Application review begins 2/5/18.

THE FUTURE OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING IN 2018

Liz Hofmeister, BYM Development Committee Clerk

A clear fall day in late September drew more than 200 adults, youngsters, babies, and dogs to Catoctin Quaker Camp to celebrate the dedication of the new bathhouse. Campers over the summer already had enjoyed the benefits of the airy, clean facility. Now dozens of camp alumni, staff, parents, and others with long-association with Catoctin reveled in the accomplishment of building this attractive, environmentally friendly bathhouse.

The new facility is symbolic of what BYM can do when Friends focus on a goal and pull together. It demonstrates that with dedication, attention to the task, and the generous financial support of many, an ambitious goal can be reached.



The Yearly Meeting is seeing new appreciation and increased support for other programs and services that it provides. More Friends recognize the spiritual and communal value of coming together

for a week at Annual Session. This year, when registering Friends gave more than \$2,900 extra to support the session's scholarship fund, more than the total of the past three years combined. For the future, such contributions will allow for the waiver of registration fees for more families with young children, as well as others who need assistance, to attend Annual Session.

For some teens, BYM's Youth Programs is their primary connection to Quakerism. As many as 150 middle and high school-age youth sometimes attend the program's popular-weekend conferences. Yearly Meeting has kept conference fees low to assure that youth can attend, but current fees do not cover the full costs. To assure that the program continues on a sustainable track, the Yearly Meeting hopes that the more Friends will see the importance of this program

SPRING FAMILY CAMP

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SHILOH QUAKER CAMP - APRIL 27 TO 29

CATOCTIN QUAKER CAMP - MAY 18 TO 20

OPEQUON QUAKER CAMP - JUNE 1 TO 3

SING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FRIENDS!

Everyone from BYM is invited to an afternoon of singing at Shepherdstown, WV, on Monday January 1st, 2018. Ruth Fitz of York Friends Meeting will lead us in songs beautiful, worshipful, light-hearted, and grounding. All ages are welcome, and refreshments will be served. This event is co-sponsored by Shepherdstown and Menallen Friends Meetings. We will meet in the Shepherdstown Train Station, which is handicapped accessible. Directions are available on the Shepherdstown Friends Meeting Website. We will begin at 2:00pm and wrap up by 4:30pm. A free-will donation will be collected. For more information, please contact Donna Kolaetis (717) 677-6781. We hope that we will sing with you in the New Year!

in raising up the next generation of Quakers and donate to support it. A \$50 donation will cover the full cost of a teen to attend a weekend conference.

Over that past three years the Yearly Meeting has seen a steady upward trend both in the number of annual donors and

in total amounts given each year. Friends are making more direct contributions, either to the Annual Fund or to specific programs such as Camp STRIDE (Strengthening Transformative Relationships In Diverse Environments), which helps assure racial and ethnic diversity among campers.

At the November Interim Meeting, Friends approved an ambitious budget that trims some administrative costs while supporting programs and services that Friends say are important to them.

Like the little engine that could, "we can do it" in meeting this budget through our individual contributions.



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS AVAILABLE!

YEARLY MEETING EDUCATIONAL GRANTS COMMITTEE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Educational Grants Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting will be awarding a limited number of grants for the school year 2018-2019. Grants will be made to enable members and regular attenders of Meetings associated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting (or their children) to pursue their educational goals. Grants may be applied to expenses associated with undergraduate attendance at accredited post-secondary educational institutions such as universities, colleges, professional and vocational schools. Attendance may be either full- or part-time. Grants will be awarded on the basis of financial need and the Committee's assessment of an applicant's statement of purpose, including consistency with Friends' testimonies. Grants will not exceed \$2,000 per grantee per year. The sum of all grants to a grantee will not exceed \$8,000. In determining the number and amounts of grants, the Committee will be guided by the twin goals of assisting as many applicants as possible with available funds and, insofar as possible, of assuring that amounts of individual grants are not insignificant in comparison with the grantee's needs. Applications will be accepted between December 1, 2017 and April 15, 2018. For further information or if you have questions, please contact the Yearly Meeting Office at 301-774-7663 or online at www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/edloan.

SUE THOMAS TURNER QUAKER EDUCATION FUND

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Time to let your favorite Friends School know that grants to help explain Quaker faith and practice to school communities are available once again this year. For over twenty years the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund has been supporting this path to understanding and out reach. The application deadline is Thursday, March 1, 2018. Go to www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/sttqef/ for the application for funds and check our annual reports from previous years to get some ideas about how grants have been used in the past. Please be in touch with us if you have any questions.

MILES WHITE BENEFICIAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE CITY PROGRAM YEAR 2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

The Miles White Beneficial Society, a charitable organization affiliated with the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), is accepting applications for scholarships for college undergraduate students and grants up to \$5000 to non-profit 501(c)3 educational organizations in the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan area. Preference for awarding educational grants will be given to those organizations that are associated with the Society of Friends and that are providing educational opportunities, including books and instructional materials, for young people. Preference for awarding scholarships shall be given to applications from the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan Area and to those with connections to Friends Meetings or their members within the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Application forms for college scholarships and for grants to organizations are now available. There are separate forms for each category. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2018. Notification of approval will be made by May 1, 2018. Questions or concerns about the application process may be sent to the electronic mailbox mileswhite@stonyrunfriends.org.

JONATHAN TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED!

The Jonathan K. Taylor Swarthmore College Scholarship Fund is administered by Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run to provide support to students attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA. Preference goes to members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting community. For the 2018-2019 academic year, there are funds up to \$15,000 to be distributed among the successful applicants. For more information, or to apply by the April 20 deadline, contact Cindy Maier. (cmaier@theodysseysschool.org)

GRANTS FOR THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism, administered by Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, makes annual grants of up to \$1,000.

Recent Grants

A variety of proposals relating to Christian mysticism are given consideration by the Grants Committee. Recently funded projects have included a grant for the study of papers held at the Haverford Quaker Archives for a Ph.D. dissertation on mysticism and science, a grant for the development of online teaching material on the Christian mystical tradition, grants to Pendle Hill and Woolman Hill retreat centers for programs on worship and contemplative prayer, and a grant to a Roman Catholic abbey toward the cost of new cushions and mats for their meditation room.

Applications

Proposals should be no more than two pages and include the following: a full description of the project including an indication of how the project relates to the study and/or practice of Christian mysticism, the specific amount of money requested, the way the grant will be spent, other sources of funding, plans for communicating the results to others. Two or three people who are familiar with your project should mail letters of reference directly to the clerk, Kenneth Woodrow Henke, Princeton Theological Seminary Library, P.O. Box 821, Princeton, NJ 08542. E-mail inquiries may be sent to: kenneth.henke@ptsem.edu.

Application Deadline

Proposals and references for 2018 grants are due by March 1, 2018. Decisions are made in May and grants distributed in June. Recipients are asked to send a progress report within a year.

MEETINGS AND FRIENDS CALLED TO BUILD NEW WAYS TO BE MORE WELCOMING

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Through the day, I felt especially thankful for our Friends processes of listening deeply, speaking simply, and valuing one another's experience as the heart of our spiritual journeys. Even though we are tackling problems part of the wider world in which Quakers live, we have a way of working with them that helps us grow as people, and also as a community. When the small groups returned to the Business Meeting and each group shared what they had learned from one another, we simply received what was shared in silence. Just minutes of quiet seemed to deepen the impact of the words shared, and let the Spirit work with us. We shared—we listened—we worshiped—and we did so as a community.

At the end of this time of sharing, another question arose. What about action? What are we going to do? Talk is great – but if it is not followed by action, then does the talking matter?

So now it is up to us to make the talking matter. Having a common vocabulary is important when undertaking any great adventure. Talking also helps us understand one another, deepen our understanding of issues, and build empathy as we hear each other's experiences. And it is a good first step toward bigger goals.

What actions are needed? This is up to each of us and all of us to discern, for ourselves, our meetings, and for our Yearly Meeting. One place to start is in silence – to seek clearness with the fullness of our hearts. A next important action could be for each Meeting to form a Change Group, a group committed to working long-term

FRIENDS EXPLORED WAYS TO UNDERSTAND ACTS OF BIAS IN WORKSHOP

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psychologically damaging than explicit bias, as it can lead to more self-doubt and be harder to respond to.

The good news is, we can learn together to address this challenge in our Yearly Meeting and the world. In the November workshop, we explored frameworks for understanding acts of bias; ideas for how to respond when you experience or engage in one of these interactions; and common examples from our Meetings. We held this process in the Light, embracing the fact that, as one Friend so aptly put it, the Light often heals by exposing what was hidden in darkness. While it can feel vulnerable to look at what the Light uncovers, it allows us to clear out obstacles, see each other more clearly, and turn back toward our birthright.

We welcome you to join us on this journey of exploration and renewal. The powerpoint and handouts will be available online in January through BYM's Growing Diverse Leadership Initiative webpage: www.tinyurl.com/GDLpage. Have a question or interested in sharing this with your local meeting? Contact the GDLC at gdl@bym-rsf.org to talk it through. And keep a lookout for more upcoming workshop on equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Yearly Meeting!

to finding ways to make their own Meetings more welcoming to Friends of color, and to be aware of how racism might be expressed in our Meetings, even though it is not intended. BYM's Working Group on Racism has put together a good list of other things to do make our Meetings more inclusive and equitable. Take a look. There are some good and doable things for all of us. www.bym-rsf.org/publications/yearbooks/1017attach.html#i201750. The ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee is also planning things for all of us to consider.

And maybe you have other ideas. Keep going. Think – talk – act – reconsider – try again – and keep going. As we go forward on this adventure, it would be great if we could trust each other, our community, and the Spirit, that as we move forward we can grow past our current understandings, and build new capacities within ourselves – new capacities to see what work we need to do and how we can do it. All we need to focus on is the next step. This may not sound big and bold enough. But if we are true to taking that step, and moving with the light we have, we can trust that more will be given. Our intentions are clear, even if our path is not fully in focus at this time.

Please bring your ideas and experiences back to Interim Meeting (March 17 in Charlottesville) to share with the Yearly Meeting community. Sharing our different experiences can be very powerful in helping and inspiring one another. We will take time to keep the dialogue going, on racism, antiracism, and our active witness as Friends in the world.

QUAKER HOUSE BYM ARCHIVES YOUTH'S OBJECTIONS TO WAR

In 1940, the dawn of World War II, President Roosevelt created a military draft to beef up the fighting force in Europe. The draft continued through the Vietnam War. Today there is no active draft calling men or women to fight. The federal Selective Service, however, registers all men (and soon women) ages 18-25. The agency does not now, but could quickly initiate a lottery draft, requiring random registrants to enter the military.

In the event of a military draft, Conscientious Objector (no-fighting) status is given to those who deeply believe, on moral or religious grounds, that there is no just war. Quakers object to all killing based on the belief that there is that of God in everyone.

Documents of a young person's opposition to war are kept on file at the BYM offices. (See BYM Manual of Procedure.) Should a draft arise, such documentation could be important. Meetings from the draft era may still offer counseling; younger meetings who currently do not, might consider offering this important conversation to young f/Friends.

Quaker House offers a curriculum. See [Quaker Speak](#) on YouTube and [Friends Journal's](#) article from October 2017 by Curt Torell for more information. It can be beneficial to officially document one's objection to war in advance of a possible call-up. The process itself also clarifies and deepens the individual's, as well as our community's, commitment to pacifism.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1940S RECORDING OF NATIVE AMERICAN SONGS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN HOMEWOOD ARCHIVES

Sara Towe Horsfall and Pat Powers

In October, a recently discovered vinyl 78 rpm record of Indian songs was presented to Homewood Clerk George Amoss by Pat Powers, representative of the BYM Indian Affairs Committee. The Interim Meeting presentation – a gift for Homewood’s archives - took place in the historic Orthodox Yearly Meeting building in Baltimore. The record, produced by and for Orthodox Friends, was commissioned in the 1940s by the Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs (AECFIA) to raise money for their activities. By 1949, according to their annual report, sales had already brought in \$12 (equivalent to \$120 today).

The musicians featured on the record are two Native Americans who were Quaker missionaries in Hominy, Oklahoma from 1947-1956. Francis Philip Frazier and his wife Susie Meek Frazier. A full blooded Sioux, Francis Philip Frazier was born in a tepee. He came from a line of missionaries, and attended the Santee Indian School and Dartmouth College. Ordained in 1926, he was a recorded minister of the Religious Society of Friends and ministered among the Sioux. At the end of his life, was supervisor of the Sioux Indian Mission of Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota. Susie Meek Frazier, from the Sac and Fox tribes, was a trained musician who attended Haskell Institute and graduated from Earlham. They did a ceremonial song or hymn called “Dakota Odowan,” and a duet, “By the Waters of the Minneonka.”

The AECFIA was set up in 1869 during the Grant peace program era to oversee the work of the Orthodox Friends who went to be Indian agents in the west. It was an era of concern for Native Americans, who faced many difficulties after the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Quakers had appealed to the newly elected President Grant to replace the existing corrupt and brutal Indian agents with agents of “high moral character” who could live with the Indians. Previous Quaker work and good relationships with Native Americans may have helped Grant decide to use Christians as agents, including both branches of the Religious Society of Friends. Orthodox Friends were responsible for 10 of the 73 agencies overseen by Christian denominations, and Hicksites were responsible for 6. Orthodox Friends were given responsibility for the agencies in Kansas and Indian Territory



*Francis Philip Frazier and his wife, Suzie Meek Frazier with President Dickey at Dartmouth College in 1964 when he received an honorary degree. (from *The Indian History of an American Institution: Native Americans and Dartmouth* by Colin G. Calloway)*

that served the Potawatomi of Kansas, Kaw, Kickapoo, Quapaw, Osage, Sac and Fox, Shawnee, Wichita, Kiowa, and Upper Arkansas). Hicksite Friends were assigned agencies throughout Nebraska serving the Great Nemaha, Omaha, Winnebago, Pawnee, Oto, and Santee Sioux.

Quakers from the BYM area—both Hicksite and Orthodox—went to live with and assist Native people in the western territories for a number of years. (Orthodox Quakers included people from elsewhere in the US.) Considerable funds and goods were donated as well. Hicksite Friends formally relinquished their responsibility for the Indian tribes in 1878, after a non-Quaker was assigned to an agency position, raising fears of policies less sympathetic to Native Americans. Orthodox Friends, who considered themselves missionaries, stayed on long after the peace program era ended. As volunteers or on poverty wages, they built and operated needed facilities as well as churches. They also ran boarding schools, and learned Indigenous languages. In 2000, the Associated Committee had a budget of over \$200,000, and its work was respected by former Hicksite Yearly Meetings, including Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Yearly Meetings, who contributed to their fund. When the AECFIA dissolved in 2008, it was still sponsoring centers for the Mowa Choctaw in Alabama, Mesquakie in Iowa and the Kickapoo in Oklahoma.

The two BYM Yearly Meetings, split in 1828, did not fully come back together until 1967. However, the two parallel Indian Affairs Committees began to cooperate before then. In 1958, the Monthly Meetings of Stony Run (Hicksite) and Homewood (Orthodox) united to work on Indigenous issues. In the late 1960s, Friends in Baltimore began to locate and assist Native Americans living in the community. Members of Homewood Meeting purchased toys and equipment to aid a church preschool that included Indian children. This evolved into a more significant effort of helping the Lumbee people finance a new building for their own children’s program. The Baltimore American Indian Center (BAIC) was opened in 1968, with one of two day-care programs in the country to have a Native American curriculum. Vera Shank, of Homewood Meeting, was instrumental in its establishment, and the child care center was named after her, a true honor. The Day Care Center eventually included Head Start and health programs. In 2015, Delle James of Stony Run became the first non-Native to serve on the BAIC Heritage Museum Board of Directors – another honor.

The BYM Indian Affairs Committee applaud the respect and commitment shown by members of Homewood Meeting to Native Americans over the years, and encourage Friends today to continue their assistance of Native Americans. Stay tuned for more of our fascinating history!



Francis Philip Frazier
www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/fr/a/frazier_fp.htm

UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

REMEMBER TO REFUSE PLASTIC

*Community is much more than belonging to something.
It's about doing something together that makes belonging matter.*
Brian Solis

Ann Payne

We know the reasons why, as individuals, we need to refuse single-use plastic bags—their toxic fossil fuel components, their choking of animals, the oceans, and the fresh water ways; the centuries they take, leaching poisons, to biodegrade.

I must remember to carry my foldable nylon bag into the store. I must pay attention to reveal it before the clerk shoves my purchase into plastic. “No thank you. I bring my own,” I smile at the (usually appreciative) clerk. Refusing a plastic bag takes a degree of mindfulness.

Knowing that I’ve corralled my mind one more time to pay attention feels good. And it feels even better knowing that others in my Meeting are acting just as I am on their shopping trips. That’s because many at my Meeting signed a pledge to refuse plastic checkout bags. We created a community by agreeing to do the right thing—together. Each time I refuse a bag, I experience the strength of community with all of us.

Many in Frederick Friends Meeting accepted Unity with Nature’s invitation to make this pledge when our P&SC used a playful approach. A “Bag Monster” appeared at rise of Meeting. Following a short informative (and humorous) skit, many signed a paper scroll committing to refuse single-use checkout bags.



Would your Meeting consider joining us? If so, Unity with Nature can supply a “Say No to Plastic Bags” fact sheet; the paper scroll template: the trifold no-plastics poster (from 2017 Annual Session) and, if you wish, simple “Bag Monster” directions. Or Unity with Nature may be able to help or visit your meeting in person. Please contact unitywithnature@bym-rsf.org for more.

In this fractured and fractious world, it is time to join together, practicing peace on earth as a conscious community. Unity with Nature hopes to display many Meetings’ signed scrolls at Annual Session 2018.

*“It is possible that the next Buddha will not take the form of an individual. The next Buddha may take the form of a community - a community practicing . . . mindful living. This may be the most important thing we can do for the survival of the Earth.”**

Thich Nhat Hanh

THE FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

QUAKER SCOUTS? YEP....

The Religious Society of Friends sponsors awards that Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Girl Guides, and Campfire members may earn. These awards are intended as a means for the young boy or girl to learn about their faith and be recognized for their accomplishment. They have also been used as curriculum for First Day classes. The awards are not “official” BSA or GSUSA awards, but are approved to wear on the uniform. They were created by Friends for our young Scouts.



The “That of God” award is intended for grades 2 thru 5. It encourages the young boy or girl to explore their spiritual journey in sections titled ‘Me’, ‘My Family’ and ‘My Meeting’.

The “Spirit of Truth” award is intended for grades 6 thru 12, and Venture, Rover and Senior Scouts up to age 21, and focuses on ‘Word,’ ‘Worship,’ and ‘Witness.’ Quaker belief, personages, history, process, and service to the Meeting are explored. These awards are earned by the youth, under the tutelage of a member of their home meeting or church. There are workbooks and guide books available thru the Friends Committee on Scouting website: www.quakerscouting.org. Canadian Friends may earn the “Religion in Life” award, with similar requirements. For comparison, religious awards for many other faiths may be viewed at www.praypub.org and www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/ReligiousAwards/chart.aspx.

There is also an adult “Friends Emblem” award that may be awarded to adults to recognize their work with Scout Youth. This is awarded on nomination and documentation by Friends that know the nominee.

The Friends Committee on Scouting, an affiliate group of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, (FWCC) Section of the Americas, administers the awards in the USA and Canada, and is the official liaison to the various Scout and Campfire organizations. The committee has members in all areas of the USA and Canada. The FCoS invites all interested Friends involved in Scouting or Campfire to join our work, or just donate to our activities.

Contact the FCoS: www.quakerscouting.org and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/quakerscouting/

In 2013, the FCoS sponsored a display at the National Boy Scout Jamboree. There, visitors to our display contributed to a “Scouting For Peace” Scroll, 63 feet long.

This may be viewed on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uh4k-8wamJtU

FCoS members James Lehman (Sandy Spring) and Tim Mullady (Annapolis) have served as Scout Chaplains, representing the Society of Friends at the National Boy Scout Jamboree in past years. The 2017 Jamboree was held at The Bechtel Summit, Mount Hope, West Virginia. The World Jamboree will be hosted at The Bechtel Summit in 2019. The FCoS anticipates being present at that World Jamboree.

Need an Eagle Service Project? The Baltimore Yearly Meeting office is considering the creation of a “camp fire circle” or “fire pit”. Would that appeal to you?

See you on the trail!

CARLISLE FRIENDS ARE NOW “QUAKERS.”



We’ve been Quakers all along, of course, but in September we changed our legal name to “Carlisle Quaker Meeting” in hopes of achieving better name recognition here in Carlisle. The new name will appear on our bank checks, other notices and quite a few t-shirts.

Previously our legal name – the name that appeared in our bylaws – had been “Carlisle Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.” That was OK among Friends, but a great many people here in Carlisle do not associate “Friends” with Quakers.

The old name wasn’t merely cumbersome. It invited confusion. Every year, we make modest contributions to local social action groups, largely as a show of moral support. They cash our checks and mention our gifts in their newsletters. However, our full name appears on our checks, and they are apt to acknowledge support by using only the first few words of a long name. That’s fine for “Second Presbyterian” or “Zion AME.” But we would appear as “Carlisle Monthly,” making us sound like a Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

It didn’t help when another local church changed its name to “The Meetinghouse.” We’ve worked with that congregation on neighborhood projects. Now, when we meet at our Quaker Meeting House, we won’t have to add, “That’s not the Meetinghouse meetinghouse.”

Could we have shortened our name but kept the traditional name “Friends”? Certainly. But “Quaker” is more widely recognized. We doubt that anyone will confuse us with Quaker Oats, but we may have been confused with nonprofit groups called “Friends of...” (and maybe even with a local car dealership with “Friends” in its name). We decided that simplicity was more important than tradition.



About those t-shirts. As individuals, we go to a lot of meetings and events, many of them attended by people who share our values and social concerns. When appropriate, we’re encouraging our members and attenders to wear t-shirts whose fronts read “Carlisle Quaker Meeting.” On the back Friends add short, easily read lines from Fox (e.g., “Let your life speak”), Penn, Woolman or any other Quaker. We order from an online vendor.

We agreed to avoid preachy or self-consciously clever messages. The goal isn’t advocacy. It’s to prompt a response like this: “Quaker Meeting? I didn’t know there were Quakers here. Where do you meet?” We order the shirts from an online supplier. T-shirt season was nearly over when we started doing this, but we’re confident that over time this low-key witness will open the way to good conversations.

BYM Women’s Retreat

January 26-28, 2018

(Friday dinner until Sunday lunch)

Pearlstone Retreat & Conference Center, Reisterstown, MD

Leaning Into Our Light On Gender, Race and Sexuality

Embracing our discomforts, language and vulnerabilities to find our collective voices and deepen our spiritual community.

Registration is open at www.bym-rsf.org

(Girls from 14-17 need a sponsor on site. Call us to register a 13 year old girl.)

BYM women and friends gather each January for a weekend away from home. The accommodations and food at the Pearlstone Center nourish our bodies and our souls. It’s a time to relax together, share the stories of our lives and leave renewed and inspired. A panel discussion of women of all ages on race, gender, transgender and sexuality anchors our weekend. In small groups we find the intimacy sometimes missing in our wider world. We dance and chant and sing. We rekindle friendships and make new ones. Don’t miss it!

Workshops: To offer a workshop, follow the links and submit a proposal. We seek workshops that explore and deepen the theme, refresh our spirits and inspire conversations outside our usual comfort zones. Workshop leaders are encouraged to hold the paradox of exploring the issues while leaning into the light and love that builds a stronger community. Contact bette@justpeacecircles.org **Vendors Wanted:** Crafters, Artists, Authors & Musicians are invited to display and sell your wares. Contact maryjacksonclark@yahoo.com **Book Exchange:** Bring a used book and swap it for another that looks interesting. If no one claims your book, remember to take it home with you.

Hosted by Young ByM Women and Sandy Spring Friends Meeting Women.

ALEXANDRIA FRIENDS MEETING

Homecoming Day

On First Day, September 24, 2017, Alexandria enjoyed good weather and high spirits for our annual Homecoming Day. The theme, *There is No Way to Peace. Peace is the Way*, was expressed by honoring the 100th anniversary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Speakers from AFSC presented for our Adult Religious Education hour and handouts prepared by our Historian Martha Catlin explored the long connection between AMM and AFSC.

Following Meeting for Worship, some 90 Friends, families, and guests shared a fine lunch. We were happy to have Alexandria Friends return from out of town, and to have members of the Buckman DeButts families with us. Children enjoyed the play and activities organized for them outside. The afternoon's entertainment began when folks gathered outside to enjoy a very warm day, fellowship, and music. The run-in shed provided a backdrop for the children who sang Quaker tunes with gusto. Then jazz filled the afternoon, from the trio of Jerry Allen on keyboard, John Dapogny on bass, and Steven Lavenhar on guitar.



Our thanks to all who worked to make all elements of the occasion successful. Homecoming was also a fund-raiser for United Community Ministries (UCM), and donations amounted to a good tally for that important cause in our Route One community.

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Annapolis Friends have created a Green Team to work as a community, within our Meeting and beyond, to solve the practical problems of how to live sustainably. Current efforts include composting at Meeting, discouraging the use of plastic straws at local restaurants, and educating people about the advantage of buying electric vehicles. Annapolis Friends are active in the emerging interfaith organization, Annapolis Immigration Justice Network. We have two members on the Board, joining other churches in leading these early initiatives. We meet regularly to find clearness on how we can best work for racial justice beyond the Black Lives Matter sign on our fence. The Meeting has agreed to become a member of the local chapter of the Industrial Areas Foundation. We are especially interested in participation because it is an opportunity for our mostly white group to work with African American congregations. We are providing Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for a family and a homebound senior citizen. We are grieving the untimely passing of Katrine Anderson. We remember the concerts she gave singing the beautiful Scottish ballads she grew up with, with all profits going to the charities chosen to receive the proceeds of our winter Quaker markets.

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Bethesda Friends Meeting is excited to be partnering with Lutheran Social Services to welcome and help a refugee family from Afghanistan to re-settle here. We have been told our family could arrive any time, with just a few days' notice. We have organized ourselves into teams, such as a Welcome team, a House and Furnishing team, a Food and Clothing Team, a Transportation Team, an Employment Team, and more. While Lutheran Social Services is arranging for the family to come, Bethesda Friends Meeting will be handling much of

the work to help the family get settled, find their way around their new neighborhood, get their kids into school, find employment, and all that is necessary to begin to make a life here. We are so glad we can extend a welcome and help to a refugee family.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

This past spring we decided that the Meeting would work with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) and other local groups involved with immigration policy to become a sanctuary congregation. Since this would mean providing accommodation in our Meeting House, we began improvements that would allow us to accommodate potential guests. A replacement of windows was accomplished as well as the installation of a shower in one of our toilet rooms. Plans were made to move our library to create a living space for guests. At the same time, we began learning what arrangements will have to be made regarding security and caring for our guests as well as communication with officials, media, our neighbors, and the public. In September, we officially Minuted our status as a sanctuary community, but as yet we have not been called upon to provide shelter for a guest.

Charlottesville Friends were active in protesting the Unite the Right rally that occurred in Charlottesville. Following the events of August 11 and 12, our Peace and Social Concerns Committee prepared a report that was presented at Interim Meeting in October. The report said, in part, "... We ultimately chose to hold a public meeting for worship in Justice Park, about a five-minute walk from the rally, inviting other members of the community to come join us. Quakers wore blue t-shirts and held signs to indicate our fidelity to our testimonies, in opposition to the Nazi ideology of the protestors... Members of the meeting participated in other events in the community... individual Friends took part in a public march, provided medical aid, stood with the clergy connected with the group Congregate Charlottesville or counter-protested the alt-right with music and song, acting as they felt led by the spirit..."

Our community has grown recently with several new members and transfers of membership. As well as the joy of new adult members, the children have also benefited as they incorporate new friends into their activities. We have held joyous welcoming celebrations for these additions to our local circle of Friends and anticipate more in the coming weeks.

DUNNINGS CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Dunnings Creek has been enjoying new attenders that come regularly. This is partly because our Meeting House has been hosting other service groups that need a welcoming and quiet space. Folks who attended these events wanted to know more about us and eventually started coming to Meeting. Of course we are thrilled. We were also quite pleased when one of us took it upon herself to be our RE coordinator. We have learned about influential Quakers activists past and present, which then segued into learning about slavery and abolition. This then led to studying about today's plight of human trafficking. It seems that one huge solution to this is in the educating and micro financing of women and girls.

The Fishertown Quaker Museum had a very "soft" opening this past October with just a few local people coming to check it out. We plan to have a bigger opening with notice to BYM in advance. We look forward to Christmas Eve Meeting when old friends return to the county and to the Meeting. We hold the all world in Light and Love.



Goose Creek 200th Celebration

GOOSE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Bicentennial Celebration

On October 21 we gathered together to celebrate the 200th year of our Meeting House. We had about 170 people who came to enjoy the day. It was well attended by Friends, friends and neighbors, neighboring Meetings and churches, family descendants, and friends from the greater Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

In the morning, we had various stations which were created by each Meeting Committee. Religious Education Committee opened Oakdale schoolhouse which was set up it was in 1815, complete with historic children's games. Unity with Nature Committee hung tags from our trees identifying contributions to our environment. Hannah Janney's stone was the center for poetry writing. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Archive Committee had interesting information of various projects they have had. The Old Stone Meeting House (1765), Bill and Bobbie Cochran's house, was open for the day.

Hospitality Committee and others took care of our lunch on the lawn. It was delicious and plentiful and the weather was perfect for a time to visit with each other. There were memories of Quarterly Meetings held at Goose Creek. The Program in the afternoon was a reminder our roots and recalled the remarkable things our forebears initiated frequently during dark times. This event was a light time in our history. Many people worked endlessly overseeing details for the day of celebrating our building and our community.

Our new commemorative stone reads: "This building constructed in 1817- Severely damaged by wind in 1943- Reconstruction completed in 1949- Celebrated 200 years 2017- "But the Lord was not in the wind.... And after the fire a small still voice." 1 Kings 19:11-12"

HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

Our conservation landscaping, paid for in part by a Virginia Conservation Assistance Program grant, has been a big success. The beautiful design using only Virginia native plants has attracted a lot of attention from passersby, who note the aesthetic improvement and the sign that says, "Native Plants At Work: Conservation landscaping supports wildlife and clean water." Grants programs are available in many localities throughout the Chesapeake watershed. Outreach for social justice has included our FCNL advocacy team, which includes several non-Quakers; attending vigils at the NRA headquarters; and participating in Sanctuary DMV.

HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

In 2017, Homewood has invested time and energy into discerning how to more clearly establish, order, and align our priorities as a Meeting

community with our resources, from spiritual to financial. On October 29 we gathered for "What is Homewood Friends Meeting For? A Discussion in the Spirit." After an hour of worship, we were led in small and large groups to consider the query "What is Homewood Friends Meeting For?" This question was intentionally multifaceted to stimulate thought on our purpose/mission and the things that we stood for or valued most. Trustees organized the event and envisioned that a spiritual discerning of the Meeting's priorities will guide us in the future. Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring) did a wonderful job of facilitating the process with nearly 50 people actively engaged in what all considered to be a valuable next step.

Fall 2017 has been an active period for Friends engaged in a variety of social and environmental justice concerns. Along with Stony Run Friends and law students from the University of Maryland, some of our members attend bail hearings in Baltimore City District Court to observe and report on how judges are making decisions about bail. For Baltimore CeaseFire 365, we whooped it up at the Friday-evening peace vigil with participants proclaiming CeaseFire!, Black Lives Matter, We are All One People, Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions), and No Hate. After a potluck supper, the video *Brother Outsider* was shown—depicting the life and powerful nonviolence witness of Bayard Rustin, mentor to Martin Luther King Jr, designer of the Poor People's March on Washington, African American, gay man, and Quaker. Homewood's Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) sponsored two films and discussions on environmental issues for the community with a total attendance of more than 60 people. In addition, the team prepares monthly GOAT Noats with updates and tips on green living and environmental issues. GOAT is preparing to install native plants for environmental landscaping in spring 2018. This will help us to manage storm water coming off the roof of the Meeting House.

We celebrated in good order and with much joy the marriage of Dave Sydlik and Anna Jo Smith on November 11th. Anna Jo is a physician and Dave, a lawyer. Dave leads us in hymn singing for twenty minutes before worship on first First Days. We are preparing to celebrate the marriage of Jack Neill and Mepi Meyers on December 16th. Jack is a restaurant owner who was raised in the Homewood Meeting, while Mepi is an environmental educator. We rejoice for and about these new marriages.

MIDLOTHIAN FRIENDS MEETING

Midlothian has been making an effort to be fully engaging, supportive, communicative, and inclusive to all in every facet of the Meeting's life – whether it is greeting newcomers, updating our website, sending email announcements to those on our distribution list, developing a minute regarding our social action efforts, operating the two charities we began years ago, or providing charitable groups the use of our Meeting House. For example, we are careful to use plain English in our communications without the use of Quakerese, we have hung a small sign in our Meeting House that specifically invites groups using it to also join us on Sunday for worship, we are immediately embracing newcomers as part of our Quaker community, and we have placed information at our thrift store that introduces its patrons to our spirituality.

Towards this goal, September was an eventful month, beginning with a name change for our "Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business." We were drawn to rename it to Meeting for Discernment or Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Discernment because this better reflects the reason we gather together. We are now using

Meeting-wide emails or verbal announcements after regular weekly worship to convey routine updates and announcements. This has increased the time we have for worshipful discernment without having to lengthen the time of the Meeting. The name change also eliminates any potential misunderstanding about what we as Quakers do at that time.

Also in September, the Meeting partnered with Richmond Friends to participate in the Richmond Peace Festival and the Richmond PrideFest. There was a lot of interest in Quakerism expressed at those events. We also held a celebration to recognize the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Meeting. About eighty F(f)riends from as far as Herndon and Sandy Spring joined together on a beautiful Sunday morning to share in the celebration that culminated with burying a time capsule.

Earlier in the year Midlothian began a Sanctuary Study Group to explore how our Meeting might provide assistance and support to immigrants, both authorized and unauthorized. After several months of education, this Study Group has brought several actions that the Meeting might undertake. We approved a "Welcome All Statement" that explicitly explains our support for those that society marginalizes. It has been placed in our Meeting House literature holder and displayed just outside our thrift store. The thrift store is located in the middle of Midlothian Village, so the statement is getting lots of public exposure. The Meeting has also approved placing signage to let those non-Quaker groups who use our Meeting House and the surrounding community know that we are actively supportive of those who are marginalized and oppressed. Most recently, Midlothian Friends have met with Richmond and Charlottesville Friends to share what Sanctuary actions all three Meetings are undertaking. Midlothian has also joined the Central Virginia Sanctuary Congregation Network, an organization comprised of many faith communities who are dedicated to supporting unauthorized immigrants.

MFM's two charities, The Thrifty Quaker and Friend\$hare, continue fulfilling their mission of providing funds to charities and individuals who need financial assistance. The communities surrounding Midlothian Village continue to support MFM's charitable work, as demonstrated by an increased stream of donated money and gently used items for resale. Additionally, the Miles White Beneficial Society has provided a grant to The Thrifty Quaker so the store can add an outdoor courtyard sales space that will enable it to raise even more funds for the twelve charities MFM supports each year.

WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

West Branch has celebrated the births of Jonah J. Wisor, son of Elizabeth and Adam Wisor, and his cousin Nora V. Wriglesworth, daughter of Brian and Sarah Wriglesworth, and the happy adoption of Lucy L Willard to Kate (Rancik) & Nate Willard. We are sponsoring a family with serious health concerns this Christmas with prayers, a food bank, and monetary donation. Many Grampian families have been in our prayers this year due to illness or hardships. Packing Backpacks for schools and fruit baskets for our retired neighbors will be in December with a fellowship lunch. Currently a fellowship breakfast is on the 3rd Sunday mornings before meeting. One concern is the current condition of the government. Many have much many more have less.

WILLIAMSBURG FRIENDS MEETING

Williamsburg Friends are still settling into our Meeting House, enjoying having a home for midweek committee meetings, evening Friends groups, and other groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous. New signs

and flags on the building have brought us several visitors, and we will open our Quaker Reading Group to the public when the selections are appropriate. We invited our friends from the Unitarian Universalist congregation (our neighbors/landlords across the parking lot) to join us for a Sunday breakfast in November, with a good turnout and many lively conversations. Our food drive in the nearest supermarket was a success and a pleasure. And our newest attenders have recently had a baby, the first infant among us in years.

YORK FRIENDS MEETING

York Monthly Meeting continues to combine efforts with The Interfaith Justice Council of York County to bring awareness and understanding to our area's diverse population. Recently, topics have focused on immigration and the unique issues that our country has been struggling with especially during the current political administration. Representatives from numerous houses of worship all across our region met in September with citizens and non-citizens alike for an enlightening talk entitled "What Scared Texts Say About Immigration". And on the 1-year-anniversary of last year's divisive election, the Council also facilitated an evening of storytelling featuring local residents who each shared a very personal account of how their lives in particular have been impacted by public policy, and how they've managed to find their places here in York. It was a valuable eye-opening opportunity for anyone who doesn't face those challenges on a daily basis.

In November we were blessed with the visit from S. Jean Smith who founded the Kuwesa Project, a successful outreach project in Kenya to provide simple yet effective life-saving sand water filters to the population, as well as offer support to the growing number of HIV widows and their families. This is one of the missions that York Monthly Meeting has chosen to send donations to, and what a treat it was to get an intimate look into how we've been able to help.

Efforts to expand our Meeting House's footprint are well underway. The proposed plan for the complementary building includes multiple classrooms for various uses, additional restrooms, and a larger kitchen area, among other amenities. This is very exciting! Our historic structure has been a staple for centuries, but with a growing membership and the drive to host more community outreach programs, we are rapidly outgrowing our current two-room structure with its one restroom and a diminutive kitchenette, both of which were added on in the 1990s.



Fall 2017 Opequon Family Camp Weekend

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
Address service requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
STD MAIL
PAID
Sandy Spring, MD
Permit No. 10112

Do you want to receive the
Interchange via e-mail?
Send your current e-mail address to:
admin@bym-rsf.org

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

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

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

JANUARY

- 1 – Sing-In at Shepherdstown Friends Meeting
- 5 – 7 – Nuts and Bolts Committee Meeting at Gunpowder Friends Meeting
- 20 – 21 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Herndon Friends Meeting
- 26 – 28 – 2018 BYM Women’s Retreat at Pearlstone Retreat Center

FEBRUARY

- 16 – 18 – Young Friends Conference at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting
- 18 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Frederick Friends Meeting Center

MARCH

- 17 – Third Month Interim Meeting at Charlottesville Friends Meeting
- 24 – 25 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Frederick Friends Meeting

2018 BYM Camp Registration Opening

Returning Campers: January 15, 2018 at 7:00pm

New Campers: February 1, 2018 at 7:00pm

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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