

# Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## HOW IS THE VISION IMPLEMENTATION REPORT CHANGING US?

The BYM Vision Implementation Report is a labor of love and much good work - many Meeting visits, special Saturday sessions, and committee meetings. It's a long document after so much listening, but it's carefully worded, and organized into sections for reading and contemplation. Its purpose, however, is to spur us all to do meaningful work together. Where do you sense calls or leadings in this document that draw on the Yearly Meeting's abilities and potentials? How will BYM continue to serve and develop over the next several years?

**When the report was presented last summer at Annual Session, we minuted a request that further steps be taken:** *"This ad hoc Committee is now turning the work of implementing BYM's Vision Statement back to the body of the Yearly Meeting through recommendations that have been proposed for Monthly Meetings, BYM Committees, and BYM Staff. Through the next year, each of these bodies is asked to consider the recommendations and report their findings back to the Yearly Meeting in 2015, Monthly Meetings through the Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports and Committees and Staff through their Annual Reports."*

What actions have come of the Vision Implementation process so far?

- The **Connecting Local Meetings** events at Annual Session have provided a place for local Meetings to share with each other about their work and concerns

- The fall **BYM Committee Clerks Workshop** now provides training and sharing opportunities for Clerks and committee members
- The Report has been the subject of **many discussions at local Meetings** this fall
- **The Yearly Meeting Clerk and General Secretary have both discussed this report during Meeting visits**, and are willing to continue. Invitations are welcome.
- A **local Meeting Visiting Program** is beginning. In December, a meeting was held to start exploring what such a program might look like, what needs it would address, and what support it might offer. For instance, a visit report form is now in use, providing better tracking of visits and facilitating followup after visits.
- An **ad hoc committee** is under consideration to help season new ideas
- Some **written feedback** about the Vision Implementation Report has already been received.
- Documents
  - ◊ A draft of "BYM Support Services for Meetings and Worship Groups" – now everything could be in one handy document!
  - ◊ Frederick Friends produced a neat followup form for the "Recommendations for Monthly Meetings" questions section in the report

*Vision continued on page 7*

## ANNUAL SESSION – WONDERFUL AND WELCOMING

The Program Committee gets a lot of good feedback about BYM Annual Session from the evaluation forms that attendees complete. The many positive comments include "[there is] a richness of content in formal talks and discussions" and "wonderful, welcoming, open" and "BYM Annual Session is serious Quaker stuff and great fun all mixed together; it's truly an event you should go to." We are told that attendees appreciate the "spirit of community" and the "richness, f/Friendships and resources evident" at Annual Session. Many specific comments let us know how workshops and plenaries are received, and we try to build on the successes in planning future sessions. The food and accommodations got more positive comments this year—"food quality and variety was very good" and "Edgewood was a great housing alternative"—but we will continue to look for ways to improve attendees' experiences in this area.



*Annual Session 2014 photo  
by Nony Dutton*

Overall, the evaluations show that attendees enjoy and appreciate their time at Annual Session, and that they intend to share various aspects of their experience with others in their Local Meetings.

It's wonderful to get this feedback from those who attend Annual Session, but what about those who don't attend? Can they give us some useful feedback about how Annual Session could be improved to encourage even greater attendance? To this end, we are planning an evaluation form or survey designed to elicit responses from those who have never attended, or don't generally attend, Annual Session. We'll be trying to determine how we can make Annual Session appealing to an even wider audience. Watch for the survey later in the spring and let us know what you think!

## SERVING HOMELESS PEOPLE AND OTHER COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*Steve Elkinton, facilitator*

Last August during Annual Session, six Friends from urban Meetings, rural areas, and a few from the suburbs in between gathered to discuss how our Meetings are serving homeless people and providing other related types of community outreach. This was one session in the series “Connecting Local Meetings,” an outgrowth of the BYM Visioning Process. The discussion was wide-ranging and profound.

First, we compared notes about projects and programs with which we have been personally involved. These ranged from soup kitchens in Washington, DC, to Habitat for Humanity, from foster care of teens to Covenant House in Charleston, WV, and from rural farmers markets to enabling homeless shelter youth to attend Opequon Quaker Camp.

From these stories, we distilled some motivations, rewards, and realities. Key among these observations are:

- What we offer may not be what folks want.
- At our best, we enjoy giving and sharing gifts and talents, building social equity, and sharing our abundance.
- We must help people maintain their dignity at all times. Be sensitive.
- We should understand the differences between rural, suburban, and urban social needs. Each suggests different solutions. Under-

stand the hierarchy of needs in each area.

- Housing seems to be the first step in regaining self-respect. Once people have an adequate place to stay, they can often get back on their feet. A great model is Habitat for Humanity where the beneficiaries of aid work right along with everyone else. They become invested in the outcomes.
- There is an acute need to teach money skills. Schools don’t do it. Without such skills, poor people easily lose control of their own resources and fall back.
- Mentoring takes a big time commitment, but can be so rewarding.
- In outreach, start small, take it step by step.
- Build trust first. Be well-grounded in each step.
- Friends seem to prefer hands-on projects.
- Friends are often well-positioned as credible and trusted members of most communities. Plus, we only do things together after great deliberation and “seasoning” (due diligence).
- Food shortages and homelessness may only get worse as world population grows and increasing disasters overwhelm communities.

From these came a set of queries we should each ask ourselves:

- How can we be truly helpful, and not just feel good through ineffectual helping?
- How can we empower others without creating co-dependency?
- How can we be like dandelions, irrepressibly and effectively spreading the seeds of hope as acts of faith?

Communities and individuals embarking in this work must be realistic about their capacities, motivations, spiritual grounding, and schedules. They may face formidable obstacles such as:

- A desire not “to screw people up” or be inadvertently insulting.
- A fear of not following through, of only having the means for a temporary action.
- Poor financial and time management among most homeless people.
- Uncoordinated information and poor communication.
- Nickel-and-dime efforts, remaining unduly frugal even in the face of success. (Many small Meetings just don’t have the capacity to do much. How can we leverage our few skills? An over-extended Meeting can damage itself as a spiritual community.)
- Not having the financial resources to really help those in dire financial struggles.
- Dealing creatively with drug, alcohol, mental health, and addiction problems.

We were then able to put together some guidance for successful programs that effectively help those in need—some based on experience, others just on observation. Key guidelines for success might include:

- Listening, lots of listening. Be honest and clear to yourself and others.
- Empower mutually, avoid co-dependency.
- Create “partnerships of equals,” not top-down.
- Do not treat people as objects. Make it safe and respectful. Try to have fun.
- Build trust, avoid hidden agendas, be fully honest and transparent.



Catoctin • Opequon  
Shiloh • Teen Adventure

REGISTRATION FOR BYM CAMPS IS NOW  
OPEN!

GO TO [BYMCAMPS.ORG](http://BYMCAMPS.ORG)  
FOR ALL THE INFORMATION.

## @QUAKERS: MAKE YOUR MEETING MILLENNIAL AND #TECHFRIENDLY

*Jeannette Smith, Langley Hill*

Is your Meeting's light shining like a beacon, flickering through a bushel basket, or hidden under a 50 gallon drum?

Since 2003, Local Meeting membership records have recorded an overall growth of only 1%, down significantly from prior years. Over half of BYM's Meetings or Preparative Meetings are shrinking in spite of the significant population growth of our region. Many Meetings are faced with an aging membership and a dwindling number of new families and children.

A recent Pew Charitable Trust study found that Millennials are turning from large, established churches to smaller religious communities. A recent study by FaithStreet.com found 70% of Millennials feel "religious groups are alienating young people by being too judgmental about gay and lesbian issues" ... too "hypocritical," and too "judgmental." That's good news for Meetings in BYM – Millennials are looking for us!

### IS YOUR MEETING READY TO BE FOUND?

To address this, BYM is sponsoring a day-long workshop on Feb 28th (snow date Mar. 14th) at Langley Hill Friends Meeting. Participants will learn how to make their Meeting's web page more effective and use social media like Facebook and Twitter to help

Millennials find them. A professional with years of experience crafting Web page and social media content will join us to share their knowledge. Group exercises will focus on how to write for this new media to connect with young adults, new parents, and others. We will also brainstorm outreach strategies and share best practices. The goal is that each Meeting will have a workable outreach plan and the knowledge to implement it.

All those who work on Advancement and Outreach are invited. Ideally multiple people from a Meeting will collaborate during the group exercises. No technical competence is required, and no knowledge of web page design or social media is required. High speed internet access is available, and we ask for those with laptops or tablets to bring them.

To ensure enough space for all participants, please register prior to Feb 15. Registrations received past that date will be considered if space is available. To register email Riley Robinson at [gensec@bym-rsf.org](mailto:gensec@bym-rsf.org). If you have questions, please contact the BYM office. The directions and workshop schedule can be found at [www.LangleyHillQuakers.org](http://www.LangleyHillQuakers.org). The workshop will start at 9:30 am and end at 4 pm. Participants are asked to bring something for a brown bag lunch and maybe a little extra just in case..

- Only get involved in a program or project that you are comfortable with. Trust your gut.
- Be realistic. Have an escape route if things don't work out.
- Foster committed leadership, it can make all the difference.
- Build a program at a scale of financing that you can afford.
- Consider a public-benefit business rather than a charity.
- Be ready for success. Have a business plan to accommodate growth.

And in closing, we brainstormed some actions that Baltimore Yearly Meeting could take to help nurture this kind of work throughout all the Meetings of the Yearly Meeting. These include:

- Conduct a survey of Local Meetings to determine what is already going on.
- Establish an on-line activist network to connect Meetings to organizations doing this work. Cluster Meetings by setting (urban, suburban, and rural) to help them share ideas and help each other.
- Create a "general store" (information center) of services and resources. Connect smaller outreach efforts that may not yet be connected. Publicize resources and results.
- Develop a playbook for local congregations (or see if some other church has already done this).
- Offer training sessions on economic empowerment.
- Encourage urban gardens that can be a great way to provide meaningful community outreach.
- Hold a regional conference, with information stations, even open to non-Friends.
- Have speakers at Annual Session address these issues.
- Evaluate our efforts periodically to see what we are achieving, what the impacts have been both for the recipients and the givers.

Despite the few participants, this workshop covered a lot of ground and opened the eyes of everyone involved. There is power in comparing notes. There is power in engaging with our communities' most profound and stressing problems. We hope this dialogue continues and that BYM can help its constituent Meetings become more deeply involved in the communities around them.

## FAITH AND PRACTICE REVISION COMMITTEE ALERT

As part of the process for reviewing the proposed revision of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*, Meetings are being asked to review certain sections of the 2013 draft. The sections we will be considering are:

- The Life of the Spirit (Section I,2)
- Meetings for Worship (Section I,3)
- Monthly Meetings (Section III,1)

The Committee has asked Meetings "to express in writing, the specific portions (citing page and paragraph) that are troubling or concern them," or for which they wish to give feedback.

Has your Meeting begun work on this project? Do you as an individual or a group within your Meeting have concerns? The channel to air these concerns is through your Meeting. They will then forward feedback to the members of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Meetings should contact any of the members of the committee if they have questions about the process. Thank you for your attention to this matter, as the Committee cannot proceed thoroughly without your feedback.

## EPISTLE FROM THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE

To Friends Everywhere,

We send you greetings from the Friends General Conference Central Committee, meeting Tenth Month 16-19, 2014 at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, Maryland. We have felt blessed in our work and worship together, as we sought to be faithful to where the Spirit is leading us. During this weekend we wrestled with our call to challenge structural racism, we affirmed the value of long-standing FGC ministries, and we opened our minds and hearts to new possibilities. Our plenary sessions and committee meetings were seasoned with periods of deeply settled worship, where we could experience what it means to be a people knitted together in God.

During this past year, amazing amounts of good work have been done by the volunteers and staff serving FGC. The ministries of FGC have touched thousands of people, from those who attended the 2014 Gathering in California, Pennsylvania, to the dozens of monthly Meetings actively using the Quaker Cloud, to those who have participated in Quaker Quest workshops, or in gatherings for Friends of Color, or in the consultation on Spiritual Deepening held last March, to those we meet through the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical outreach.

In our time together this weekend, we focused on three areas in particular: spiritual deepening, preparing for a possible fund-raising campaign, and discerning and piloting ways forward for QuakerBooks of FGC. We came to clearness to take the next steps with developing modules for a Spiritual Deepening program to “make the full depth, joy, and fire of Quaker faith and practice highly available, teachable, and experiential for all those who are or will become part of our faith communities.” We hope this will bear fruit in years to come by helping Meetings deepen and strengthen their own worship communities, and answer the question: “What do we have to offer?” to seekers, to our communities, and to the wider world. We also came to clearness to move forward with a feasibility study to lay the groundwork for a major fund-raising campaign. The feasibility study would involve interviews with many potential donors, and would help to answer the questions: Are these the right programs? Is this the right time?

### QUAKERBOOKS.ORG IS NEW, FAST AND FUN

FGC Quakerbooks has been completely renovated, and would like to be your favorite bookstore. Try it now - Quaker reading has never been easier! You can browse for books and pamphlets, (especially Quaker publications) special picks by Quakerbooks staff, ebooks, PDF books, and bargain and used books. Topical reading lists for young and old are available, as are engaging articles about authors. Just go to <https://www.quakerbooks.org/>.

Quakerbooks is a program of Friends General Conference. The FGC Minute of Purpose says: Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, Meetings, and seekers.



**FGC**  
FRIENDS  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

We are delighted to announce that our new QuakerBooks.org website is working beautifully. We encourage Friends to make

use of this new website to download e-books, order printed books, and read interviews with Quaker authors. Our Quaker e-books collection has been greatly expanded, to include most of the in-print titles. We have heard that the ministry of QuakerBooks, especially the book tables, is greatly valued by Friends, especially in far-flung meetings that may not have ready access to the other Quaker resources. During the coming year, we will be looking closely at how we can have a sustainable QuakerBooks operation.

Friends General Conference is in a time of major transition, a time of great challenges and great opportunities. We know that God is with us, and we cherish each other. We look forward with joy to the journey ahead.

### FRIENDS HOUSE MOSCOW LAUNCHES NEW QUAKER WEBSITE

*Laura Nell Obaugh, Hopewell Centre*

Baltimore Yearly Meeting supported my service on the board of Friends House Moscow from 1996-2003, and I in turn made reports both through the *Interchange* and at Annual Session; even sold Christmas cards at with paintings by a young Russian artist. I had also participated in the preliminary meetings at Pendle Hill in which we defined the what/where/how/who of reestablishing a Quaker presence in Russia. Quaker work in that country had been suspended by Joseph Stalin in 1930.

On October 5 (World Quaker Day), Friends House Moscow launched a new Russian language website about Quakers, to replace an old one at the same web address: [www.quakers.ru](http://www.quakers.ru). The new website is more user-friendly and easy to update. It uses more pictures, and has improved structure. It also has new useful features, for example searching for key words, and counting the number of downloads. Their newsletter is also available as well as information informative regarding the use of Alternatives to Violence in the Ukraine; ATV was the first program established in the new center.

At last Quakers in Russia are easy to find! If you search for “Quakers” using the three top search engines used by Russians (Yandex, Google and Rambler), you will now find us among the top three sites. Already in the first 10 days there were over 500 different visitors to the site. New material is added to the site several times a week. It consists of a mixture of short texts, photos connected with Quakers, and extracts from books in the website library that are available for download.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD...

### IT TAKES BYM TO RAISE A QUAKER

*Ellen Arginteanu, co-clerk of JYM*

As we either delight in our winter sports or complain about the cold, it is hard for many to imagine laboring with our calendars to organize June, July and August. Yet children's summer camps are already filling up, and parents, wishing to match their kids to the right camp, are doing just that. No, this isn't a pitch for our great camping program; rather, it's a pitch for our little-known family camp, otherwise known as Annual Session. As you are planning your summer schedule, mark August 4-8 for Annual Sessions. You can have a week without cooking, washing up, cleaning or cutting grass, as you attend workshops, singing, listening to inspiring speakers, interacting with other families, eating ice cream and just meeting others of "like mind." While you are thus occupied, your children can entertain other adults in age-grouped classes in the morning, then afternoons and evenings they can make crafts and play games, with the other kids and Junior Yearly Meeting staff. Kids love it and insist on coming back year after year (choosing it over the annual family beach vacation—Quaker truth!).

While your children have fun, they develop a sense of what it means to be part of the larger body of the Religious Society of Friends; they grow from being our VYF (Very Young Friends) to JYF (Junior Young Friends) to YF (Young Friends) to YAF (Young Adult Friends), nurturing the rest of BYM, finally inheriting BYM.

## QUAKER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE FORMED

*Marsha Holliday, Friends Meeting of Washington*

On August 17 and 18, thirty-three Friends from across the country gathered at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA to envision the future of religious education among Friends. We left feeling exhilarated, believing that way had opened for a collective effort in Quaker religious education that reaches across the current Yearly Meeting, organizational, and geographic boundaries. "Elegant in its simplicity, the meeting planted a thousand seeds," is how one Friend described the gathering.

The major underpinnings the gathered group confirmed:

- Religious education for Friends is about taking people to their Inner Teacher.
- Each Quaker Meeting grows in its own way.
- Whatever we do must be theologically and geographically inclusive.
- Meetings need families, and families need religious education.
- Religious education is for children of all ages.
- From birth to cradle, all of us are teachers, and all of us are learners.

The way this collaboration came about was amazing. Last spring, four Friends were led to expand their discussions on religious education resources and networking by inviting others from across the country to conduct Listening Circles focused on religious education

## EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE!

The Educational Grants Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting will be awarding a limited number of modest grants for the school year 2015-2016.

Grants will be made to enable members and regular attenders of Monthly Meetings associated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting (or their children) to pursue their educational goals,

Grants may be applied to expenses associated with undergraduate attendance at accredited post-secondary educational institutions such as universities, colleges, professional and vocational schools. Attendance may be either full- or part-time.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of financial need and the Committee's assessment of an applicant's statement of purpose, including consistency with Friends' testimonies.

Grants will not exceed \$2,000.00 per grantee per year. The sum of all grants to a grantee will not exceed \$8,000.00.

In determining the number and amounts of grants, the Committee will be guided by the twin goals of assisting as many applicants as possible with available funds and, insofar as possible, of assuring that amounts of individual grants are not insignificant in comparison with the grantee's needs.

Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2015.

For further information or if you have questions, please contact the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Office at 301-774-7663 or online at [www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org).

joys and challenges. In faith, they reserved space at Pendle Hill to gather a first meeting of an emerging Collaborative. By August, 33 Friends had responded to the call to gather. Many more Friends added their voices from the Listening Circles. At Pendle Hill a steering group for the Collaborative was formed.

Our intentions going forward:

- Continue to build an international online community of practice using a contact list that has grown to almost 100 names and represents 15 Yearly Meetings and three countries;
- Create an on-line repository of Quaker curricula and teaching/learning resources that could be freely available to everyone;
- Establish a fluid structure that would allow us to raise money to pay for a website;
- Support the set-up of small, virtual working groups around religious education topics;
- Gather the RE community of practice together again in 2015, and;
- Offer an RE Institute in the USA within the next four years.

If you are interested in joining us or learning more about what is available for those in Quaker RE and the work of the Quaker RE Collaborative, you can contact us at [quakers4re@googlegroups.com](mailto:quakers4re@googlegroups.com).

## FRACKING WORKING GROUP OF THE CHESAPEAKE QUARTER

### NEW YORK STATE BANNED FRACKING – CAN MARY- LAND DO IT TOO?

On December 17, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced he will ban fracking statewide in New York. Can we do this in Maryland?

**We need to act now** to pressure our legislators to enact a fracking moratorium in Maryland Governor O'Malley's temporary protection expired in August 2014. It put a moratorium on fracking during the conduct of health and environment studies from 2011-2014.

**The stage was set in New York State** to ban fracking because a large number of local bans were already in effect before Governor Cuomo's announcement. Most of the frackable territory had already been protected. In Maryland, mineral rights laws and zoning laws are different.

**The Maryland legislature will consider a fracking moratorium bill this year.** There is a coalition of groups working to pressure State leaders to pass legislation for a moratorium, but we need to let our representatives know that **we want this.**

**Each of us can get involved by calling our State legislators.** The Fracking Working Group of Chesapeake Quarter is monitoring the situation and will distribute suggested text for your phone calls. If you want more information, we encourage you to get in touch by e-mailing Polly Heninger of Homewood Friends Meeting at [peh616@msn.com](mailto:peh616@msn.com).

## FRIENDS COUNCIL ON SCOUTING

### Six Hundred Million Hours!

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is the international connection between the various national Scout associations. Among other things, it sponsors a badge called "**Messengers of Peace**" that the Scout can earn. The requirements include the creation of volunteer service projects to benefit the Scout's home community. This was inaugurated about three years ago. WOSM recently announced that they had documented over six hundred million person hours of service through five million different projects throughout the world. Many projects are here in the US also. With the troubles apparent around the world, it is important to remember that there are many people, young and old, that live by ideals we share and worthy of celebrating.

## MINISTRY & PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

### ISSUES RAISED IN

#### SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee's brief analysis of 2013 reports identified seven issues, each of which was raised in six or more reports. They were:

1. Conflict within the Meeting and people feeling safe in participating freely in Meeting (*e.g.*, in speaking) (11 reports)
2. Attracting young people and young families (10)
3. First Day School and religious education for children (8)
4. Property and its care (8)
5. Participation (*e.g.*, on committees) (7)

6. Welcoming new people (6)

7. Building community in the Meeting (6)

If these issues are of concern in your Meeting or Worship Group, you are not alone. Help is available from the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, as well as other BYM committees.

As your Meeting or Worship Group prepares its report for the year just past, please consider whether MPC might help you with one of these or other issues. While some issues, like property or religious education, are not in MPC's immediate area of concentration, the committee would be pleased to serve as points of contact for MPC issues and to provide guidance to other committees.

## QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

As Meetings discern a response to BYM's request to look at global climate change, depletion of human resources and the degradation of the environment, they are encouraged to check out the rich selection of resources on the Quaker Earthcare Witness' (QEW) web site. QEW has been seeking emerging insights into Right Relationship with Earth and Unity with Nature for over 25 years.

QEW on-line materials include leaflets (the latest is on Fossil Fuel Divestiture), a newsletter (BeFriending Creation), and in-depth Eco-Bulletins. Our own Will Candler from Annapolis has co-written an Eco-Bulletin on "Necessary Action to Address Climate Change."

Many Friends have expertise in a variety of environmental areas which they share in on-line discussions. Currently, an on-line book discussion (Douglas Gwyn's *A Sustainable Life*) is being organized. QEW participates in Facebook and Twitter.

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

### BYM ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT MEETING

You are invited to find out more about the money your Meeting sends to BYM! Please come, listen, give feedback, or else ask that your Meeting sends one or more representatives. You'll hear about how other Meetings are handling their finances and about how the Yearly Meeting is doing. The Stewardship and Finance Committee hosts this annual meeting to consider issues of apportionment – that is, financial support of BYM. It is a time for sharing and consideration of important issues.

New this year will be our holding the event on two Saturdays, one toward the north and one to the south. Blacksburg Meeting will host on April 18 and Frederick Meeting on April 25, 2015.

Friends will gather beginning at 9:30 am for coffee and snacks. The Apportionment Meeting will begin at 10:00 and is expected to conclude by 2:30 pm. In the morning, the Stewardship and Finance Committee will present a rough draft of the 2016 Yearly Meeting Budget, as well as a first proposal of Monthly Meeting Apportionments for 2016. There will be discussion of the procedures for calculating the proposed apportionments and consideration of any concerns. You may find it helpful to review your own Meeting's completed Apportionment form before you come.

The afternoon discussion topic will be of interest to many Friends—what are the benefits of sharing our Meeting resources with other groups and what are the responsibilities?

## EXCITING YEAR END DEVELOPMENT NEWS ANNOUNCED



### Final Update on the “Little Cabin” Project

The Little Cabin will complete its long journey shortly. We are happy to report that it will reside permanently at the home of a local Friend, where it will be used as a playhouse.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this project. We exceeded our goal of \$25,000 and will put these great gifts toward the building of a new “big” cabin at Quaker Camp.

A great big thank you to

BYM Camp Property Manager, David Hunter, for all of his great work on this project.

### Our gratitude to Roberta “BJ” Warren’s for her Generous Gift

This past year Baltimore Yearly Meeting received word that we would be receiving a bequest gift from Roberta Warren. BYM had been named by Roberta as a retirement beneficiary. Prior to this call her generous gift was unknown to the Yearly Meeting. Roberta Warren was not a Quaker. She is not known to many in the Yearly Meeting. One might ask why she would leave money to BYM camps. To find the answer to this question and learn more about the life of Roberta Warren and her generous and impactful gift, please go to [www.bym-rsf.org/giving/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/giving/).



Questions or for more information, contact the Yearly Meeting office at 301-774-7663. Please call the office to let us know you are coming so we can plan for lunch! Many thanks. Overnight accommodations might be possible if needed.

## UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

### CHAT WITH US!

The Unity with Nature Committee welcomes Meetings/individuals to communicate about their environmental discernment on UWN’s new List serve or in person at Interim Meeting. UWN’s goal is to help answer questions, inspire cross-pollination of ideas, and learn more deeply from the environmental discernment processes launched by BYM Meetings following Annual Session 2014. Meetings have responded to BYM’s invitation to enter into a process of discernment on climate change, environmental degradation, and resources extraction in a variety of ways.

Some Meetings are pondering the best approach, while others have initiated Second Hour discussions, hosted relevant speakers, shown films and/or read books to inspire deeper discussion, or actively ‘greened’ their Meeting Houses. Some have joined with other ‘green’ or interfaith groups to work on local initiatives. UWN is making room at the March 21 Interim Meeting at Patapsco, during its regular committee time (10:30 am-1:00 pm), to hear from individuals and Meetings. In addition, UWN invites Friends to join an informal online discussion of issues and initiatives on its new List Serve at [bym-unity-with-nature@googlegroups.com](mailto:bym-unity-with-nature@googlegroups.com). All are welcome to participate. The committee can also be contacted via e-mail at [bymunitywithnature@gmail.com](mailto:bymunitywithnature@gmail.com), and posts about sustainability are welcomed on the UWN Facebook page.

## COME SING WITH FRIENDS!

Saturday, April 11th at Herndon friends Meeting from 10am-4pm. We will be having a POTLUCK lunch around 12:30. Ruth Fitz will lead us in Soulful Singing, with harmonies, followed by choices from the hymnal & *Rise Up Singing*. We will also be chanting! Come share your Spirit with us for all or any part of the day! Childcare will be available—though singing will be kid-friendly (please request by 4/4/15) Both shy and sure singers are welcome! This gathering is not about bringing strong singers together—it’s about joining our voices together in Spirit! Contact Stacey LaRoy if you have any questions. ([staceycbear@alaroy.com](mailto:staceycbear@alaroy.com) or 703-599-9390)

## CONSIDERING OUR VISION OF BYM

*Vision continued from page 1*

**What else is being considered?** (From the report recommendations)

1. Interim Meeting and its Clerk act as a supportive presence for all BYM committees and the staff through this process. The Clerk of Interim Meeting might want to appoint a small committee to help with this work, and should do this work in consultation with the Presiding Clerk of BYM.
2. The Presiding Clerk of BYM along with Ministry and Pastoral Care and the Intervisitation Working Group give support to the Monthly Meetings as they work with these recommendations.
3. Look at the suggestions for ways for committees to work together to accomplish some of the goals – a sort of pathway is provided in this document for some of the recommendations.

Your Meeting or committee’s feedback on the report is most welcome! Contact Ken Stockbridge – Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk ([YMClerk@BYM-RSF.org](mailto:YMClerk@BYM-RSF.org)), Tasha Walsh – Interim Meeting Clerk ([IMClerk@BYM-RSF.org](mailto:IMClerk@BYM-RSF.org)), or Riley Robinson – General Secretary ([gensec@bym-rsf.org](mailto:gensec@bym-rsf.org)). The Vision Implementation Report can be found at [www.bym-rsf.org/publications/yearbooks/0814attach.html#attachz](http://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/yearbooks/0814attach.html#attachz).

## CONNECTING LOCAL MEETINGS SESSION AT ANNUAL SESSION

### NOTES FROM SHARING ABOUT WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

One of the Connecting Local Meetings sessions last summer focused on how Friends are using electronic communications tools for outreach within and outside the community. Listed here are some of the topics that were discussed. Friends who are interested in continuing this conversation should join the Advancement and Outreach Committee at the event on February 28 at Langely Hill Friends Meeting. Local Meetings with that have developed communications policies could make them available to the Advancement and Outreach Committee for sharing amongst other Meetings that are looking to create one.

#### Websites and E-mail – Meeting and other

Frederick and York are two Meetings that use the FGC Quaker Cloud. The service is easy to manage and offers a good set of features. A website is useful not just for marketing or attracting new people, but also to foster community among those already there. You can Google “church websites” and find a page called “50 Best Church Websites” and another called “Seven Mistakes Church Websites Make” to do some research. Friends Wilderness Center used the “Charity Advantage” service to construct its web site. You can sign up for it—about \$200—and use it to create a new web page. The website can include a newsletter, which is a series of short links that push users to the full story on the website. Mail Chimp is a bulk emailer for sending out e-mail to a large list.

A Flickr account at Frederick lets people could post photos. Thinkstock is a service that allows users to purchase packages of 10 low-resolution small-size photos suitable for the web for less than \$20.00. Jon Watts of FGC, offers a “topic of the week,” available from FGC’s website, which can be shared on a Meeting’s website. Websites like

CaringBridge.com and ThemaMeal.com are useful when a Meeting member has a serious illness or other concern.

#### Social Media

Facebook can be used to announce events and/or news. Posts can take people to the Meeting’s website. Many Meetings have a Facebook page that was not regularly updated, or used at all. Having someone post current news is the most important thing to do on Facebook. If there is an announcement or invitation, it’s important to let people know on the Facebook page. York has a Facebook page on which their clerk posts meaningful quotes. None of those present used Twitter. That service does not yet appear to be useful, since we seldom need immediate responses. Text messages struck people as more useful for those rare occasions, in that it is not that much trouble to collect people’s cell phone numbers and send out a text message.

The idea of a blog was raised. There was no unity as to whether this should be a function of the Meeting, with the concern that it is difficult to have any one individual speak for the Meeting, and it would be complex to coordinate and moderate a large number of bloggers.

#### Tech at Meeting

One Meeting keeps a printer at the Meeting so that items can be printed out as needed. Another Meeting has people sign a Guest Book, then sends a postcard asking if the visitor would like to be added to the newsletter/e-mail distribution list. After that, they receive a quarterly mailing encouraging Friends to keep their contact information updated. Annually, they print the directory. After a time of regular attendance, repeat visitors are invited to be included in the directory. It was also noted that the Quaker Cloud can host a directory.

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## DISCERNMENT AND ACTION IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

*Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk*

Global climate change poses a daunting threat, potentially leading to the death and displacement of hundreds of millions of people along with other animal and plant life. It’s a huge, complex, scary issue. As individuals, we educate ourselves about such issues, as we are able, and consider the implications for our own actions. I don’t know about you, but I get overwhelmed very quickly thinking about it all. I could use some help! Could it help to engage such issues within our spiritual community? Where is the Spirit in all this?

The scientific community appears to agree overwhelmingly about certain basic facts concerning climate change. Yet a disproportionately small number of people with a disproportionately large amount of power don’t accept those as facts. Do we need to change minds ... or change hearts? Does that suggest a spiritual response to the concern? What would a spiritual response look like? How could we apply spiritual practices and principles, like prayer, hope, grace, confession, forgiving, thanksgiving, praise, supplication, lamentation, etc.? Does our Quaker witness enlighten the concern? Just how do we “try what Love will do?”

Our Unity with Nature Committee is working hard to engage us all in a discussion about this—no, a spiritual discernment process. (See its article in this issue.) This work is leading up to annual session

in August, where the theme will be Living in Right Relationship, a piece of which is right relationship with creation. Spiritual discernment is what our meetings for worship with a concern for business are all about, on this as well on every matter that comes before us. Our faith and our practice reflect our conviction that Divine Truth and Love are always available to every one of us, individually and together. When we come together in worship, we can feel God’s presence, hear continuing revelation, and reach a shared understanding of what Spirit is calling us to do. Often we don’t know what the outcome will be, and it doesn’t help to presume. Our primary task is to be open. When we get it right, as Bill Taber wrote, we experience joy, assurance, trust, and even excitement. (The Mind of Christ: Bill Taber on Meeting for Business, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #406.)

Friends, we seek a faith that helps us understand what to do and how to live, not just what to say. Spiritual community provides us much needed help, support, and encouragement in trying to be faithful. Much good work has already come out of our Meetings on environmental concerns. The discernment process and the work emerging from it continue. Join with your local Meetings in discernment and action, and then with your Yearly Meeting (and Quarterly Meetings, if you have one). It can make a difference. It can give us hope. And, it is a joy! Be a part of it.



## ALEXANDRIA FRIENDS MEETING

On a beautiful day in September, Alexandria Monthly Meeting (AMM) held its fourth annual homecoming and fundraising event. The afternoon featured a tasty lunch with music by Kacy Clopton, a lively children's concert, the delightful Jerry Allen Jazz Trio and a table of displays on AMM's history. The successful fundraiser made possible a significant donation to the New Hope Housing, a local non-profit focused on helping homeless individuals.

**Reflections of a Quaker: A Blank Slate Theology** by Warren L. Treuer: This compilation of writings expresses the writer's spiritual journey from a point when previous doctrinal beliefs were set aside to pursue religious inquiry with a "blank slate". Expressing the importance of the interrelationship of the spiritual and material aspects of life, Treuer considers how science, psychology, mysticism, many religious belief systems, and personal values can shape a theology. As Friend Deborah Haines noted, "This is a gentle, thoughtful, insightful book, infused with joy and wonder". Warren Treuer holds a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary as well as Master's in other related fields. He has been a member of Alexandria Monthly Meeting for over 30 years. The book is available through Amazon.com and all proceeds are donated to American Friends Service Committee.

## ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Our new cookbook containing recipes and bits of wisdom was printed just in time for our Holiday Market. The 200 copies quickly sold out. Recipes, of course, include one for 13-bean soup, the soup mix that Annapolis Friends sold for years to raise money to build our Meeting House. Some Friends will remember the reliably corny skits about 13-bean soup that Annapolis Friends always performed at coffee house at Annual Session. Annapolis Friends are beginning to consider adding on to our Meeting House. We especially need more space for First Day School. There also is interest in acquiring a building on an adjacent property. We are taking the time necessary to hear all points of view and to discern the best way forward.

Ministry and Worship Committee has been developing guidelines for embracing ministries and leadings, based to some extent on the Yearly Meeting's guidelines. Ann Riggs has returned from her five years as principal of Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya. She is now teaching in Chicago, but we get to see her a bit more frequently than during the past five years.

## CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

In the fall, CFM formed a Communications Working Group when we came to the conclusion that we had some gaps in our efforts to communicate with each other and with our greater communities. The group's first task was to identify all the established ways in which we communicate, and our list included 13 different communication avenues each of which needed some work, from tweaking to a major overhaul. Our first changes have been a new web site on the Quaker Cloud and an updated e-mail address list. Check us out at [www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/charlottesville-friends-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/charlottesville-friends-meeting).

Mold on the walls in our kitchen area led to the discovery of a major leak in our roof. We had to patch the roof, remove the kitchen equipment and cabinets, tear out dry wall, and have the mold removed. A more permanent repair to the roof will wait until spring. Our



*Alexandria Friends Homecoming 2014*

traditional December festive potluck had to be moved to Tandem Friends School, but that didn't dampen attendance or enthusiasm as about ninety friends gathered for the event.

CFM is again working with PACEM (People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry) to host homeless women for a two-week period in our meetinghouse. Through this program, local congregations coordinate efforts to provide a hot meal and a bed for 12-18 homeless women each night during the coldest part of the year.

## FAUQUIER FRIENDS WORSHIP GROUP

The eight Meetings for Worship held in 2014 by Fauquier Friends Worship Group attracted local attenders from Warrenton, Southern Fauquier County, Culpeper, Stafford and Rappahannock County in Virginia. All are areas that lacked any Quaker group presence at the time of FFWG's first worship in 5<sup>th</sup> Month. Under the care of Herndon Friends Meeting, Fauquier Friends Worship Group has had the privilege of welcoming visitors from Herndon Friends Meeting and Friends from Baltimore Yearly Meeting including our BYM General Secretary and previous and current Presiding Clerks of BYM.

Meetings are still held only once a month due to restrictions on rental of the community building (Fauquier County Library Depot at the Bealeton Library). Friends and attenders are sometimes keeping in touch outside the Worship Meetings via e-mail and phone and by looking for announcements in newspapers and newsletters. The development of this new Worship Group has been aided by consultation and support from Herndon Friends and the wider Yearly Meeting, also by Friends General Conference New Meetings Project. The Yearly Meeting's Advancement and Outreach Committee recently offered needed assistance with future development of an attractive web page, advancement photos, and a dedicated Facebook page. With only adults in attendance so far, this latest offer rekindles the hope of reaching families with children.

"God in Everyone" was the apt title given to the article on Fauquier Friends Worship Group published in the December 30, 2014 issue of the daily *Culpeper Star Exponent*. The reporter included three photos and quotes from both local attenders and visitors to 11<sup>th</sup> Month worship. Using "God in Everyone Fauquier Friends" in the search space, the online version of the article may still be located in the Star Exponent archives ([www.dailyprogress.com](http://www.dailyprogress.com)).

Another 12<sup>th</sup> Month highlight was having the blessing of giving to the three services for emergency or transitional housing in the Fauquier Friends outreach area. Staff from Community Touch (in Bealeton), Fauquier Family Shelter Services (in Warrenton), and the Culpeper Community Development shelter all expressed gratitude for the needed collection of money, new bed linens, personal products, and cleaning supplies. They also were interested in learning more about the local Quakers and the Religious Society of Friends.

At this time, space is rented at the Bealeton Depot, 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton, VA for third Sundays (15<sup>th</sup>) of February and March. Singing and hospitality begin at 10:30 am with an unprogrammed hour of worship starting at 11 am. A First Day activity for children is readied for 11:15 am. Potluck and continued hospitality follow Rise of Meeting announcements. Visitation helps us thrive. Check the Yearly Meeting website listing on Fauquier Friends Worship Group for future dates, times and locations.

### FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON

In January, Friends Meeting of Washington was able to host a very exciting program on **Race, Violence and Policing**. This event, co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, our Peace & Social Concerns Committee, and the Washington Peace Center, brought together activists, community members, returning residents, and members of the Police Complaint Board to focus on the treatment of minorities by members of the police. We were able to livestream the national AFSC program on this topic, and then present a panel discussion focusing on how the issue plays out in Washington DC. Our member Steve Coleman, executive director of Washington Parks and People, served as a moderator, and spoke of his personal experience in witnessing both peaceful and violent policing in the city. The program was well attended, and the attendants brought a great deal to the discussion. The committee plans to continue focusing on this issue and supporting local efforts to improve police communications and actions.

Meanwhile, our First Day School has been engaged in a Coins for Quoins program, collecting spare change to support our Capital Campaign, which will help pay for a long-needed renovation, scheduled to begin late this spring. With great enthusiasm and creativity, the students set up games for their “Coinaval,” which helped them to raise a huge batch of coins. In the process, they learned about the need for the renovation and what it means to support your Meeting. They have yet to tally their earnings, but we are already feeling the love.

### GOOSE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

On December 6, Goose Creek Friends Meeting opened its doors to the community to dedicate a Virginia Civil War Trails sign telling of the Union burning raids of early December 1864. We had more than 80 people from the community and historians from afar. The First Day School children presented a newly revised rendition of a children's history of the Meeting written by Asa Moore Janney in 1957. By celebrating the persistence of the Quakers and the adherence to the Peace Testimony during such trying times, we were reminded of our Peace Testimony today.

### HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

It is a great joy to the Herndon Friends community to have the care of the new Fauquier Worship Group, which has been organized this

year by member Bonnie Stockslager and which is meeting once a month in Bealeton, Virginia. The Junior Young Friends are exploring the meaning of Bible stories this year using a Bible Smarts format invented by Terence McCormally, consisting of queries about each story that are also sent out via e-mail to the whole community each week. Adults participated in lively discussions once a month on a wide variety of topics, including one led by Harry and Cathy Tunis on a “Quaker Elevator Speech:” how do you describe Quakerism to newcomers in thirty seconds or less? The wide spectrum of ideas demonstrated the many different ways that Quakerism has meaning in our lives. We are now tackling the testimonies.

### HOPEWELL CENTRE MONTHLY MEETING

Hopewell Centre is happy to report an active and productive autumn. In September, after much thought and preparation, we began a 9-month Spiritual Formation Group. Drawing on BYM’s guidelines, our ten eager participants attended an initial one-day retreat here at Hopewell, and each has taken up a spiritual practice, from meditation and journaling to yoga and contemplative prayer. We are reading from works by Patricia Loring (“Listening Spirituality”); Arthur Larabee, Parker Palmer, Mark Nepo and others. The group meets once a month for potluck, discussion, and worship-sharing. In November, we welcomed visiting Friend Dr. Campbell Plowden, founder of CACE (Centre for Amazon Community Ecology) who shared with us, in an informative and delightful slide presentation, the work he is doing to find positive alternatives to deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. We hosted his “Amazon Crafts Sale” of beautiful, native artisan handicrafts—a great success which will give much back towards the improvement of the individual artists’ rainforest communities. We continue to enjoy other ongoing projects, including our ever-growing Childcare RE program; new peace and social justice efforts; as well as the involvement with some of our members with FCRP and BYM. We rest in the cold of our Valley winter and look forward to spring.

### RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

In Tenth Month 2014, Richmond Friends Meeting approved a Minute affirming its commitment to sign marriage licenses for all couples married under the care of the Meeting and celebrated the legality of all our marriages at the tenth month pot luck with a “quilt wedding cake.”

In October Peace & Social Concerns (P&S) presented the film *The Wisdom to Survive* and in November presented a summary and facilitated a discussion of Elizabeth Kolbert’s book *The Sixth*

**THE BURNING RAID**  
A Peaceable Community Faces Fire

There, you see in Quaker country, but in the south was Mosby's Cavalry, whose Confederate supporters provided Col. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers (the Battalion Virginia Cavalry) with ammunition and supplies. Mosby's partisan forces often targeted the Quaker farms around Goose Creek. Mosby's Cavalry to help feed their hungry horses.

On November 29, 1864, Union Gen. Mosby's Cavalry had 4,000 men march from the Shenandoah Ash Valley through Ashby's Gap and into the Loudoun Valley in response to Mosby's raids and attacks on Federal outposts and supply trains. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan ordered Mosby to burn mills, barns, stables, iron mines, farms, machinery, and crops in Loudoun and Fauquier counties and to carry off livestock and all men of military age.

Mosby's men streamed through this area with torches on November 28 and December 1. A local Quaker girl, Carrie Taylor, wrote, "Weed came... the Yankees were coming and... burning everything before them... They set the smoke rising all around us from our neighbors' houses, stockpiles, and cornfields. It was too true: They had come to burn up everything."

The men set the Goose Creek Friends Meeting in last farms, crops, livestock, and farm equipment. After the war they worked together to restore their farm community to prosper in. Sherwin of the burning raid continues to be shared among the descendants of Civil War-era Friends here.



2014 Women's Retreat

**Extinction.** These two programs provided an introduction to a series of programs to be presented over the next three years providing an in depth exploration of the worldwide ecological/environmental crisis and global warming. The RFM Adult Spiritual Education Committee joined with P&SC in presenting these initial programs.

P&SC has joined with Richmonders for Peace in Israel and Palestine, a new area organization formed to promote greater understanding and compassion in the Richmond community for the seemingly intractable problem facing Israel and Palestine. Currently the approach being used involves joint sponsorship of films and discussions held in a variety of community venues. Such films as *Promises*, *Death in Jerusalem*, and *Five Broken Cameras* are being shown and discussed.

## VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

Following approval of our Minute on Climate Change, Peace & Social Concerns Committee showed the inspirational video, *Bidder 70* and participated in a local organization addressing Climate Change in our community. An ad hoc committee, involving input from the whole Meeting is exploring how to best, reduce our VFM "carbon footprint". One major concern is the high cost, both financially and energy-wise, of maintaining and heating our historic building. The Climate Change Minute also spawned discussion of "Creator," denoting a dualism or supernatural entity outside of ourselves. As we acknowledged, the writing of the minute was just the beginning. The work, the learning - is ongoing.

Numerous Friends participated in community discussions around a proposal in build a \$60 million prison complex asking questions regarding the treatment of prisoners and the high costs of incarceration as compared to alternatives which have not been fully explored.

We recognize that our location in a small town has helped to keep our Meeting, as one Friend put it, "a best kept secret." We are looking for ways to become more visible to those who are seeking and more available and connected to those who have already found their way to our door.

This winter we began a series of Friends' sharing the stories of their spiritual journeys. We look forward to continuing these through the spring. The older youth are creating a timeline of "notable" Quakers to eventually include some of our very own.

## YORK FRIENDS MEETING

Before putting faith into practice it is helpful to reflect on faith itself. The Meeting held a series of Quakerism 101 classes in September and October. Several new visitors joined us to learn about the Quakers as a group, their history, their diversity of faith and practice, their organizational structure, and their way of conducting business. Later in the fall there was a worship sharing session entitled "Sharing the Diversity of our Faith" that helped those in attendance honor the variety of individual faith experiences within the Meeting.

Additionally there has been exploration of the faith of other. The Spiritual Formation Group is meeting monthly to share reflections on Walter Wink's experiences from his book, *Just Jesus*, as a stepping stone to personal sharing. The mid-week Seeker's group is reading *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry* edited by Steve Heinrichs and learning about the differences between settler and Indigenous perspectives. This book was recommended by Elizabeth Koopman as part of her ministry in support of Indigenous peoples.

Putting faith into practice can be challenging due to the constraints of the clock especially during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. However Friends have been open to experimenting with several variations of the timing in order to help maintain a sense of worship while conducting business. Currently the Meeting is starting Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business one half hour earlier at 9am. To aide in earlier attendance, the Community Life Committee is in charge of the food for potluck that day to remind Friends of Right Sharing of World Resources and encourage Friends to donate to RSWR in place of the cost of food they would have brought.

Another opportunity to put faith into practice was on New Year's Eve by inviting F/friends within and beyond the Meeting community into the Meeting House for the evening. The luminaria on the front steps were a sign of welcome and a reminder of the Light within. Ruth Fitz practiced her ministry of music by coordinating the program and singing with friends in a group called "Friends of Light" featuring solo and ensemble offerings of vocals and acoustic guitar. Michael Molz sang songs with a blues and jazz influence while accompanying himself on guitar and Jack Bray played a haunting Native American flute. Although some in attendance missed the former New Year's Eve performers, Ed and Fran Norton who moved away, the standing room only audience expressed appreciation for the wonderful music and fellowship.



Lost and Found at Shiloh Quaker Camp

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

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### YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US

Have you moved, or has any of your contact information changed? Please send any updates to [admin@bym-rsf.org](mailto:admin@bym-rsf.org)

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## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### FEBRUARY

- 1 – BYM Camps Registration open for new campers
- 13-15 – Young Friends Conference at Homewood Friends Meeting
- 15 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at York Friends Meeting
- 16 – Yearly Meeting offices closed for holiday
- 28 – Is Your Meeting Ready to be Found? Workshop at Langley Hill Friend Meeting

### MARCH

- 1 – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting at Oxford Meeting House
- 8 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run
- 14-15 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Richmond Friends Meeting
- 21 – Third Month Interim Meeting at Patapsco Friends Meeting
- 22 – Annual Travelers' Retreat at Patapsco Friends Meeting

### APRIL

- 3 – Yearly Meeting offices closed for Good Friday
- 11 – Come Sing with Friends at Herndon Friends Meeting
- 18 – Apportionment Meeting at Blacksburg Friends Meeting
- 24-26 – Young Friends Bus Trip
- 25 – Apportionment Meeting at Frederick Friends Meeting

### STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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Riley Robinson	General Secretary <a href="mailto:gensec@bym-rsf.org">gensec@bym-rsf.org</a>	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Manager <a href="mailto:janemegginson@bym-rsf.org">janemegginson@bym-rsf.org</a>
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