

THE INTERCHANGE

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Special Annual Session Issue

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Building Our Communities with Love & Tenderness

Friends of all ages will gather together as a Yearly Meeting, the wider body of Friends in our region, for the 351st Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting from July 31 - August 6, 2023 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.

Throughout our 2023 Annual Session, together we'll explore the theme of "Building Our Communities with Love & Tenderness." In building our communities, individuals are like irregular stones with many different shapes and sizes and sometimes jagged edges. For Friends, neither dogma nor hierarchy are mortar to bind these stones together. How do we fit ourselves together to become whole?

What is the foundation on which we build our communities to help them withstand storms? Do we give regular attention to repair areas weakened over time? Do we see how our communities and their foundations are affected by the strengths and weaknesses, cures and cancers, and successes and failures of other communities to which we belong or to which we relate?

Then, on that foundation, how do we build our communities? First and foremost, it is a labor of love. We draw on Spirit's love and tenderness for us and share that love and tender-

ness with each other. Without that, the communities we build fragment and fracture. With it, we come closer to the Blessed Community. In ways we can scarcely imagine, the Blessed Community provides a warm and welcoming spiritual home that has just the right place for us all. It nurtures our healing, our growth, and our capacity to reach out to others to share the blessings we enjoy. It equips us to give witness to the Truth, Justice, and infinite Love of God that can heal and transform the world.

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 lindajcoates@gmail.com



"Stacked Stones" by Devin Devine

Annual Session Opening Retreat



**What Binds Us in Quaker Community?
(especially whenever we might want to walk away)**
Offered by Ken Stockbridge (Patapsco Friends Meeting)

In-person at Hood College
Monday, July 31, 2:30pm - Tuesday, Aug 1, 9:00am-12:00pm

OR

Online via Zoom:
Friday, July 28, 7:00pm - 8:30pm - Saturday, July 29, 10am - 4pm

*Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared?
- BYM Faith & Practice Queries*

The opening retreat at Annual Session helps to gather us in worship and prepare our hearts and minds for the week ahead. It also helps us begin to explore the Annual Session theme. Join us!

Quaker community can be incredibly rich. At times, it can also be hard, even leaving us wanting to walk away. Together we will consider what binds us together and helps equip us to face such moments. We'll see what answers we can share from our own experiences and practice deep spiritual listening as we hear from others. In particular, we'll explore how welcome, words, work, and worship play a role. What do Love and tenderness have to do with it?

Please note: The online and in-person retreats cover the same content. Both retreats take place over two days - Friends are encouraged to attend the entire retreat, whether they attend in-person or online.

Calling All Families for 2023 Session!

BYM welcomes families to a vibrant community of adults and children! Children (birth-grade 8) participate for free in BYM's Annual Session. Simply register yourself and your child(ren). 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 Event.

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.

A co-op aftercare is organized among parents and other participants after JYM official 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 have some separate programming while also joining the larger BYM community for meals, workshops, evening lectures, and the Coffee House. Young Friends generally stay in a separate dorm under the supervision of trained and background-checked adults who provide a "Friendly Adult Presence" 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 visit

https://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yutes/

For more information about programming for children and Young Friends at Annual Session, visit the Annual Session Homepage www.bym-rsf.org/annualsession

Plenary Speakers at Annual Session

Tuesday Plenary: Jared Wood



Jared Wood will deliver our Tuesday Evening Plenary. Jared is a lifelong educator and artist, committed to the work of learning about our differences so that we can, in his words, “learn to love each other more precisely”. He was a Teaching Artist with the Mural Arts Program in Philadelphia for a decade, is currently an Art Teacher at Germantown Friends School, and is the founder of Jwood Coaching. Jared, a former camper and counselor at BYM Camps and the current Director of Opequon Quaker Camp, has a vision of creating spaces where “people from disparate backgrounds can engage in dialogue, reflection, and making that moves us past the destructive ideas we’ve inherited to the collective love, brilliance, and liberation we all deserve.”

2023 Carey Lecturer: Diego Navarro



Diego Navarro is an educator who supports marginalized students. His recent community college work is focused on instilling a culture of dignity through professional development workshops for educators. Since the age of 9 he found a wonderful community among the youth and young adult communities within Pacific Yearly Meeting. His experiences in these programs informed his understanding of the transformative nature of Quakerism which he brings to his work with marginalized students. He held leadership roles in the Western Young Adult Friends Gathering and the Young Friends of North America (YFNA). In the summer of 1978 he was an intern in AFSC’s Stop Banking on Apartheid Program in San Francisco and later served on AFSC’s National Board of Directors. Diego has served Pacific Yearly Meeting in a number of roles and was the Presiding Clerk from 2015 through 2018. www.diegojamesnavarro.org

Annual Session Workshops

Thursday, August 3rd, 2pm - 4pm

The American Chestnut Restoration at Catoctin Quaker Camp

We will drive to Catoctin Quaker Camp and take a walk-and-talk about the importance of the American Chestnut to the forest and to us humans. We will also have a look at the Chestnuts that we have planted in the woods at Catoctin. *David Hunter, BYM Camp Property Manager*

Building Our Communities and Ending Gun Violence

Join us to learn about addressing gun violence through policy change and other avenues, to listen deeply to each other about our concerns, and to extend that listening to act with love and tenderness with those who hold different views around preventing gun violence. *Alicia McBride & Peter Murchison, Friends Committee on National Legislation*

Views of Quaker Faith and Political Action

Our community should be inclusive of all political views with tenderness towards all. This workshop attempts to hold all in the light and find that of God in everyone regardless of political beliefs. We will attempt to deepen our conversations and listening skills with an eye towards deepening our Quaker faith. *Tad Jose & Carol Marujo*

Nurturing Welcoming and Loving Communities

Focusing on the Annual Session theme, local Meetings will share their experiences of

blessed community. The workshop will draw on responses to two of the Spiritual State of the Meeting queries: How has engagement in anti-racist work foster community? How does the Meeting conduct business in a spirit of worship? *Eileen Stanzione*

A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life

“Death is not the enemy of life, nor the end of love; it can be a culmination and fulfillment of both.” This book offers practical tools and spiritual supports to illuminate your path with grace. Every step—emotional, practical, and legal—can be approached as an expression of Spirit. *Patti Nesbitt, BYM End of Life Working Group*

Planting the Seeds of Peace: A way of being in the World

I will lift up how our testimonies create an immersive faith practice that opens us to Love and reveals a way of being in the world. I would also share how this faith practice, coupled with AVP has opened a way for healing in the US and in the country of Georgia. *Greta Kirk Mickey*

Reparations: Faith In Action

Reparations are a means of repairing harms that have happened. In the United States, these are the harms that African Americans and people indigenous to our continent have suffered. We will share ideas of what has been done so far and look at plans for the future. Why do this work as Friends? Let’s talk! *BYM Reparations Action Working Group*

Friday, August 4th, 2pm - 4pm

Getting to Reparations

Join Adelphi Friends Meeting as we discuss how we educated ourselves as members of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and then took that inspiration to the entire Meeting. You will participate in a thought exer-

cise where you will leave with ideas about mini-reparations that you could take back to your Meeting! *Daquanna Harrison, Adelphi Friends Meeting*

Show Me the Money: Forensic Accounting, Historical Quaker Accountability, and Reparations

Generational wealth of modern-day Meetings often rests upon tithing and bequests of Friends from years gone by. Yet, look deeply at the sources of early funds and you'll see a troubling trend of ill-earned dollars from the backs of enslaved people. How does an accounting of the past lead to reparations in the future? *Alessa Giampaolo Keener*

Mini Spiritual Formation Retreat: Anti-Racism as a Core Spiritual Practice

An opportunity for interior reflection, path setting, and healing in community. No teaching. No review of history. We will look at ourselves, at disciplines to help purge our hearts of racism, and the next steps we each will take on the spiritual path of becoming anti-racist. On-site participants only. *Sabrina McCarthy & Ellen Cronin*

Can Your Meeting Sponsor a Peace Award? Peace Awards in local high schools help make

peace and Quakers visible to teenagers. Learn strategies for starting a program and share experiences with Meetings that sponsor them. *Wayne Finegar, Quaker House*

A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life, pt.2

Worship sharing and tender discussion, using the new EOLWG book describing Quaker Voices on the end of life. Workshop aims to help you find YOUR voice on what matters most to you. *Patti Nesbitt, BYM End of Life Working Group*

Prophetic Imagination: Building Community through Grief & Hope

Based on the work of Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, we will examine how the prophetic pattern of lament and hope in the Bible can inform how we build justice-loving communities today. *Jim Webner*

Saturday, August 5th, 2pm - 4pm

The Fork in the Road: Towards Our Next Hundred Year Battle

Join as we discuss the work towards being an anti-racist humanity-based community. Considering the 100 years it took to abolish slavery, Daquanna will have us consider will we be known in 100 years as being a religious society that decided to break away from White and male supremacy or one that helped to maintain it? *Daquanna Harrison*

Presence: Recognizing the Divine in Your Everyday Life

How might a community recognize the ever present Divine? As we gather together, whether it is in Meeting or another community there is the abundance of Spirit, if only we could recognize it. Consider listening for the language that speaks to it and the ability to see it when it is all around you. *Mary G. Jackson*

Connecting Local Meetings: Working to Reduce Racial Barriers

Many BYM local Meetings have small groups (sometimes called "Change Groups") dedicated to 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 what challenges they face. *David Etheridge & Peirce Hammond*

A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life, pt. 3

Part 3 of the series will be focused on advanced directives and medical orders for life support. Practical information on what these forms mean, in plain language, with plenty of time for questions. *Patti Nesbitt, BYM End of Life Working Group*

Friends Supporting Friends, Responding to Conflicts in Meetings

Friends Supporting Friends is a working group under the BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee. In this workshop, we will

provide information about how the working group can be helpful and we will provide several conflict resolution strategies and interactive exercises which we will try out and discuss. *Clinton Pettus, Bob Rhudy, & Ramona Buck*

Connecting in Spiritual Community

How have we connected with spiritual community, or not? How has that shaped our spiritual journeys? In what Quaker settings? local meetings? yearly meetings? the wider Quaker world? What has made those con-

nections vital? What have they contributed to our lives? What have we contributed to them? *Ken Stockbridge*

Survival Stuck Spots: Tools for Repair

Learn about how our brains are hardwired for connection as well as the ways that individuals, families, and communities can get stuck in survival responses to stress and trauma. Engage in dialogue about common Quaker Stuck Spots. Practice tools to Widen your Window of Tolerance and repair relationships. *Heather Sowers*

All About Annual Session

Bible Study & Worship Sharing:

Following breakfast each morning, many Friends begin the day with worship sharing or Bible study in small groups. You may have signed up for an in-person or online section of worship sharing or Bible study during registration. If you are attending in-person, you can also sign up for one of these groups on the sheets near the BYM Information table. We hope that you will feel comfortable for the whole week in your worship sharing 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 Meeting and for the Tuesday Evening Speaker. 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. Peg Hansen plans to gather books at the next interim meeting leading up to Annual Session, or donations can be dropped off at the Yearly Meeting Office. Also consider signing up as a volunteer at the bookstore. 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 Minute is available in paper copy at Annual Session and online each morning on the BYM 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!

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 pm. 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 for an hour on Thursday or Friday at 4:15pm Topics and locations are announced in the Daily Minute. If you would like to hold an interest group, please make your request in advance at <https://bit.ly/BYMAAnnualSessionInterestGroups> or call Linda Coates at 717-696-7914 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:

- 1. BYM business concerns**
- 2. BYM activities: committees, working groups, response to issues raised by speakers**
- 3. Local Meeting resource sharing and concerns**
- 4. Visiting Quaker organizations**

Intervisitation Lounge:

The Intervisitation Working Group will be sponsoring evening gatherings during the week when visitors to Baltimore Yearly Meeting can 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. All are welcome to join us for light refreshments.

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 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.

Annual Session Details & Logistics

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session Schedule for the Week July 31 to August 6, 2023									
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
7:00		Retreat (9:00-12:00)	Breakfast (7:00-8:30)						
8:00			Morning Groups* (8:15-9:15) Study, Worship Sharing, Experiments with Light				Bible		
9:00			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business* (MfW - B) (9:30-12:00)						Worship* (9:00 - 10:00)
10:00									MfW - B* (10:00-12:00)
11:00							Memorial Meeting*		
12:00	Retreat Registration	Lunch (12:00 - 1:00)							
1:00	Siesta (1:00 - 2:00) Global Majority (BIPOC) Hang-Out* (1:00 - 1:45pm)								
2:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	Worship* (2:00-3:00)	MFW - B* (2:00-4:00)	Workshops (2:00-4:00)					
3:00	MFW - B* (3:00-5:00)								
4:00			Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Committee Meetings (4:15-5:15)				
5:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30) <i>Tues - Sat Registration Open (4:30-6:00)</i>								
6:00	Singing (6:15-7:15) Tuesday-Friday					Programmed Worship (6:15-7:15)			
7:00									
8:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Plenary Session* (7:30-9:00)	Committee Meetings	All Ages Celebration	Coffee House (7:30-9:30)	Carey Lecture* (7:30-9:00)			
*Denotes Online/Hybrid Option Available									

Registration

Register at: www.bym-rsf.org/annualsession

Registration is open NOW through July 14th. You will need to complete an individual registration form for each participant.

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.

Online Attendees

Links for all online Annual Session programs will be emailed to registered participants in July and also included in the *Daily Minute*.

In-Person Attendees

Friends who have registered in advance and have completed their payment prior to arrival may collect their Welcome Packets (with room keys included) by going to the Registration Desk 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

Fees & Payment

We are excited to keep the 2023 suggested registration rates equal to or lower than the 2022 rates! In addition, 2023 Annual Session 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 use the suggested registration rates to determine the total cost for your registration or the registrations of your entire group. However, 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. 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. When registering online, you will have the choice to pay by credit card or check.

2023 Annual Session Rates

Adult Double	\$110/night
Adult Single	\$125/night
Young Friends	
<i>Grades 9-12</i>	\$90/night
Children	
<i>Birth-8th Grade</i>	Free
Adult Commuter	\$50/day
Online-Only	\$75
Single Event	\$25

Accessibility

The dorms at Hood College were constructed in 2020-2021 and are fully accessible, including no-step showers, individual climate control, and wheelchair accessible rooms. However, some events are held in older buildings that are ADA accessible but may be inconvenient or require extra time to navigate. For example, the accessible entrance may be on the backside of a building and accessible bath-

rooms may require taking an elevator to a different floor. Sound is amplified for Meeting for Business and Meeting for Worship and transcripts are enabled on Zoom. Volunteer drivers provide rides in golf carts to help Friends move between buildings. To discuss your access needs, please contact the Registrars at registrar@bym-rsf.org.

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

Community News

BYM Office Seeks Community News

Each quarter, 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 *Aug 21, 2023*. 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

Greetings!! As our Meeting continues to open up to in-person activity and Worship, we find ourselves busy in both old ways and new. We now have a good core of children coming to Meeting who enjoy being together. As in the “before pandemic” times, we recently had a pretty full house at the Easter Meeting for Worship as well as an Easter egg hunt that attracted old and newer families. Our Easter potluck table was full of wonderful food. We still have hybrid Worship, though, and expect to carry that new way of worshiping on into the foreseeable future.

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for our beloved long-time member Glenn Riley was held on *April 1* and again we had a full room of worshippers, with Glenn’s family coming from out of town. Glenn served on many committees over his years of membership. He was a stalwart member of our long-standing Building Committee. Our Meeting has discovered that despite serious fund-raising efforts of many years, the price of the new addition to our facilities that was planned has risen to a price that we cannot afford. The Meeting has been in a series of discussions, led by our Clerk, to assess our options. Currently, the Building Committee is exploring a modified design for the addition that would fit with the County permits that we currently have in place, but would be more streamlined with fewer new classrooms and a smaller social space and kitchen.

Cue excitement!! A beloved yearly fundraiser, our Strawberry Festival, is being resurrected after three years of hiatus! We invite you to stop by on *June 3, 10am to 3pm*, for food, music, and sales of white elephants, clothing, jewelry and books (and more!). We are hoping to have a Repair Cafe at our Strawberry Festival too on *June 3*.

Alexandria Friends Meeting

Alexandria Friends continued our tradition of having a presentation on “A Vision For Our Meeting” as the first Adult Religious Education offering of the new year. We ask queries about how our meeting sustains and satisfies us, frustrates and challenges us, and what we long to see develop among us. Friends respond in a worship sharing format as we look back at the past year and plan ahead for the new one. The ARE is well attended and it helps inform the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. It gives us a chance to hear from all attenders about what they think of the meeting and our community.

Charlottesville Friends Meeting

CFM welcomed a new baby to our community: Zev Alexander Lamb was born to Jen Schneider and Matthew Lamb on *March 12, 2023*. Our youth have been studying Native American culture this year, with an emphasis on the Monacan people, who have lived in central Virginia for over 10,000 years. An intergenerational field trip to their museum in Amherst is planned for early May.

In order to make our business meetings more accessible for those who are vulnerable to COVID or live with someone who is vulnerable, we now alternate between in-person and virtual meetings. At the March business meeting we came to unity on a plan to make masking optional in the Meeting House, including during worship.

An ad-hoc committee created an anti-racist query that will be shared quarterly at business meeting and in the newsletter. Recently, a Friend approached Meeting with a desire to develop a land acknowledgement statement to be placed prominently in the newsletter, as well as on our website. She has been encouraged to move forward with this plan.

Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting

We held our second Still Listening event on *Sunday, April 16th 2023* where Dee Meyers spoke at the Meeting House on her personal experiences as a lifelong member of the Black community in Bedford County. We are preparing for our bi-annual gift of flowering plants to the Meeting neighbors. In the fall, we distribute pumpkins, flowers in spring, both sourced locally. Visiting Friends are always welcome to join us First Days, *10 a.m.* study sessions, *11 a.m.* We continue with the hybrid option for our meetings.

Floyd Friends Meeting

Jim Best presented the apartheid- free community pledge after the welcome by Delegate Sam Rasoul to the Virginia Tech students championing Palestinian Rights and marching through campus. Jim also attended the Iftar at the Blacksburg mosque to thank the president of the Islamic Society of New River Valley for hosting and promoting the Palestinian Rights event on the Virginia Tech campus. Floyd Friends adopted the Palestinian free pledge earlier this month.

Homewood Friends Meeting

Stony Run FM and Homewood gathered on Saturday, February 4th to celebrate the life and contributions of our Friend, Nancy Clark who died in January at the age of 90. Nancy was a member of Stony Run for 27 years and of Homewood for 33 years. At the time of her death, Nancy was living at Broadmead with her husband, Herb Clark. At various times, Nancy served on practically every committee and role within the Meetings. Nancy was a mentor to generations of younger Friends. Her life was a pattern and inspiration to many Friends.

Cathie Magee and Ben Rogers were married under the care of the Meeting on *October 29th* at Homewood. We have two incredibly joyous birthday milestones in the next few weeks: Rosetta Graham turns 100 on *Thursday, April 27* and Louise Williams turns 101 on *Tuesday, May 2*. Luke Mayhew started in December as our new Operations Coordinator at Homewood. Homewood's "Breeze team" has dedicated time transitioning us to the Breeze management software, a paperless database. Breeze is performing very well. Feel free to contact the Homewood FM Office if you would like to speak to someone about our experience so far.

A Working Group has kept the toll of violence in Baltimore as an ongoing concern of the Meeting. Each week during announcements, the name(s) and age(s) of those who have died due to homicide in Baltimore in the past week are read out. In addition, the Working Group sponsors a worshipful experience every second Sunday of the month after simple lunch. A Meeting for Healing format is employed and the group reads aloud the names of three persons recently murdered with a brief biography of each. The group also reads aloud the names of three persons who have been recently charged or convicted of

homicide. There is also a banner at street level in front of the Meetinghouse with the names of homicide victims over the year. The names of additional victims are added on a monthly basis. Sadly, many names are added every month.

Monongalia Friends Meeting

We warmly welcome sojourners in Morgantown, West Virginia. Monongalia Friends Meeting has three sojourners' rooms on the second floor - one with twin beds and two with double beds. Our meeting-house is on a large corner lot with plenty of off-street parking. We provide pillows, sheets, and towels. Our kitchen is fully equipped and has tea and coffee, but you'll need to bring your own food and condiments. In season, our herb garden has thyme, sage, chives, peppermint, and spearmint. There is no Wi-Fi in the house, and pets are not allowed. Documented animals only. We are especially proud of our small library with lots of Quaker books and pamphlets and a big desk for writing.

The meetinghouse is in a mixed-use neighborhood and is often used for walking. Marilla Park is less than 1/2 mile away and has walking trails, picnic tables, a playground, tennis courts, skate park, and a swimming pool. In addition, the Decker's Creek rail trail can be accessed by a foot bridge in Marilla Park. Downtown Morgantown has a variety of shops, restaurants, and services.

We have a suggested donation of \$20/night for a single person and \$25/night for a couple, more if you are led. If you would like to sojourn with us, please contact Catherine Tall on her cell phone at **304-276-4416**. Meeting for Worship is every Sunday beginning at *11 am*. Monthly potlucks are the *first Sunday of every month*.

Patapsco Friends Meeting

We continue to move toward pre-pandemic "normalcy" by worshiping in hybrid format. Patapsco's remote members appreciate not driving to stay in contact with the spiritual community. Gratitude to our tech team for making this possible.

Our First Day School continues. Time outdoors follows a Friendly discussion with the teachers. We are looking to recruit a part-time First Day School teacher as our numbers can require two classes. Please contact Deirdre Foley-Citro at: quakernana@gmail.com with your interest.

Other ways we stay close as a community during the pandemic: We worship and share our lives on Wednesday mornings over Zoom; the Change Group is holding a book discussion of "Under our Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and Health of our Nation", by Linda Villarosa; Ministry and Care sponsors a quarterly outdoor get-together on a family's large backyard deck where Friends share pot-luck with Friends.

We continue to support the immigrant community. All but one member of the Syrian Hourri family passed their citizenship exams. Now, the family has applied for their U.S. passports to visit the families they left behind. Five Howard County congregations have helped an Afghani family to live in a Columbia town-house materially, with transportation and guidance.

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

As spring breaks out on our beautiful campus, Friends' activities are increasing weekly. Most recently, our Easter traditions were celebrated with gusto: breakfast, an Easter egg hunt, and a bountiful meal after meeting for worship. We continue to have well-attended First day meetings for worship, at *9 and 11 a.m., and at 10 a.m.* at Friends House. Most meetings are hybrid, some are Zoom or in-person only. We also offer a midweek in-person worship at noon on Wednesdays, and meeting for worship on Zoom, preceded by a potluck, on Thursday nights. Some also gather twice a month for Lunch with Friends on

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting



zoom. We are grateful for these opportunities to stay connected and to the many tech helpers that make this possible!

We have been saddened by the recent deaths of several Friends, and hold in the Light a number of others with serious health concerns. Meetings for Learning are held twice a month in two different formats. One First Day, a Friend shares their spiritual journey, followed by reflections and conversation. For the other, Friend Jim Webner is leading a four-month course called Introduction to the Prophetic Imagination, based on Walter Brueggemann's book *Reality, Grief, Hope: Grief Amid Denial*. We are spoiled by the riches of these gatherings.

Our Young Friends (middle and high school students) are a lively and active group, and recently spent a weekend in Philadelphia. The purposes were to build a close community among themselves, and also to learn about Quakerism and Quaker history. They stayed at Pendle Hill and were intrigued by the notion of a Quaker study center. Many expressed a desire to return there. On Saturday and Sunday, they saw both Quaker history sites and many Philadelphia cultural sights. On Sunday they worshiped at the historic Arch Street Meeting (the kids were amazed at how large that Meeting house is!). As one chaperone noted: "The Young Friends are leading, and we adults are merely supporting their growing skills in using Quaker process and logistics." And last but not least, monthly hymn sings began again, after a 3-year hiatus during the covid pandemic. We are making a joyful noise!

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