

THE INTERCHANGE

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



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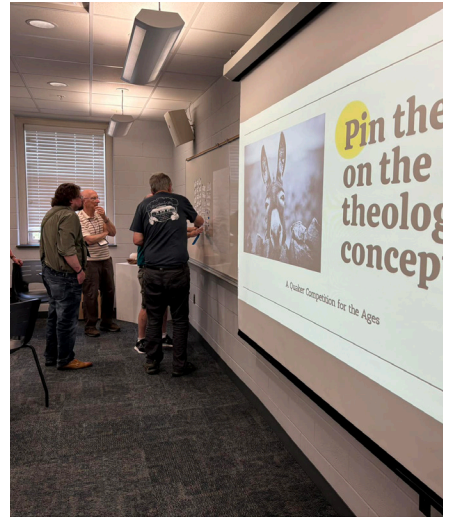
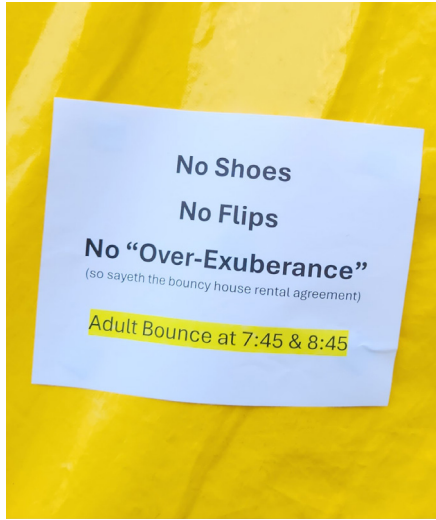
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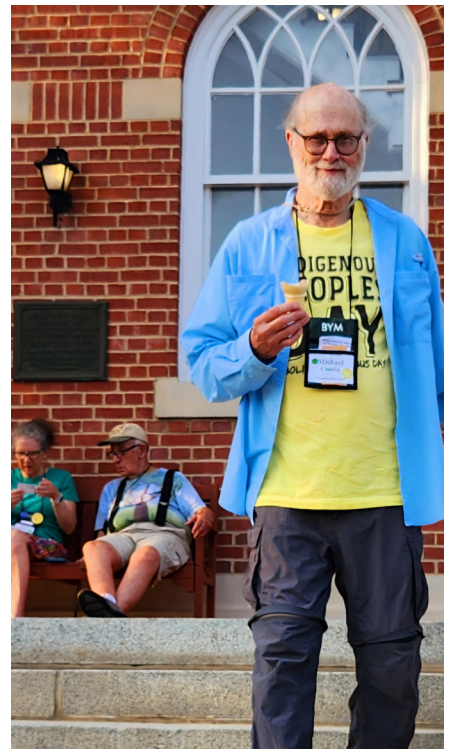
Community News

Annual Session 2024

More than 300 Friends gathered, in-person and online, for BYM Annual Sessions July 30 - August 4. Minutes from Annual Sessions are available online and will be published in the 2024 Yearbook. Copies of the Yearbook will be available at the Fall Interim Meeting and mailed to Meetings in November.







CREATION CARE AT THE ROLLING RIDGE CONSERVANCY SESSION

David Hunter

Progress and growth in the forest is always prefaced by disturbance. Extreme winds, flooding, rock falls, naturally occurring fires, and other extreme weather and natural disturbances have always been the precursors to growth and vibrancy in the forest. After 300 years of clearcutting; hi-grading - the process of removing the trees with the greatest genetic potential and leaving only less desirable, damaged and diseased trees; the prevention of naturally occurring disturbances such as fire, it was time for action to encourage regeneration and vibrancy in the forest of the Rolling Ridge Conservancy, the new home of Opequon Quaker Camp near Harper's Ferry, WV. Earlier this year, Timber Stand Improvement work began on about 200 acres at Rolling Ridge. Baltimore Yearly Meeting is a proud partner to the Conservancy and our neighbors - Friends Wilderness Center, China Folkhouse, and Study Retreat Associates - in this work.

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Fall mushrooms are a sign of things to come at Rolling Ridge



The Timber Stand Improvement began with the removal of 40-60% of the most diseased, damaged, and unproductive trees. This will allow space and light for the trees that are most beneficial to the forest environment to thrive. During the summer of 2024 it looked a bit as if some kind of disaster has taken place, and in a sense it has, but this disturbance will lead to a more vibrant, resilient, and healthy forest in the years to come.

This fall, the most observant visitors in the forest will already see signs that this renaissance has begun. Tiny seedlings are germinating in the light that can now reach the forest floor. New native species are already beginning to fill in, and threatened species of birds and other animals are moving into the new habitats created by the disturbance. What a privilege it will be to watch the beautiful old trees stand and thrive among the new trees, plants, and animals that move into the rejuvenated forest in the years to come. It looks a little rough in the short term, but in the long term we are caring for creation - and I cannot wait to see what the future holds in the forest at Rolling Ridge!



Timber stand improvement at Rolling Ridge

2024-2025 CALENDAR OF KEY DATES

Sept 22-24	Spiritual Formation Fall Retreat <i>Claggett Center, Adamstown, MD</i>	March 28-30	Young Friends Con
Oct 4-6	Young Friends Con <i>Homewood Friends Meeting</i>	March 30	Annual Data Requests Due to BYM Office
Nov 9	Interim Meeting <i>Location TBD</i> <i>Agenda items due October 4</i> <i>Supporting docs due October 18</i>	April TBD	Budget & Apportionment Meeting <i>Held Online</i>
Nov 22-24	Young Friends Con <i>Menallen Friends Meeting</i>	April 15	Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports Due
Jan 1	Winter Interchange Deadline	May 2-4	Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat <i>Shepherd's Spring, Sharpsburg, MD</i>
Jan 16	BYM Camps Registration Opens <i>www.bymcamps.org</i>	May TBD	Jr Young Friends Con
Jan 15	Annual Data Requests Sent to Monthly Meetings	May 16-18	Young Friends Graduation Con
Jan TBD	Jr Young Friends Con	June 21	Interim Meeting <i>Location TBD</i> <i>Agenda items due May 16</i> <i>Supporting docs due May 30</i>
Feb 14-16	Young Friends Con	June 14	BYM Camp Staff Arrive
Feb 28	Budget Requests Due	June 28	BYM Camps Begin
March 24	Spring Interchange Deadline	Jul 29 - Aug 3	Annual Sessions, tentative <i>Hood College</i> <i>Agenda items due June 21</i> <i>Supporting docs due July 7</i>
March 22	Interim Meeting <i>Location TBD</i> <i>Agenda items due Feb 14</i> <i>Supporting docs due Feb 28</i>	Aug 18 - 22	Staff Sabbath Week
		Sept 2	Fall Interchange Deadline

BYM Awards 2024 Scholarships

BYM awarded \$18,000 in scholarships to 9 students affiliated with BYM Monthly Meetings for the 2024-2025 academic year. The Educational Grants Committee is charged with awarding annual scholarships from the BYM Educational Endowment. This year, the Committee was able to increase total scholarships by \$10,000 due to the

strong performance of the Endowment over the last few years. Members or regular attenders of Monthly Meetings associated with BYM (or their children) pursuing an undergraduate degree or a technical/trade education are eligible to apply. Scholarship applications will re-open for the 2025-2026 academic year in early spring of 2025. Congratulations to our 9 awardees!

BYM's Global Majority Caucus - AKA BYM's Quakers of Color Caucus Is Looking For You!

What is the Global Majority Caucus?

The BYM Global Majority Caucus (GMC) is a group within BYM for people of color. As a group we support each other, gather together, create events, and have fun! We welcome all people who identify as a person of color to participate in any of our activities...We really want you to participate - we can't do this without you - please reach out and connect with us.

What We've Done

- Hangout Spot During Annual Session (check the annual session schedule for details)
- Disseminated Trauma Healing Funds
- Paid for POC to attend the FGC Gathering
- Written Epistles for Annual Session

What We're Planning

- Regional activities to connect BYM GM Friends to each other regionally
- Support nominating committee connection to GM Friends

[Join the Google group to receive emails.](#)

Sent by your current co-leads: Daquanna Harrison, Adelphi Friends Meeting daquanna.harrison@gmail.com. Rashid Darden, Friends Meeting of Washington rashid.darden@gmail.com



Scan to join the Google group



Scan to learn more about BYM GMC

GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2024

Giving Tuesday offers an opportunity for BYM Friends to join people across six continents in fundraising for non-profits around the world. BYM is excited to announce that this year, we're raising funds for our **Camping Programs!** In 2024, almost 600 kids participated in our four Quaker camps, where they are safe to **find and be exactly who they are.** Stay tuned to find out more as this transformational day approaches!





SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Spiritual Formation Retreat
May 2-4, 2025

We will return to Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center in Sharpsburg for our Spring Spiritual Formation Retreat. Save the date and stay tuned for details at www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/

Community News

Community News remains the most beloved section of the Interchange and a way for Friends from across our Yearly Meeting to keep in touch. What's new at your Meeting? Are there joys and concerns to share with the community of Friends? Have you recently celebrated a birth or new membership - or mourned the loss of a Friend? Send your updates to Admin@bym-rsf.org. The deadline for the Winter Interchange is December 31, 2024.

Adelphi Friends Meeting

Greetings from Adelphi Friends Meeting! We held our annual Strawberry Festival on June 1 with beautiful weather that helped to entice a very large crowd to our event. As a result, we raised close to a record amount of money for our continuing mini-reparations project. Following that, First Day School transitioned to a summer of classes that centered on adults in the Meeting sharing their "passions". We have had classes where, for example, the students cooked, learned something about Japanese flower arrangement, or participated in an environmental-related project. One new activity in recent months involved a series of gatherings for crafters sponsored by the Outreach and Fellowship Committee.

One of our biggest projects - an addition to our Meetinghouse building - has developed over many, many years and is now close to becoming a reality. We have finalized architectural plans, chosen a contractor, and will be seeking final approval from the community to move forward. This addition will give us accessibility that we have lacked in that both the Meeting room and the Social Hall/Kitchen areas will be on the same main floor. We will also gain two new classrooms on our lower level accessible to all with the inclusion of a lift. These are exciting times - but also times when we need to continue to focus on raising money to avoid a high interest loan. As is likely true of many Meetings, our community has been very troubled by the war in the Middle East, as well as the war in Ukraine and wars in other countries around the world. Among our related activities the Meeting passed a Peace Minute on the Conflict in Israel and Palestine, and held worship and threshing sessions related to this concern. A Peace Pole is in progress as an activity of our First Day School and discernment about a peace sign for our property resulted in approval of a sign that reads "We Support the Peacemakers". We continue to pray and work for peace. Sending blessings out to you and to all people in this country for peace and kindness among us. *Submitted by Carole Hoage*

Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Summer was full of much coming and going. A number of Friends planned their vacations around FGC Gathering, Annual Sessions, and Quaker camps; some of us participated in more than one. Friends were invited to worship with Shiloh campers on two occasions: once out at Camp Shiloh and once at our Meeting House, after they completed a service project of mulching a large grove of trees at a local park. Thank you, campers! As always, we ended the summer with our annual gathering at Mint Springs Park in Crozet with recreational activities, fellowship, and a delicious pot-luck dinner.

As we enter the fall season, the Religious Education Committee has a diverse program to share with the youth. The curriculum will focus on service, Quaker history and practice, and preparing for worship through quieting minds and listening. On pot-luck Sundays, the youth will be preparing food together using recipes from the community. On fifth Sundays, there will be singing.

We will be starting a series of potlucks for newcomers, with small groups meeting in Friends' homes. We are thrilled that some visitors in the last year have become regulars; we are enriched by their presence. Peace and Social Concerns Committee is very active in get-out-the-vote activities. They are also working with FCNL in efforts to bring an end to the horrors in Palestine. *Submitted by Linda Goldstein*

Dunnings Creek Friends

Dunnings Creek Friends hosted the Peace and Social Concerns Committee's on-going series of *Still Listening* events on April 20, 2024. Dr. Garnell Washington, educator, trainer, and a participant in our committee and a member of the local AME Mt. Pisgah Church in Bedford, presented an interactive session on racism, unconscious bias, and the challenges of change and activism. It was a lively, thought and spirit provoking afternoon at the Meeting House. Members of the Meeting attended the Juneteenth Celebration at Mt. Pisgah, and heard the outstanding choir and moving testimony.

Our First Day Discussions have focused this summer on *Unlearning God* by Phillip Gulley, a Quaker in Ohio. Summer visitors have come to both the Meeting and to The Quaker Museum in Fishertown, one mile away. Sunday October 2, 2024 we will offer our next *Still Listening*: author Kevin Mearkle, author and historian, speaking about his book on the history of the Underground Railroad in Bedford. *Submitted by Ellen Prentiss Campbell*

Friends We Remember

Katherine Raiford Smith (Maury River), d. October 1, 2024
Oliver "Ollie" Moles (Langley Hill/Friends House), d. September 29, 2024
Rebecca Gardner Rhudy (Deer Creek), d. August 13, 2024
Evamaria "Ria" Hawkins (Annapolis), d. August 9, 2024
Alexander Churchman (Shiloh), d. August 2, 2024



Ollie Moles



Becca Gardner



Ted and Ria Hawkins

CHANGES FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

BYM Youth Programs Manager, Lex “Sunshine” Klein, will be leaving her role to travel and to discern the next steps in her growing career. We are so grateful for all Sunshine has done for to creatively lead Youth Programs through the pandemic years. We will miss her effervescent presence and her doggo companion, Abe. Gladly, Sunshine will continue to serve as the Deputy Director of Shiloh Quaker Camp, so sign up for a volunteer role next summer to spend a few weeks with our beloved Sunshine! Youth Programs will continue this fall, led by the Youth Programs Committee and Young Friends, while we hire new staff support.



ENJOY WEEKENDS OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WITH BYM’S YOUTH PROGRAMS

2024-2025 Youth Program Conference Dates

Conferences filled with games, workshops, spirituality, and friendship.

Young Friends (14-18 years old)

October 4- 6 - Homewood Friends Meeting

November 22 - 24 - Menallen Friends Meeting

February 14 - 16 - Location TBD

March 28 - 30 - Location TBD

May 16 - 18 - Location TBD

July 29 - August 3 - Hood College @ Annual Sessions

Junior Young Friends (11-13 years old)

Junior Young Friend Cons are in the works for **Winter** and **Spring of 2025!**

To stay up to date or get on the email list for Young Friends and Junior Young Friends events, email YouthPrograms@bym-rsf.org

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