

THE INTERCHANGE

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Special Annual Session Issue

Pg. 5
Workshops

Pg. 12
Info for Families

Pg. 14
Registration

Pg. 17
Community News

A Testimony to Social Justice: Rise Up and Let Your Life Speak

Friends of all ages will gather together as a Yearly Meeting for the 352nd Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting from **July 30 - August 4, 2024** at Hood College in Frederick, MD. Whether this is your 50th Annual Session or your 1st, you are wanted and welcome. In this Special Edition of the Interchange, you'll learn all about Annual Session - from how to register to when you can attend your favorite workshop and everything in-between. In an effort to simplify registration, Workshop registrations will be separated and can be accessed online.

Throughout our 2024 Annual Session, together we'll explore the theme: A testimony to Social Justice: Rise up and let your life speak.

The word 'testimony' is used by Quakers to describe a witness to the living truth within the human heart as it is acted out in everyday life. It is not a form of words, but a mode of life based on the realization that there is that of God in everybody, that all human beings are equal, that all life is interconnected. It is affirmative but may lead to action that runs counter to certain practices currently accepted in society at large. Hence a pro-peace stance may become an anti-war protest, and a witness

to the sacredness of human life may lead to protests against capital punishment. These testimonies reflect the corporate beliefs of the Society, however much individual Quakers may interpret them differently according to their own light. They are not optional extras, but fruits that grow from the very tree of faith.

Harvey Gillman, 1988, quoted in Quaker Faith & Practice: The book of Christian discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, sec. 20.12 (1995).

How does your life speak to the calling of the Spirit? Many Friends today have been called to public witness about white supremacy, peace-making, the carceral state, health care, public education, and environmental stewardship, as historically Friends have witnessed on slavery, women's suffrage and the penal system. How are you led to respond to the call to affirm human dignity, root out prejudice and rejuvenate our culture of activism?

Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31, NIV)

We cannot wait to see you in Frederick! If you have any questions about the ins-and-outs of Annual Session, please contact the Program Clerk of Annual Session, Linda Coates, at linda-coate@gmail.com.

ANNUAL SESSION PRE-SESSIONS RETREAT

Effetá: Being Attentive to the Spirit in a Challenging World



Offered by Francisco Burgos, Executive Director, Pendle Hill

In-person at Hood College
Monday, July 29, 2:30pm - 5:00 pm, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday, July 30, 9:00am-12:00pm

The Annual Session Pre-Sessions Retreat will offer an opportunity to reconnect with one another as we explore and nurture our experience of being in relationship with the Divine. In this space, we will be invited to contemplate and reflect on how my/our openness to the Spirit is manifested in my/our presence in the world.

Please note: Friends are encouraged to attend the entire retreat - which begins on Monday at 2:30pm and continues through Tuesday at Noon. The 2024 Retreat will be in-person only.

Register Online at www.bym-rsf.org/AnnualSession

Registration is open NOW through July 14th. If you need assistance to complete your registration, you can call Lucy at the BYM Office at 301-658-6797 or email Registrar@bym-rsf.org.

PLENARY SPEAKERS AT ANNUAL SESSION

Opening Plenary: Rise Up and Let Your Life Speak

Tuesday, July 30, 7:00pm

Ted Heck (Richmond), Zakee McGill (Shepherdstown), and Daquanna Harrison (Adelphi)

BYM has made a commitment to addressing social ills, but our efforts have not always been successful. Join a panel of BYM Quakers as they share how Spirit has guided and supported their call to affirm human dignity and root out prejudice. Each panelist has been recognized as letting their lives speak Spiritually and in the Wider World. We are hopeful that this panel will give us the opportunity to become more effective in reaching our intended goals and rejuvenate our culture of activism.



Daquanna Harrison is a social justice warrior creating protest movements with the most affected and the most likely to make change. Her work has spotlighted 'stop & frisk', 'jump outs', and violence towards abortion clinics and led to the policy now used for decriminalizing marijuana across the nation. She is raising a young artist/ Pokémon enthusiast in Prince George's County MD where she was recognized as 40 Under 40 for Excellence in Education, and where she attends Adelphi Friends Meeting, participating in their reparations work as well as nominating committee.



Ted Heck is 57-year-old openly queer and trans guy of Northern European ancestry living in Richmond, VA with his spouse and two cats. He works in HIV prevention and transgender health at the state Department of Health. Among Friends, in addition to serving on various committees in the Richmond, VA Meeting, Ted is active in Richmond Friends Meeting, BYM, and Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns.



Zakee McGill is a member of the Shepherdstown Friends Meeting in Shepherdstown WV where as co-clerk of Ministry & Pastoral Care he helped navigate the process of asking an activist white racist to stop attending our Meeting for Worship. He joined Friends at the age of 18 while in college in Providence, Rhode Island, is a single dad of daughters, Lailah & Nalani, ages 9 & 10 and two pups, Blue & Ruby, and currently practices virtually at a low fee comprehensive health center as a medical doctor & psychiatrist for patients with metabolic, psychiatric, and addiction challenges.

Indigenous Affairs Committee Lecture

Wednesday, July 31, 7:30pm

Chief Dennis White Otter Coker



Dennis White Otter Coker is the Principal Chief of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware. White Otter Coker is a founding member of the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes, bringing recognition, understanding and collaboration for the betterment of Delmarva's Tribal communities. Chief Coker has done much for his community, gaining Census designation for tribal citizens for the 1st time in 2010 and State recognition for the tribe in 2016. He is active in Native environmental issues and speaks to further understandings and develop collaborations for all people.

2024 Carey Memorial Lecture: Is That Faithfulness? Walking with God the Path for Social Justice

Saturday, Aug 3, 7:30pm
Francisco Burgos



How does our faith respond to today's world? Are we encountering the Divine in our history and in the struggles that our communities face? What is the meaning of love and justice, and what does it say about our relationship with the Divine, with others, and with self?

In the BYM 2024 Carey Memorial Lecture, Francisco Burgos will offer a humble and provocative invitation to explore our testimony of social justice through the lens of faith and community as we seek to embrace the necessary call for transformation in today's world.

Francisco Burgos is the executive director at Pendle Hill and has facilitated spiritual retreats for many audiences. Francisco was a De La Salle Christian Brother serving in Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Costa Rica, and has been a Friend since 2004. Francisco is a member of Harrisburg Friends Meeting and has attended several meetings including Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica and Adelphi Friends Meeting in Maryland. He currently attends Providence Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania.

Annual Session Workshops

Thursday, August 1st, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- T1. Renewing the Quaker Testimony of Justice in the 21st Century **[HYBRID]**
- T2. Addressing Topics of Concern to Local Ministry Committees
- T3. Writing Workshop for All Ages
- T4. Healing Our Wounded Lands
- T5. Right Relationship
- T6. Quakers and Voting Rights: What You Can Do
- T7. Forging a Spiritual Discipline of Anti-Racism
- T8. Monthly Meeting Clerk Connection
- T9. Introduction to Quaker Theology
- T10. Responding to Differences in Our Meetings

Friday, August 2nd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- F1. Friends Testimony of Equality and Retrospective Justice **[HYBRID]**
- F2. In what ways are Our Anti-racist Queries Transforming your Worship Community?

- F3. Quaker Counter-Culture During McCarthyism, 1947-1962
- F4. Resources for Befriend the End of Life
- F5. Embracing Eco-Sorrows: Strength, Solace, and Our Voice
- F6. Right Sharing
- F7. The Magic of Faith and Play
- F8. Ecumenical Decade of Repentance: Rise up for a just and flourishing planet
- F9. Queer Theology and Quakerism Workshop
- F10. Activism for Peace and Justice Across Generations: Walking Together on Different Paths
- F11. A Farm Tour: Friends Meeting School Farm

Saturday, August 3rd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- S1. Rising Up and Practicing the Life of the Spirit
- S2. The Spiritual Practice of Grief & Loss
- S3. Conversations with the Other: Speaking with those other political views
- S4. Seeking Peace in Your Community
- S5. The Gift of Common Ground: Nurture social justice by letting land speak
- S6. Vocal Ministry: Our communal encounter with Spirit
- S7. Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational
- S8. Lowering Racial Barriers **[HYBRID]**
- S9. Sacrifice Zones and Environmental Justice: What can Quakers do? **[HYBRID]**
- S10. Reproductive Justice: Abortion and Quaker values **[HYBRID]**

[HYBRID] Indicates hybrid workshops that will include both an in-person and online option.

T1. Renewing the Quaker Testimony of Justice in the 21st Century **[HYBRID]**

This workshop will examine how Justice is becoming the preeminent Quaker core value in the 21st Century. We will look at Justice as a Testimony for Quakers since the 1650s and also envision how Friends are renewing and expanding this vital Testimony in the present and in the coming decades.

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill) is a student at Earlham School of Religion and a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Committee. He has led workshops at BYM and FGC and recently taught Quaker History and New Testament at Friends Theological College - Kaimosi in western Kenya.

T2. BYM M&PC: Addressing topics of concern to local ministry committees

A discussion of common themes that arise in this year's State of Meeting reports that will be read by the committee this spring. Topics may include theist and non-theist Quakers, building community in our meetings and listening to spirit in Meetings for Business.

Greg Robb and Eileen Stanzione, Eileen (Patapsco) and Greg (FMW) have been in the leadership of BYM's Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee for the last few years.

T3. Writing Workshop for all Ages (Hesitant Writers Encouraged!)

Let your life speak through the written word! Modeled off the workshops that helped Belize Friends produce our book about Belize, this is a workshop for writers of all ages! We will generate an expansive, safe environment in which to create a draft of a short story, poem, or essay.

Nikki Holland of Belize Friends Church, West Richmond Friends Meeting, and (newly) Friends Meeting of Washington received the 2021 Tom Mullen Writing as Ministry Fellowship and has delighted in writing numerous articles and essays, as well as two book manuscripts (so far).

T4. Healing our Wounded Lands

Our lands, especially farms, have suffered from agricultural misuse and neglect, resulting in soil degradation and erosion, which have prevented the soils from producing to full potential. In the long term poor soils will affect our food supply, leading to world hunger. Agriculturists and farmers have found ways to mend the abuses of the past in order to fill the basic need of food.

Ben Friton is the director of The Reed Center, where the vision is to heal wounded lands while providing for the well-being of human and wildlife communities connected to that land.

T5. Right Relationship

In this experiential workshop we'll explore histories of harm and power dynamics on a personal level, with an eye towards what "making things right" can look like. On this foundation we'll then explore what this might look like on a societal level.

Nathan Kleban (Iowa City) works for Right Sharing of World Resources and is an avid Alternatives to Violence Project facilitator.

T6. Quakers and Voting Rights: What You Can Do

We'll talk about the current state of voting rights in the United States, including on-the-ground issues and consequential voting rights litigation. Then we'll talk about some of the basic mechanics of citizen participation in supporting voting rights and how Friends can become involved at the local and state levels.

Megan Gall (Charleston) has a Ph.D. in political science and over 15 years' experience working on voting rights policy and Voting Rights Act litigation.

T7. Forging a Spiritual Discipline of Anti-Racism

Join us as we consider and share our experiences of antiracism as a spiritual practice. What do we understand to be a spiritual practice? What does Quaker historical and current experience teach us about putting core beliefs into action? What impediments arise - in oneself, in one's meeting - to living out in the world the truths written on our hearts, that there is that of God in each of us? How can each of us start where we are and grow in faithfulness to this conviction? Racism and Othering are often at the core of that which shuts out the Light, and cultivating a practice of uncovering and shedding racism can help us individually and as a community of Friends.

Barbara Bezdek (Homewood) and Beth Haw (Richmond). Beth is a longtime Virginia Quaker who, with a small group, regularly holds a lemonade stand at the local farmers' market and engages people under the banner, Let's Talk about Why Black Lives Matter. Barbara is a long-time member of Homewood in Baltimore. She has served on Homewood's 'change groups,' presented workshops on racial awareness for white Quakers, co-led reflective reading circles on Caste, The Sum of Us, White Fragility, Healing Resistance, and taught Kingian nonviolence approaches to conflict and change. Beth and Barbara have

been thinking and talking together about how antiracism manifests as a spiritual discipline in their lives as individuals and as Quakers.

T8. Monthly Meeting Clerk Connection

Monthly Meeting clerks/assistant clerks will engage in worship-sharing & conversation around the following queries: What are your greatest joys in clerking? Your greatest challenges? How are we guided by the Spirit? What does it mean to be a servant leader? How do we foster the Meeting's work for peace and justice?

Sarah Bur (Homewood), Betsy Tobin (Frederick) & Meg Meyer (Stony Run). Sarah has been a Quaker for her entire adult life and currently serves as monthly meeting clerk for her meeting. Meg was surprised to find that Clerking her monthly meeting was WAY harder than clerking Interim Meeting, harder than being the recording clerk -- but very rewarding, as well. Betsy has been part of Frederick Friends Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting since 1995. She is currently Clerk of her monthly meeting and has served as co-clerk of various committees with her monthly meeting and the yearly meeting.

T9. Introduction to Quaker Theology

Quakerism has a rich and distinct theological tradition - yet many of us feel unsure of what Quakers believe beyond the SPICES. In this session, we will explore the core aspects of historic Quaker theology - and how those beliefs are expressed, and sometimes differ, across the worldwide body of Friends today. This session welcomes Friends from across the spectrum of beliefs (and non-belief!) and will invite participants to explore how their own theologies shape and support their work for justice in the world.

Sarah Gillooly (Adelphi) spent their career working in social justice public policy before becoming a midlife Quaker seminarian. Sarah currently serves as the General Secretary of BYM.

T10. Responding to Differences in Our Meetings

Differences aren't necessarily bad. We need to learn from them and deal with them creatively. This workshop will focus on role plays of types of differences in Meeting and how to respond in helpful ways, drawing on Quaker spiritual practices, and in this way, letting our lives speak.

Bob Rhudy (Patapsco) and Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring). Bob served as interim general secretary of BYM during 2015-2016, is president/executive director of Senior Mediation and Decision-Making, Inc. 2007-present. For over 40 years, Joan has practiced and guided others in using conflict creatively, opening ways for healing relationships and deepening our Quaker community.

F1. Friends Testimony of Equality and Retrospective Justice [HYBRID]

Friends treasure our Testimony of Equality, yet we live in a world shaped by structures that promote and protect inequality, poverty for some, privilege for others. Let's consider ways that we as Friends and Meetings can share our material resources, skills, and networks to promote justice, equity, and equality.

Marcy Seitel (Adelphi) & Phil Caroom (Annapolis) are members of the Reparations Action Working Group.

F2. In what ways are Our Anti-racist Queries Transforming your Worship Community?

In this workshop, Friends will share how our anti-racist queries are being practiced in their Meetings, Worship Communities, and committees. What decisions, discussions and discernments were impacted by considering these queries? Have these queries helped to create a more inclusive and belonging community?

Michael Wallace (Bethesda) serves as the clerk of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee as well as co-clerk for the Bethesda Friends Meeting's Change Group.

F3. Quaker Counter-Culture during McCarthyism, 1947-1962

The 1950s were a decade of incredible pressure to conform, yet in BYM and elsewhere many Friends were resisting conscription and war taxes, refusing to swear loyalty oaths, as well as challenging racial segregation, and weapons of mass destruction. This workshop will examine Quakers doing this and WHY!

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill) is a student at Earlham School of Religion and a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Committee. He has led workshops at BYM and FGC and recently taught Quaker History and New Testament at Friends Theological College - Kaimosi in western Kenya.

F4. Resources for Befriending the End of Life

A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life is an invitation to readers to let our later years and final days be a living testimony of our values. Do you want to talk about these difficult topics, but don't know how to start? Are you afraid of what lies ahead of you, or wonder if there is a Quakerly way to live through your aging and dying? This workshop will introduce our book's resources through real stories of how Friends have let their lives speak when facing similar issues, explain complex medical and legal terms, and offer practical help to you and your meeting. We show examples of various personal and meetings' activities, and encourage you to find ways these resources fit your meeting's needs.

Patti Nesbitt (Sandy Spring), Kristin Zimet & Lisa Allen (Midlothian). Patti is a retired palliative care nurse and co-author of "A Tender Time." Kristin has experience as a caregiver and hospice volunteer and is a gifted writer who co-authored "A Tender Time." Lisa is an estate lawyer who has experience as a caregiver and cancer center volunteer.

F5. Embracing Eco-Sorrow: Strength, Solace and Our Voice

As awareness and acceptance of the realities of climate change have grown, so has the experience of deeper climate-related grief, loss and other emotions. Seeking truth through our loves and connections, we will sensitively explore some contexts related to eco-sorrow and some tools for expression, sharing, finding strength, solace and our voice.

Barb Adams (Richmond) has trained in the work of Joanna Macy and others generating Hope, Resilience and Solace in these very challenging times of great change. She is the BYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

F6. Right Sharing

An experiential workshop based on the John Woolman quote, "May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions, or not."

Nathan Kleban (Iowa City) works for Right Sharing of World Resources and is an avid Alternatives to Violence Project facilitator.

F7. The Magic of Faith and Play

This workshop will look at hands-on first day lessons that are inviting, interactive, and ready to implement upon available training. We expect to have a sample lesson of this approach that energizes our kids to go out and serve justice.

Nancy Moore Goren (Stony Run), an experienced teacher, is very familiar with the materials and has good experience using them.

F8. Ecumenical Decade of Repentance: Rise Up for a Just and Flourishing Planet

Decrying the climate emergency as an ethical, moral, and spiritual crisis, manifested in a fixation on profit, the World Council of Churches declared an Ecumenical Decade of repentance and action for a just and flourishing planet. Learn how Friends can accelerate efforts to protect God's creation and promote just and sustainable communities.

Kallen Benson (Annapolis) is a university student who represents Friends General Conference as a founding member of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

F9. Queer Theology & Quakerism

Participants will learn about the history and core concepts of queer theology and explore how these ideas can shape the future of Quakerism. We will engage the work of major queer theologians, including Linn Marie Tonstad, Patrick Cheng, and Marcella Althaus-Reid.

Jim Webner (Stony Run) holds an M.Div. from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University with concentrations in Christian History, Christian Theology & Ethics, and Biblical Interpretation.

F10. Activism for peace/justice across Generations: Walking together on different paths

As we face multiple crises - genocidal war in Palestine, escalating climate change, increasing authoritarianism, rollbacks of civil rights -- what can Friends say . . . and do? This workshop invites activists confronting injustice and violence from perspectives of different generations and life experiences to explore how to learn from and support each other.

Jonathon Gross & Leslie Sussan (Bethesda). Leslie was a founding member of the Gray Panthers - an intergenerational coalition for social justice - in the 1970s and continues to be active in peace efforts, especially in opposing nuclear weapons. Jonathan is a student of nonviolent social change and an active member of IfNotNow and several other grassroots movements dedicated to peace, justice, and equality in Israel-Palestine.

F11. A Farm Tour - Friends Meeting School Farm

Len McGinnis raises vegetables and poultry on the farm at Friends Meeting School, where he engages students with nature, teaches about sustainable agriculture, and supports healthy lunches and a local food bank. As a Black farmer in a very diverse school, he is sensitive to issues of discrimination and injustice. Len integrates valuable on-farm agriculture experiences with the students' academic studies, showing them the generosity of nature in a curriculum that they will take into their adult lives. The precious gifts of environmental health and food are in the lesson plan each day. We'll tour the farm and the school which supports this effort.

Deborah Haines (Alexandria), Len MCGinnis, Chris Kimberly. Len McGinnis is a farmer and teacher who has been at Friends Meeting School since 2016, where he developed and manages the school farm. Chris Kimberly is a Quaker educator with a BA in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton, who has been Head of School at Friends Meeting School since 2020.

S1. Rising up and practicing the life of the Spirit

In 2023, BYM revised the introduction to the life of the spirit in our Faith and Practice. How to speak of these powerful lived practices? Biblically: the in-breaking of the peaceable kingdom/reign of God? The SPICES values? A single value: justice? Presentations from Faith & Practice Committee, sharing from participants, discussion.

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill) & Ann Riggs (Annapolis) serve on the yearly meeting's Faith and Practice committee.

S2. The spiritual practice of Grief and Loss

Dealing with the world, be it on a global or personal level, means dealing with loss. This workshop is for anyone who is grappling with loss--of a loved one, a pet, a relationship, a job, an opportunity or a set of beliefs.

Debby Churchman (FMW) & Kathy Powell (FMW) are long-term Friends. Debby lost her youngest son in 2021; Kathy has professionally helped numerous people experiencing loss.

S3. Conversations with the Other: Speaking with Those with Other Political Views

This is a workshop on communicating with those with whom we vigorously disagree on political and other issues. They can't really believe that, can they? But they can and do. Presenting them with the "facts" in verbal "gotcha" is rarely helpful and often detrimental in moving forward. To have a democracy we have to learn (and relearn) to work together, which we can only do if we can communicate. Practice at questioning, listening and getting past believing our view is the only view.

JE McNeil (FMW), an attorney with a master's degree in Conflict Transformation who has spent decades working with military members and others with whom she disagreed, has led this workshop often for people throughout the political spectrum.

S4. Seeking Peace in Your Community

The Executive Director of Quaker House will suggest strategies that local meetings can use to advance the Peace Testimony through a variety of outreach projects that can be adapted for the needs and interests of the meeting.

Wayne Finegar (Sandy Spring/Fayetteville) is the Executive Director of Quaker House, the 55-year-old peace project based in Fayetteville, NC.

S5. The Gift of Common Ground: Nurture Social Justice by Letting Land Speak

Individual action - "Let your life speak" is powerful, but rapid social justice requires the catalyzing, energizing and restorative power of common ground: safe space to gather in community, share, ground, and find peace. How have Friends historically nurtured social action by letting our land speak? How are we called today?

Kimberly Benton & Debbi Sudduth. Kimberly Benson (Annapolis) is the general manager of Friends Wilderness Center. Debbi Sudduth (Goose Creek) is co-chair of the Friends Wilderness Center Board of Directors.

S6. Vocal Ministry: Our Communal Encounters with Spirit

Part of advancement and outreach is living our lives and sharing our truth in such a way that people enter the doors of our Meetinghouses. And another part of advancement and outreach is making sure our Meetings are vital, welcoming, and transformative communities that people want to join. This workshop will be a space to talk about our experiences of spirit-led vocal ministry and how we can nurture, expect, and anticipate vocal ministry that will deepen our experiences of the divine and help grow our Meetings.

Jim Citro (Patapsco) has years of experience with discerning Spirit in groups as a Retreat Leader, small group leader and coordinator.

S7. Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational

Most monthly meetings have asked themselves how they can attract younger people and families with children. We'll take a look at small and manageable ways to meet the needs of younger folks by bringing the generations together and building a stronger and more vibrant community for all.

Meghan Goldman (Goose Creek) is a Mom, engineer, and playworker.

S8. Connecting Local Meetings: Lowering Racial Barriers [HYBRID]

Many BYM local Meetings have small groups (sometimes called "Change Groups") addressing racial justice and lowering racial barriers in their Meetings. Friends doing this work will share with each other what they have been doing, what they plan to do, and the challenges they face.

David Etheridge (FMW) and Pierce Hammond (Bethesda). David is Clerk of the Working Group on Racism. Peirce is a member of the Working Group on Racism and the Ministry and Worship Committee.

S9. Sacrifice Zones and Environmental Justice: What Can Quakers Do? [HYBRID]

Through film resources, discussion with a panel of impacted community members in the BYM region, and an interactive map, we will explore environmental injustice - when polluting/toxic projects place an inequitable burden on marginalized communities, damaging the environment, health and heritage, and rob citizens of their civil and human rights.

Barb Adams (Richmond) & Carl Benson (Annapolis). Barb is BYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, works for the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter and has allied with and advocated for people and communities facing destructive projects throughout Virginia for over 10 years. Carl is the conservation manager at Friends Wilderness Center and works for the Nature Conservancy.

S10. Reproductive Justice: Abortion & Quaker Values

The U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade has led to great uncertainty. The BYM Peace & Social Concerns Reproductive Justice Working Group invites Friends to consider evolving medical issues, racial justice, emerging law, and Quaker values. We expect a lively discussion.

Katherine Cole, MD (Adelphi), Taylor Stanton, Catherine Nnoka (FMW), Victor Thuronyi (Adelphi). Katherine, co-clerk of the Reproductive Justice Working Group, is a retired Family Physician who provided care for patients of all ages in Northern Virginia from 1988 until 2009. Taylor Stanton M.D., who grew up in Herndon Friends Meeting and now attends a Michigan meeting, is a board-certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist with a subspecialty in Complex Family Planning. She works in Detroit providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion care. Catherine, born and raised in Nigeria, has been on a journey with Friends through New York Yearly Meeting, Westtown School and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She has a lifelong commitment to women's rights, including reproductive justice. Victor, raised Catholic, is a lawyer who writes about abortion and public policy.

Families at Annual Session

BYM welcomes families to a vibrant community of adults and children! Children (birth- 8th grade) participate for free in BYM's Annual Session. If you're staying on-campus, be sure to choose a Family Room under the Hospitality options. Annual Session provides a range of family-friendly activities such as the popular evening "Coffee House" open-mic and the All Ages Celebration.

In addition, children participate in Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). At JYM, your child will meet and get to know children from other Meetings, have fun, and learn Quaker values and history.

The JYM program is divided by age.

- **Nursery** (infant-preschool) provides childcare in a space filled with loving, creative adults who are ready to play, read books, and run!
- **Elementary** (Grades K-5) provides a variety of adult-led activities and fun focused on the Annual Session Theme.
- **Junior Young Friends** (Grades 6-8) meet in their own community, supported by JYM adults, to learn experientially about Quaker process and participate in a wide variety of activities - sometimes joining the elementary classes and sometimes joining the Young Friends.

Junior Yearly Meeting takes place during all Business Meetings at Annual Session as well as during evening plenaries. A co-op aftercare is organized among parents and other participants in the afternoons after the structured JYM programming.

Young Friends (Grades 9-12) gather from Tuesday to Sunday of Annual Session. Young Friends self-organize programming under the direction of BYM's full-time Youth Programs Manager, Sunshine Klein. During Annual Session, Young Friends participate in their own Business Meetings. They organize their own adventures both on and off campus and run capture the flag with Junior Yearly Meeting. Young Friends also facilitate both the All Ages Celebration, which this year will be a carnival, and the Coffee House, which is a variety show everyone in the community can participate in. Alongside their separate programming, they also join the larger BYM community for meals, workshops, and optional evening lectures. Young Friends generally stay in a separate dorm under the supervision of trained and background-checked adults who serve as "Friendly Adult Mentors" and sleep in separate rooms but on the same floor as the Young Friends. For more information about Young Friends programming at Annual Session and year round, please email SunshineKlein@bym-rsf.org.

For more information about programming for children and Young Friends at Annual Session, visit the Annual Session Homepage.

Annual Session Schedule At A Glance

July 29 to August 4, 2024							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00			Breakfast (7:00-8:30)				
8:00			Morning Groups (8:15-9:15) Study, Worship Sharing			Bible	
9:00			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business* (MfW - B)				Worship*
10:00		Retreat					MfW - B*
11:00						Memorial Meeting*	
12:00		Lunch					
1:00	Retreat Registration	Siesta (1:00 - 2:00)		Global Majority (BIPOC) Hang-Out* (1:00 - 1:45pm)			
2:00		Worship*	MfW - B*	Workshops			
3:00	Retreat	MfW - B*					
4:00			Committee Meetings (3:45 - 5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Committee Meetings (4:15-5:15)	
5:00	Dinner Served (5:00-6:30) Tues - Sat Registration Open (4:30-6:00)						
6:00			Singing (6:15-7:00)			Worship (6:15pm)	
7:00	Retreat	Opening Plenary*					
8:00			IAC Lecture*	All Ages Celebration	Coffee House	Carey Lecture*	
9:15		Intervisitation	Intervisitation	Intervisitation		Intervisitation	
*Denotes Online/Hybrid Option Available							
Registration Desk Hours: Mon: 12-2:30, 5-6pm			Info Desk Hours: Tues-Thur, 2pm - 4pm				
Tues-Sat: 12pm-2pm; 4:30pm - 6pm							

Annual Session Logistics

Register Online at www.bym-rsf.org/AnnualSession

Registration is open NOW through July 14th. If you need assistance to complete your registration, you can call Lucy at the BYM Office at 301-658-6797 or email Registrar@bym-rsf.org.

Fees & Payment

We are excited to keep the 2024 suggested registration rates equal to or lower than rates in 2022 and 2023! In addition, we will continue to use a Pay-As-Led model. The suggested registration rate represents the true cost of participating in BYM's Annual Session. Please keep this cost in mind as you determine the amount you are led to pay for your registration or the registration for your entire group. Friends may pay any amount they choose - below or above the rate.

Registration above the suggested rates helps ensure all Friends can attend, regardless of ability to pay. The generosity of Friends paying above the suggested rate has allowed us to lower the rate for high school aged Friends again this year. If you are paying more than the suggested rate and would like a tax deduction letter for the amount over your suggested fees, please email Development@bym-rsf.org.

Each lodging night includes three meals, beginning with dinner on the day of arrival, continuing through lunch the following day. For Commuters, the rate includes two meals each day. When registering online, you will have the choice to pay by credit card or check.

2024 Annual Session Rates Per Person						
	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	
Single Room	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$500	\$625	Includes room, linens, 3 meals, facility fees, and online access
Double Room	\$110	\$220	\$330	\$440	\$550	
Family Room	\$110	\$220	\$330	\$440	\$550	
Young Friend Grades 9-12	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375	
Child Birth-8th Grade	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Adult Commuter Per Day	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375	Includes 2 meals, daily facility fee, and online access
Single Event Ticket	\$25					Online or in-person
Online Only	\$75					Full online access

Accessibility

BYM strives to create an Annual Session where all are welcome and everyone has what they need to actively participate. The dorms at Hood College were constructed in 2020-2021 and are accessible for a variety of needs including low threshold, single-step showers; individual climate control; rooms with private bathrooms and refrigerators; and wheelchair accessible rooms. However, some events are held in older buildings that are ADA-compliant but may be inconvenient or require extra time to navigate. Maps are available from the Information Desk showing all accessible entrances for Annual Session buildings. Some accessible entrances may be on the backside of a building. The location of Business Meeting is accessible but access to the bathroom in that building requires first exiting the building to access bathrooms via another entrance. Sound is amplified for Meeting for Business and Meeting for Worship and transcripts are enabled on Zoom. We also provide Bluetooth access for participants who use Bluetooth enabled hearing aids. Volunteer drivers provide rides in golf carts to help Friends move between buildings throughout Annual Session. To discuss your access needs, please contact the Registrars at registrar@bym-rsf.org.

Check In

Links for all online Annual Session programs will be emailed to registered participants. Friends who are attending in-person and have completed their payment by Friday, July 19th may collect their Welcome Packets (with room keys included) by going to the Registration Desk at Hood College and looking in the marked container. All others need to stop by the Registration Desk during the hours listed below. Friends arriving after the Registration Desk has closed for the day may call the number posted on the Registration Desk.

Monday: 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Tuesday - Saturday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm; 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Policies & Procedures

Visit the BYM Annual Session webpage for information on the Annual Session code of conduct, refunds, and this year's Covid policy.

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

All About Annual Session

Bible Study & Worship Sharing: Following breakfast each morning, many Friends begin the day with worship sharing, experiment with Light, Chanting or Bible study in small groups. You may register online or in person on the sheets near the BYM Information table. We hope that you will feel comfortable for the whole week in your morning group. If your group just doesn't fit, it's fine to ask another group's leader if you may join them.

Bookstore: This summer, the Bookstore will feature new titles and a wide variety of gently used books to choose from, plus a wide selection of crafts. Bookstore Hours are posted each day in the Daily Minute. Please remember the Bookstore is not open during Business Meetings or during the evening Plenary Sessions.

Friends are invited to offer items for sale as a vendor at the Bookstore. Quilted items, pottery, clothing, independently published materials, and all manner of crafts and goods are welcome. Simply contact the Bookstore Manager at bookstore@bym-rsf.org.

Coffee House: An open-mic talent show for Friends of all ages. Bring your poetry, instrument, hidden talent, Dad jokes, et al.

The Daily Minute: The Daily Minute is Annual Session's daily communication about scheduling changes, room assignments, late-breaking content, and much more. The Daily Minutes is available in paper copy at Annual Session and online each morning on the Annual Session Website.

Daily Singing: Gather 'round, Friends. We will sing hymns around the piano together Tuesday-Friday evening. All God's critters have a place in the choir!

Displays: From varied Quaker organizations and interest groups are welcome. Display space is limited and must be reserved in advance. Please complete a request on the BYM Annual Session webpage.

Global Majority Hang-Out Space: The Global Majority Caucus will facilitate a Global Majority Hang-Out Space on Wednesday through Saturday, from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. The Hang-Out will be Hybrid, with both in-person and Zoom connection, bringing in Friends from far and wide to join this Space, which is exclusively for Global Majority Friends.

The term "Global Majority" encourages those who are dual- or multi-heritage, Indigenous, Aboriginal, Black, Pacific Islander, Brown, and West, South or East Asian to see themselves as belonging to the global majority rather than as "minorities." These groups represent about 80% of the world population. The term "People of Color," by contrast, centers whiteness as the norm, while implying that white people have no race in a racialized world.

Interest Groups: Interest Groups provide a great way to gather informally to focus on topics of interest to Friends. They meet Thursday or Friday at 4:15. Topics and locations are announced in the Daily Minute. If you would like to hold an interest group, please make your request no later than 4 p.m., a day in advance using the form at the Information desk or online to be sure to get an assigned space. Since we can only have a limited number of groups at a time, there is a priority list for subjects and space is not guaranteed.

Intervisitation Lounge: Light refreshments are offered on the Ground floor of the dorm at 9:15 each evening (Except Friday) This is an opportunity for visitors to Baltimore Yearly Meeting to get together with members of BYM to build the community of Friendship and discuss the concerns and joys that are rising up among various Yearly Meetings. We look forward to connecting with those that have joined us in the past and those new to our sessions. This is a great time to share what we have learned in our visits to other Meetings and from visitors to our own Yearly Meeting. There are also card and board games available.

Meeting for Worship: Annual Session begins with an unprogrammed Meeting for Worship on Tuesday at 2:00pm, followed by the first business session. All of our business sessions are held in a spirit of worship, and Friends are invited to enter the Meeting space online or in-person a few minutes ahead to settle into worship. On Saturday, Friends are invited to a Christ-centered programmed worship hosted by Friends Church of Baltimore. On First Day (Sunday) morning, the entire community gathers for unprogrammed worship at 9:00am.

Meeting for Business: Meeting for Business begins with a reading and a period of silent worship. Copies of the Annual Reports of committees and groups, Interim Meeting Minutes, and other documents are made available in advance - via the BYM website and limited printed copies available in-person. This is core information about what the Yearly Meeting has done in the last year and explains a great deal about what goes on.

Volunteers: are welcome and can indicate their interest by visiting the volunteer sign-up online.

Community News

The Interchange shares updates from across our Yearly Meeting. News for the Fall Issue of the Interchange can be sent to admin@bym-rsf.org by September 20th, 2024. Information about births, deaths (including Memorial Minutes), or new memberships within your Meeting are also lovingly received by the Yearly Meeting anytime at the same address.

Adelphi Friends Meeting

Spring greetings from Adelphi Friends Meeting! Our community has been very busy these days, especially our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, our Change Group, and our Climate Action Group. Like most Meetings, we find ourselves deeply affected by the ongoing wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East. Actions coming out of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee include the development of a Peace Pole, designed by the children of our Meeting; recurrent Meetings for Worship with a specific concern for peace; and a Saturday workshop on "Stress, Trauma and Community Violence" by our own Alaine Duncan. We meditate, pray and find actions that help us hold on to hope for the end of these devastating military actions.

The Change Group has been holding educational discussions on reparations in continuing preparation for yearly mini-reparations done by our Meeting. The Climate Action Group is preparing for its third Repair Cafe and also hosted a Second Hour on "Climate Change and Militarism," given by an attendee Miriam Pemberton. This committee also got on-site compost bins for the Meeting up and functioning. Our Community has been blessed too with a small but steady stream of newcomers, and Outreach and Fellowship recently hosted a newcomer breakfast to welcome them more personally. An on-line film discussion series started during the pandemic by a member of our Meeting and a member of Takoma Park Friends Meeting has continued. Initially the series dealt primarily with racial issues but has broadened over time. In honor of the recent well-reviewed movie "Rustin," the film was brought to the Meetinghouse and an in-person discussion included a pizza meal. In March, films concerned Women's history and issues.

Finally, our Meeting is planning its annual Strawberry Festival for Saturday, June 1, 2024. It is a joyful day of selling used household goods, books, clothing and jewelry; as well as providing music, food, and children's games. This is a fundraiser for the Meeting to support its financial outreach. Please plan to come and join us between 10am and 4:00pm for the festivities!

Carole Hoage

Alexandria Friends Meeting

Alexandria Friends followed our tradition of having a fall Homecoming celebration this year. Around 80 Friends attended including some from out of town. We had a presentation by Ron Chase of the Gum Springs Historical Society, we worshiped together, then shared a meal followed by music and singing. It is a joyous time of celebration and community.

We are continuing Trust Circles this fall and have formed a second group that meets on Zoom in addition to the in-person group. We have been working on short Quaker Memoirs following Adult Religious Education (ARE) presentations by Rae Tyson. Alexandria continues its tradition of celebrating a candle-light Christmas Eve worship meeting followed by music, singing, food and fellowship. *Leslie Gallagher*

Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Charlottesville Friends have seen an increase in attendance and are pleased that several new families have started to worship with us regularly. We are delighted that Tom Stephens recently recorded his membership. At the same time, we are saddened that Liz Kutchai, who joined our Meeting in the 1970s, died in January; her quiet consistent presence in worship is missed. This March we resumed full participation in a rotating program among churches to support the homeless from late October to early April. For two weeks most of the Meeting House was used to provide a safe, warm space for women to have a hot meal, shower, and sleep. We had between nine and fourteen women each evening. Many Friends participated, including the youth who prepared and served one of the meals and made welcome cards for the women. They also decorated long sheets of papers to look like patchwork quilts; these beautiful pieces, as well as several colorful posters made by Tandem Friends School fifth graders, were taped over some of the windows to provide privacy. We mourn the continuation of violence and destruction in the Middle East and struggle with how to best respond as a community. The minute for peace, we united on last fall, seems inadequate; we are considering next steps. *Linda Goldstein*

Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting

We continue our Still Listening series, educating ourselves and the community. Our February event featured local museum educator Micahel Corle who spoke about new research into the Indigenous history of our area, relevant to new and revised displays and presentations at the Fort Bedford Museum. The next Still Listening event will be May 19th, with local historian Dr. Garnell Washington speaking on *The Lone Ranger Was Black*. October 20th Kevin Mearle will present *The Underground Railroad in Bedford, Pa*. We continue our neighborly outreach with spring flower gifts. The Property Committee is working on stream bank remediation at the Meeting House. A recent consultation with environmental technicians introduced the possibility of reintroduction of native brook trout to Fishertown. *Ellen Prentiss Campbell*

Homewood Friends Meeting

Homewood witnessed a particularly rich period of life events this past winter and early spring. Kathryn (Kathy) Munnell passed away in late December and was memorialized in early February. Kathy lived and worked in several different countries and was a tireless advocate for peace and justice. She returned home to Baltimore in 2014. Homewood Friends benefited from her commitment, knowledge and loving presence. A full obituary of Kathy's life can be viewed at: <https://homewoodfriends.org/kathryn-munnell/>

David (Dave) Greene, a long time member of Homewood, who lived in Friends' House for many years passed on in March. He was memorialized in a vibrant Meeting for Worship held in early April at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and online. Many speakers remembered ways in which David helped them in their life journey and inspired them by his example. Rosetta Graham's 101st birthday was in April. Rosetta

is living at Esther's Place in Baltimore City. Louise Williams' 102nd birthday is in May. Louise is living at Broadmead. Jeremiah Burns was welcomed to membership in March.

Homewood currently has several clearness committees for membership in process. It has been many years since we have had such a swell of membership requests! New members with perspectives based upon different life experiences are energizing our Meeting! We are happy to report that almost half of our attendees are Young Adults who are engaging fulsomely with the Meeting. It does feel like a new day is dawning for us at Homewood!

An event that we are particularly proud of was held as the General Assembly was opening. Homewood hosted a Criminal Justice Forum on January 21st with over 100 persons participating virtually and in-person. Homewood co-sponsored the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform and Interfaith Action for Human Rights. We are grateful that one of the featured bills, creating an Office of the Correctional Ombudsman passed the Senate and House during the recently completed General Session and, as of now, is awaiting the Governor's signature. *John McKusick*

Floyd Friends Monthly Meeting

This is a summary of Floyd Friends Monthly Meeting social concerns events for 2023. Floyd County has a small population of about 15,000 people and is a rural, conservative county, with about 96.7% of the population White, about 2% Black and 1.35% Hispanic. Our meeting tries to initiate and support any community relationships of diversity. In March a letter to the editor from Floyd Friends supporting reproductive rights was published in the Floyd Press newspaper. We also approved adding our Monthly Meeting's name to the American Friends Service Committee's anti-apartheid pledge and presented information about the pledge at the Floyd County Courthouse on March 24th 2023. We sang, waved at passing motorists and handed out Apartheid-Free pledge and website pocket cards to those who wanted to know more.

In April members attended an Arab American Heritage Celebration at Bent Mountain's community center and in June we helped sponsor a Juneteenth Celebration, organized by Floyd Community Action for Racial Equity (CARE) at Floyd's Lineberry Park, and staffed the "mural arts" table. In September the Hispanic Heritage Celebration was canceled due to rain and rescheduled for October 14. Put on by Floyd CARE we again were one of the sponsors and staffed the "God's Eye" art table. Because our meeting is small and has about 6 regular attenders who come to Meeting for worship with a concern for business, we have to decide how to address social concern events requests. We decided about 5 years ago to have 2 different levels of endorsements for public events. The first level is: Endorsed Activity - use of our meeting's logo on a flier - evidence we support the spirit of the event. This level may include a financial donation. This year it was/is the Anti-Apartheid Pledge. The second level is: Meeting sponsored activity - meeting is committed to being physically present doing preparation before the event, serving during the event and cleaning up after, with enough people participating to achieve the goal. It may include a financial donation. This year it was the Juneteenth Celebration and Hispanic Heritage Celebration. *Submitted by Edna Whittier*

Patapsco Friends Meeting

Patapsco Friends Meeting continues to meet in hybrid format, and this writer thinks that Zoom might be permanent. Some of our beloved Friends do not live within reasonable driving distance. One of our valued elders, Jan Warner, has passed away. Jan was a lifelong Quaker who identified as native American. Our Change group members attended the Maryland Pow-wow with her this summer. After attending Plainfield Meeting in New Jersey, Jan moved to Columbia 6 years ago to live closer to family members. She was a faithful attender, with transportation provided by Linda Pardoe

or Anna Rubin.

Post-pandemic, a good number of new attenders, including about 9 children each Sunday, have joined us. We continue to seek a teacher (who we will reimburse financially) to supplement the teaching work of the adults. Once a month we meet in-person to enjoy some of “before-times” joys: a pot luck meal and singing together, usually on the same First Day. Additionally, another Friendly Eights group is forming. Some Patapsco Friends work with other Howard County religious communities in an interfaith project to aid 3 families of

refugees. We give them the necessities of life in addition to transporting them to school and work. Donated cars are needed for these newcomers; if Friends have an extra car, contact our clerk: Quakernana@gmail.com.
Jean Pfefferkorn

Food, friends, and fellowship at 2 game nights held in January and March at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting.



Preparing for a Lunar New Year celebration at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting



Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

It’s amazing to compare the life and energy in Sandy Spring in 2024 to the worries and struggles of 2020 and 2021, when covid kept us physically apart for so long. Our community relishes a wide range of activities that bring us together for worship and learning, fun and fellowship. Recently we welcomed Bonnie Zimmer and Bob Dockhorn as new members. At memorial meetings we celebrated the lives of Esther Lenore Holt, Caryl Marsh, and David Greene (long-time attender who retained his membership at Homewood Meeting). We started the new year with a half-day all-meeting retreat day with the theme: Finding our Sacred Compass. 40 Friends gathered in person with another 10 on zoom to consider how we listen for the Spirit together, and what our deepest desires are for our meeting community.

Despite a snowstorm, Peace Committee hosted a very well-attended panel discussion on What Comes Next for Palestinians and Israelis with Philip Farah of Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace; Laila El-Haddad, a Palestinian-American author; Shelley Cohen Fudge of Jewish Voice for Peace DC Metro; and Steve Chase of Quaker Palestine Israel Network. The Peace Committee holds a vigil on Saturdays in Olney at the corner of 108 and Georgia Ave to protest the violence in Gaza. We are finishing up a 4 part worship/learning experience: Beyond Acknowledgment: Committing to Antiracist Work Through Transformation and Reparative Actions. We have been examining the relationship between Sandy Spring Quakers and injustice. Tom Farquhar & Ellen Cronin spoke about Chattel Slavery in January; Martha Catlin & Pat Powers spoke about Indigenous Peoples in February; David Etheridge spoke about structural racism in March; and Daquanna Harrison spoke about transformation and reparative action in April. Each session included a period of deep and powerful worship sharing after the talk.

Welcoming and supporting all of our children is an important part of being an antiracist community. The Religious Education committee is committed to this goal and has started reading *How to Raise an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi to learn more about teaching and caring for our children. To strengthen our First Day School program we have also approved a new staff position for a part-time Religious Education Coordinator (job description online: sandyspring.org/jobs). Our active Young Friends are anticipating their overnight trip to Patuxent Friends Meeting in April; did Bible studies on John 15:15 (origin of “Friends” nomenclature) and the Easter story; and held a bake sale and food drive for the food pantry at our neighboring Sharp Street United Methodist Church. They’ve also joined with Sharp Street UMC youth in service projects, recently making fleece blankets for cancer patients. In support of families the Marriage & Family Relations committee offered a workshop on Raising Teens in Challenging Times with Brooke Carroll and Jen Cort as facilitators. Following our fall learning series on the Spirituality of Aging and Dying, a newly formed End of Life Planning Group has offered presentations and individual coaching on advance directives as well as promoting resources for organ/body donations, cremations, and green burials.

A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life. (Coming Soon!)

The End of Life Working Group happily announces the publication of its book *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life* this coming June. It is the culmination of years of work revising and greatly expanding the 2018 Langley Hill booklet on death and dying. With guidance and editorial support from EOLWG, Patti Nesbitt (Sandy Spring) and Kristin Zimet (Hopewell Centre) have compiled a unique collection of Quaker voices, both historical and contemporary. An open-hearted primer from a Quaker perspective, this book explores many practical, legal, emotional, and spiritual aspects of the end of life.

In writing this book, the authors reviewed Faith and Practices from at least eight yearly meetings and interviewed countless Friends across three continents. Intimate and often emotional stories give poignant examples of Friends aging and dying well, without fear. Their testimonies show multiple ways that Love guides us through to the end. The book moves in widening circles, from the point of view of someone aging to that of someone dying, and from the calling of the primary caregiver to the accompaniment of friends and the embrace of the larger faith community. The book offers extensive guidance and queries for individual Friends as well as for their meetings and yearly meetings on how to provide pastoral care at the end of life. The final part of the book is a treasury of resources for Friends, families, and meetings, including checklists, sample forms, queries for clearness, and further readings and support. As primary caregiver for his wife now in hospice, Brent Bill, author of *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality*, offered this review: “I wish we had this earlier. *A Tender Time* is more than helpful, it is much needed!” The former PYM Care and Aging Coordinator George Schaefer wrote, “*A Tender Time* is both comprehensive in its breadth and probing in its depth.... Like talking to a trusted friend, the book reads like a gentle conversation offering guidance and inspiration.”

BYM will send two copies to all our monthly meetings and worship groups. A generous grant from Friends Foundation for the Aging has enabled us to distribute also to every yearly meeting and every Quaker retirement community in the country. The book is a paperback of approximately 225 pages. It will be available for sale at our annual sessions, as well as from Pendle Hill, other Quaker bookstores, and major commercial outlets. At our annual sessions this summer, the EOLWG will introduce the book’s topics and show how the book’s extensive resources can be used to engender conversations around a subject none of us really like to talk about. Our goal is to encourage Friends to take these concerns back to their meetings to create supportive spaces for our aging members. We welcome you to share in this ministry.

Patti Nesbitt

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

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Steph Bean	Presiding Clerk ymclerk@bym-rsf.org	Harriet Dugan	Financial Manager harrietdugan@bym-rsf.org
Tom Webb	Clerk of Interim Meeting imclerk@bym-rsf.org	Dyresha Harris	Catoctin Camp Director dyreshaharris@bym-rsf.org
Jim Riley	Treasurer treasurer@bym-rsf.org	David Hunter	Camp Property Manager davidhunter@bym-rsf.org
Sarah Gillooly	General Secretary sarahg@bym-rsf.org	Sunshine Klein	Youth Programs Manager youthprograms@bym-rsf.org
Lucy Azenga	Admin Associate lucyazenga@bym-rsf.org	Rachael Carter	STRIDE Coordinator rachaelcarter@bym-rsf.org
Barbara Wille	Interim Development Director development@bym-rsf.org	Brian Massey	Camping Program Manager brianmassey@bym-rsf.org