

# Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## BYM ANNUAL SESSION 2023 CONSIDERING MOVE TO BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

Following an extensive site search process earlier this year, the Program Committee agreed with the recommendation of its sub-committee to move Annual Session to Bowie State University, in Bowie, Maryland beginning in 2023. This spacious, suburban campus was founded in 1865 by the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of Colored People as a teaching school, and is Maryland's oldest HBCU (Historically Black College/University). Formerly named Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers and later Baltimore Normal School, it became a state school under Maryland State Department of Education in 1908. In 1910 the school moved to Jericho Farm, a 187-acre campus in Prince George's County.

This site move aligns with the commitment BYM has made to be an anti-racist faith community, offering us a unique opportunity to create a more welcoming and whole Annual Session; deepen our learning about the struggles people of color have encountered with access to education; build awareness of and celebrate the accomplishments of HBCUs; and direct financial resources in support of an HBCU through their conference services.

Somewhat larger than Hood College, where we have met for the last 5 Annual Sessions, Bowie State provides a similarly walkable campus with a variety of flexible meeting spaces, excellent handicap accessibility, and recreational opportunities.

Bowie State has recently indicated they are no longer able to host us

on our original Annual Session 2023 dates, so we are working with them to explore alternative dates and solutions. Look for additional details in the weeks ahead!

You can learn more about HBCUs on Page 11 of the Spring 2022 Interchange, available at: <https://bit.ly/bym-HBCU>.



*Sarah Gilly and Sunshine Klein  
at Annual Session 2022*



*Bette Hoover, Clerk of Interim Meeting*

## BYM WELCOMES BETTE HOOVER AS NEW CLERK OF INTERIM MEETING

The nomination of Bette Hoover to serve as BYM's new Interim Clerk was approved at our 2022 Annual Session. Bette, a member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, has been active in her Monthly Meeting and our Yearly Meeting for many years.

You can reach Bette at [IMclerk@bym-rsf.org](mailto:IMclerk@bym-rsf.org).

## BYM WELCOMES DYRESHA HARRIS IN NEW YEAR-ROUND ROLE



Dyresha Harris, Director

Earlier this Spring, Dyresha Harris was hired as the first full-time, year-round Director at BYM Camps. Dyresha is a talented Director and a visionary leader, someone whose commitment to the potential of BYM Camps is only matched by her brilliance as an educator. She'll continue to be a Director of Catoctin, but she'll have more time throughout the year to invest in building out that program, supporting the other camps, and furthering the goals of the institution as a whole.

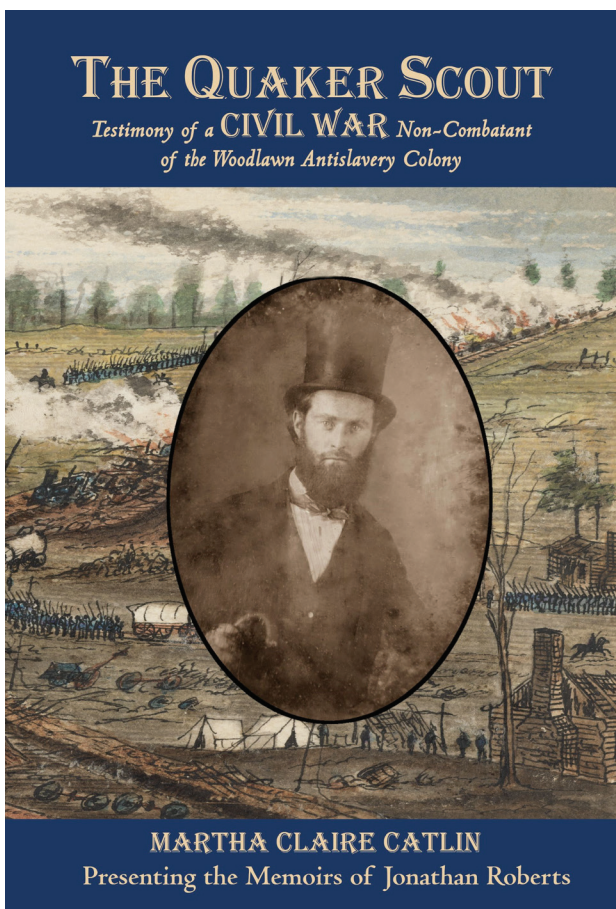
Dyresha Harris, Co-Director of Catoctin, first joined the BYM Camps community as a staff child in 1988. She was a camper for 8 years, and worked as Counselor and Assistant Director for 11 years. Originally hailing from the heart of Washington DC, she now lives in West Philadelphia. She has been studying and practicing diversity education for seven years and facilitates professional development trainings throughout Philadelphia. Dyresha earned her BA with a double major in Sociology & Political Science and a Master's in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

### BOOK REVIEW

#### *The Quaker Scout: Testimony of a Civil War Non-Combatant of the Woodlawn Antislavery Colony*

Introducing a little-known first-hand account that attests to challenges one Friend faced in wartime, author Martha Claire Catlin presents and annotates the narrative left to us by Jonathan Roberts, one of the mission-driven pre-Civil War founders of Virginia's Woodlawn (Alexandria) Meeting. In his "plain spoken" self-portrayal, Roberts reveals his moral struggles and inner thoughts – and his mystical reliance upon Divine Providence for guidance as he seeks to reconcile the peace testimony with his conscientiously chosen role as a non-combatant scout and guide for the Union Army. In the context of a great national crisis, his account testifies to the critical role of one Quaker's personal conscience when confronted with the twin evils of slavery and war.

Jonathan Roberts' narrative provides a compelling account of Secession, Civil War, and Reconstruction in Northern Virginia, from the perspective of a member of the antislavery colony that Friends from Northern states had



established with the goal of turning the tide of the South toward universal emancipation. The author examines the activist spiritual basis of the Quaker colony's endeavor to bring about a peaceful end to slavery; the critical contributions of African Americans – enslaved and free – in providing intelligence to Union loyalists; and the alliances between Friends and freed people that brought progress toward educational goals, civic influence, and religious independence from church hierarchies previously dominated by slaveholders. The struggles of this Friend and the Quaker colonists who found themselves in contested territory highlight a turning point in the practices of the Society of Friends, as individual conscience began to be acknowledged as a valid aspect of Quaker spirituality.

*The Quaker Scout: Testimony of a Civil War Non-Combatant of the Woodlawn Antislavery Colony*, Martha Claire Catlin, Quaker Heron Press, 2022

## NEW WORKING GROUP ON US MILITARISM AND WAR

Did you know that BYM has a Working Group on U.S. Militarism and War, under the care of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee? It is a very active Working Group! Here are some of the things that we have done over the last few months, since we were established in September 2021. The presentations, slide decks, and resources below can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/bymMilitarismResources>

Two of our members revised existing PowerPoints, one on military spending and the other on nuclear weapons, for use by BYM Friends to help Quakers in our Monthly Meetings (as well as others in our communities) better understand the enormity of what we, as a nation, must address. These PowerPoints are freely available for downloading and may be used in any way desired (including editing first).

We also organized two presentations as a part of our regular meetings. Member Phil Caroom made a presentation on *The International Criminal Court—What it is and Why it is Important for Peace Activists*. Diana Ohlbaum of FCNL discussed the FCNL publication, *Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy*.

We organized a webinar entitled *The Peace Testimony and the Ukraine War: A Webinar for Friends*. 146 people joined the webinar, and others viewed the recording. Panelists included Quakers Robert Dockhorn, Helena Cobban, and Michael Beer.

We cosponsored four webinars and promoted them widely within BYM: Drone Warfare (organized by Annapolis Friends); Nuclear Weapons and What We Can Do, featuring activist and scholar



*All Age Celebration at Annual Session 2022*

Prof. Lawrence Wittner (organized by Maryland Peace Action); a discussion with Samuel Moyn, author of *Humane: How the U.S. Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War* (organized by Annapolis Friends); Back From the Brink, the Grassroots Campaign for Fundamental Change in U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy (organized by Sandy Spring Friends). In addition, two of our members, Dat Duthinh and Leslie Susann, made presentations at this year's annual meeting, on nuclear weapons.

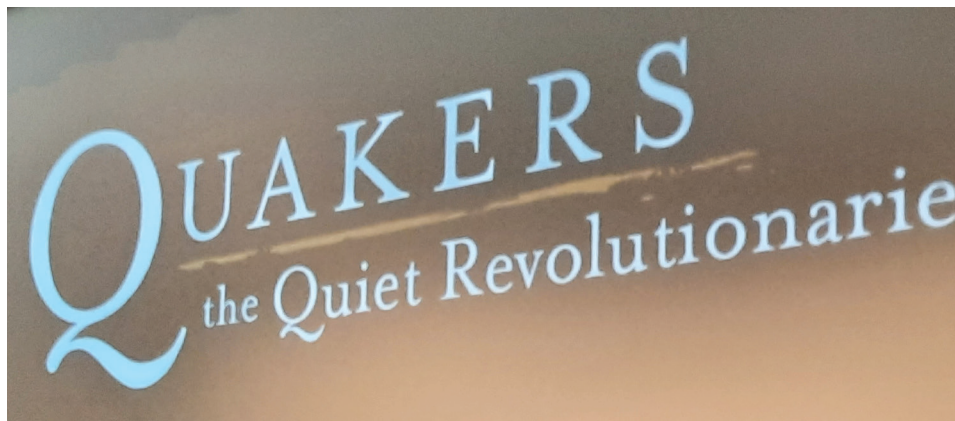
A key goal for this Working Group is to engage more people, both in Monthly Meetings and in our communities, in the work for peace and an end to militarism. We meet once a month. The Working Group cordially invites Quakers within BYM to join us. Contact Jean Athey at [jlathey@comcast.net](mailto:jlathey@comcast.net) if you are interested.

## BYM FRIENDS TRY OUT PLANT-BASED EATING

Many thanks go to the 75+ people who participated in the Vegan Challenge at Annual Session. The Hood College dining hall service outdid themselves with delicious offerings, giving attendees an opportunity to try plant-based meals without having to worry about cooking or planning.

Stay tuned for Veganuary, when people around the world try out vegan eating. The BYM Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals plans to create a Friendly edition, with super-easy menus to fit those with busy schedules, and will invite the BYM community to give it a try on whatever days work for you. Any meal that does not include animal products is a step toward equitable distribution

of world resources, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, habitat preservation, and a non-violent relationship with our fellow beings.



## UPDATE FROM QUAKERS HOUSE

*Bill O'Connor, Quaker House Board Member*

It has been a busy summer at Quaker House as Wayne Finegar, the new Executive Director, took charge of new initiatives and ongoing programs. Wayne visited Quaker gatherings including Sounthern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Assocaiton, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting – Conservative, Palmette Friends Gathering, Friends General Conference, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Fellowship of Friends, and local meetings in Vermont and South Carolina.

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Quaker House organized several online worship sharing sessions for participants to share their experiences of acting on their personal witness of the Peace Testimony of Friends. Wayne discussed the history and work of Quaker House and how that work has evolved over time, and moderated a discussion that included references to several resources. Links to the recording of the complete session as well as to many of the resources discussed are available here. (<https://quakerhouse.org/.../putting-action-to-witness.../>)

The GI Rights Network, with support from Quaker House and our counselors Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, is responding to over 200 inquiries a month from service members. Many of these callers need help with hardship or health related issues:

“Sometimes callers to the GI Rights Hotline have a clear basis for discharge but run into trouble getting their command to take the necessary action. These clients need someone to show them how to apply for discharge and to help them tell their story effectively. Daphne (not her real name) contacted us for help getting a hardship discharge. She had sought help on base and was given a template application to fill out which she completed and then sent to us for review. Unfortunately, the legal template she worked from was full of pre-written statements that were completely unrelated to her actual circumstances.... We interviewed Daphne by phone and compiled the one complete story demonstrating why she merited the discharge.... Right after submitting the now completed version, Daphne’s immediate command approved and pushed up her separation packet so that she could be promptly discharged. We frequently get cases like these where counselor expertise makes the difference between success and disapproval or delay.

“Sometimes we reschedule hours around other events going on..... One call that came in at 3:30 Friday was from a dad whose son is scheduled to report for boot camp first thing on Monday, but he has changed his mind and now doesn’t want to be in the Army anymore. We were able to go over all the options for getting released just in time! We always get excited when someone can get the last minute information they need before it’s too late. Now there is going to be a grumpy recruiter on Monday morning.”

Quaker House is following developments concerning environmental hazards

and subsequent health problems of service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan (“burn pits”) or who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Our GI Rights counselors offer guidance for those seeking relief under recent legislation.

### Reproductive Rights of Service Members

The complications caused by the recent Dobbs decision by the United States Supreme Court continue to grow as jurisdictions and entities across the country try to work out the implications. While the basic landscape faced by members of the military hasn’t changed at one level, the upheaval being experienced everywhere is likely to have unique effects on both individuals and the military services. Federal law prohibits the Department of Defense from providing funding for abortions, and service members assigned to states where restrictive laws apply may face obstacles in receiving reproductive health care. Quaker House is aware of the potential hardships involved. [quakerhouse.org/2022/07/21/complications-of-dobbs/](https://quakerhouse.org/2022/07/21/complications-of-dobbs/)

### Activism

Ron Osborne, a Quaker House board member from Spring Meeting, has felt called to run for the NC State House District 64 in Alamance County. The incumbent

- “is running for his sixth term though advocating term limits for congressional representatives,
- had proclaimed himself an ardent supporter of Donald Trump,
- mocked our state’s COVID-19 mask mandates,
- opposed common sense regulations to address gun violence,
- actively supported the extreme gerrymandering of our legislative districts,
- energetically advocated for a state constitutional amendment to restrict who one could marry,
- has supported restrictions on who can vote,
- is seeking to take away a woman’s right to bodily autonomy.”

You can connect with Ron here: <https://www.ronfor64.org/>.

Quaker House is thriving because of the support we receive from member meetings, other Quaker and like-minded organizations, and individuals. Baltimore Yearly Meeting contributes \$200 annually and several local worshipping communities make significant contributions of their own. Charlottesville and Richmond Friends Meetings have been staunch supporters for many years. If you would like to follow and/or add to your support of our peace work, please visit the Quaker House website, Facebook page, Twitter or Instagram account.



*Quaker House Stand for Peace in Ukraine Event*

## 2022-2023 INTERIM MEETING DATES

FALL - NOVEMBER 5, 2022  
SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING

WINTER - MARCH 25, 2023  
FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON.

SPRING - JUNE 10, 2023  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. LOCATION TBD.

# GIVING TUESDAY



## November 29 2022

**Everyone has something to give  
and every act of generosity counts.**

Giving Tuesday is a global movement unleashing the power of people to transform their communities through the art of generosity.

Like the majority of nonprofits, BYM counts on its community for their year-end giving. This Giving Tuesday please consider a gift to BYM to promote Friends' communications, programs and shared worship across the Mid-Atlantic region. Watch for this year's challenge match to double the value of your gift. *Thank you!*

## INDIAN AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL SESSION

On Thursday afternoon, we hosted Dr. Elizabeth Rule, (Chickasaw) an Assistant Professor at American University in Washington DC describing her work in creating a free mobile app: Indigenous DC: Native Peoples and the Nation's Capital. Her work on this project began when she realized that her Indigenous students had no idea of the history of the presence of Native Americans in our nation's capital. This app leads users on an interactive, self-guided tour thru DC. She shared photos of many of the sites on this tour. She has also worked with Ashley Minner (Lumbee), a member of the Baltimore American Indian Center, on the November 2021 release of Guide to Indigenous Baltimore, featured in an article in August's American Indian Magazine from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. We were delighted to have a 'full house' to hear this presentation. Both these apps can be downloaded from her website: <https://www.elizabethrule.com/guide-to-indigenous-lands-project>

We also provided short queries for the Daily Minute, testing Friends' knowledge about Native peoples, and BYM interactions with them. Perhaps you read them. We would like to do this again in the future and would welcome your feedback. We also provided information at a table in the lobby of the Whitaker Campus Center.



## JESUS' FRIENDS: A NEW BYM SPACE FOR CHRISTOCENTRIC FRIENDS

**"I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS." (JOHN 15:15)**

Are you a new-comer from a Christian tradition? Are you an old-timer who enjoys Christian scripture and prayer? Are you just curious? Jesus' Friends offers opportunities to share Quaker commitment drawing on Biblical and Christian sources in the Quaker tradition. Depending on interest, opportunities might include:

- worship -- family events
- worship sharing -- guest speakers
- Bible study -- service and witness
- discussion groups -- prayer circles

To receive regular emails about upcoming opportunities, email [JesusFriends@bym-rsf.org](mailto:JesusFriends@bym-rsf.org) and include the key phrase "I'm interested" in the subject line. Jesus' Friends is sponsored by the BYM Advancement and Outreach Committee. We encourage reactions, ideas, and volunteers. Include the key phrase "Let's Talk" in the subject line of an email to the above address.



### **BYM Camp Workdays & the Great American Chestnut Restoration**

It's that time of year when Friends gather to ready BYM Camps for the winter. In addition, this year Baltimore Yearly Meeting has received a grant to plant 100 American Chestnuts on our wooded areas. Join us for the fun and fellowship!

- Oct. 10 - Catoctin (cabin demo)
- Oct. 15 - Shiloh
- Oct. 21 - Catoctin (cabin demo)
- Oct. 29 - Catoctin
- Nov. 6 - Catoctin Chestnut Planting
- Nov. 12 - Catoctin Chestnut Planting

**Sign Up at: <https://bit.ly/CampWorkdays>**

We will get started around 9:30 am and work together until around 4 pm. We will share a potluck lunch. Beverages and sandwich making will be provided. Please dress for the weather and wear heavy soled shoes, jeans and protective eye wear. Friends under the age of 18 need to be accompanied by a Friend who is older than 18. Service hours are available.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Dunnings Creek Meeting** continues hybrid meetings at this time. Members have installed and improved WiFi. Attendance in person has resumed, with mindful social distancing, and visitors are finding us. Our Quaker Museum nearby in the former Fishertown Meeting is open again, staffed by volunteers, Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the summer.

Several members are rejuvenating, restoring and improving the Meeting House grounds. Our rural setting is already more open and inviting. Friends reached out to local neighbors on Earth Day with gifts of flowering plants.

The Meeting has dealt kindly and effectively with some natural challenges recently including bees taking up residence in the walls and skunks beneath the foundation.

Several of us joined together in a deferred spring cleaning of the Meeting House. We happened to be working shortly after the Uvalde massacre. In such fraught times, it is heartening to join in small, necessary stewardship projects with visible results.

Local, national, and global challenges are often included in our First Day discussions. Though such issues cannot be resolved just with elbow grease and good will, listening to each other, guided by the Light and by queries in Faith and Practice, we try to discern options for Quaker response and action as individuals and a Meeting.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee is exploring the history and present circumstances of Black residents of Bedford County. Initiatives have included inviting a local historian to a First Day discussion. The Meeting's Speakers Bureau series on these topics debuted in September with author Cody McDevitt (*Banished From Johnstown: Racist Backlash in Western Pennsylvania*) discussing the little-known expulsion of Black and Hispanic residents from Johnstown in 1923.

**Charlottesville Friends** participated in many Quaker events this summer. We had Friends at Camp Shiloh, Teen Adventure, Annual Session, and the FGC Gathering. Our youth were extremely happy with their experiences. We were pleased that we were able to get the two older boys, from the Congolese family we are mentoring, into Shiloh. They were very excited about their camp experiences. When asked if there was a favorite part, one of them proclaimed: EVERYTHING!

We are delighted that we have a small but consistent group of newer Friends, including two sisters that grew up in our Meeting who have returned with their own children, that are becoming part of our community.

Even with new Friends, our later worship session is about half the size it used to be.

There are Friends who are unable to attend due to their own personal health issues or those of close family members. Although we have plenty of small group interactions, there is sadness that there aren't ways to connect the entire community. We now have 4 worship sessions on Sundays: one online, two in-person, and one at a local retirement community.

With deep sadness, we share that our Friend, Lou Hart, died in June. Lou had a beautiful quiet presence that he brought to all he did.

We usually end the summer with a picnic and swim at a local lake. That wasn't possible this year, so we had a small gathering of Friends on the back deck of the Meeting House for an end-of-the summer dinner. There was good food, good conversation, and a breeze to break the humidity.

### 2022-2023 YOUTH CONFERENCES

OCT 7-9 - YOUNG FRIENDS CON  
MENALLEN FRIENDS MEETING

NOV 25-27 - YOUNG FRIENDS CON  
ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

JAN 13-15 - NUTS & BOLTS CON  
GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING

FEB 17-19 - YOUNG FRIENDS CON  
HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

APRIL 23-25 - YOUNG FRIENDS CON  
SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING

MAY 5-7 - JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CON  
LOCATION TBD

MAY 26-28, YOUNG FRIENDS GRAD CON  
MAURY RIVER FRIENDS MEETING



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17100 Quaker Lane  
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## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

[See the Yearly Meeting Website for Details and Other Events \(bym-rsf.org/events\)](http://bym-rsf.org/events)

### May

- April 29 - May 1 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 7 – Camp Work Day at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 7 – Young Friends’ Picnic for BYM’s 350th and Camp’s 100th Anniversaries at the BYM Office
- 13 - 15 – Spiritual Formation Retreat at the Claggett Center
- 14 – Camp Work Day at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 15 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Warrington Monthly Meeting
- 27 - 29 – Young Friends Conference at Goose Creek Friends Meeting
- 30 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed

### June

- 5 – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting
- 3-5 – Young Adult Friends Conference
- 11 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting, location TBD
- 11 – Camp Work Day at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 12 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Patapsco Friends Meeting

### July

- 4 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 31 - August 2 – YF Nuts and Bolts Committee Conference (Steering Wheel), location TBD

### August

- 1-7 – Annual Session 2022 at Hood College and online

### STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Stephanie “Steph” Bean	Presiding Clerk <a href="mailto:ymclerk@bym-rsf.org">ymclerk@bym-rsf.org</a>	Harriet Dugan	Financial Manager <a href="mailto:harrietedugan@bym-rsf.org">harrietedugan@bym-rsf.org</a>
Bette Hoover	Clerk of Interim Meeting <a href="mailto:imclerk@bym-rsf.org">imclerk@bym-rsf.org</a>	Dyresha Harris	Catoctin Quaker Camp Director <a href="mailto:dyreshaharris@bym-rsf.org">dyreshaharris@bym-rsf.org</a>
Jim Riley	Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@bym-rsf.org">treasurer@bym-rsf.org</a>	David Hunter	Camp Property Manager <a href="mailto:davidhunter@bym-rsf.org">davidhunter@bym-rsf.org</a>
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