

THE INTERCHANGE

Fall 2023 Volume 99
Issue 03

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



“Fall scene in Upshur County, West Virginia” by Carol M. Highsmith

Pg. 4

**Annual Session
Photos**

Pg. 8

**Deepening Relationship
With Monacan Nation**

Pg. 11

**Community
News**

OPEQUON QUAKER CAMP TO SHINE ON AT THE ROLLING RIDGE CONSERVANCY

At BYM Annual Sessions in August of this year, Friends joyfully united to approve the move of Opequon Quaker Camp to the grounds of the Rolling Ridge Conservancy located near Harper's Ferry, WV. For more than 10 years, Opequon Quaker Camp has been hosted on "the hilltop" - a beloved piece of land owned by a farming family and generously leased to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. As the end of that lease approached, the BYM Camping Program and Camping Property Management Committees began looking for Opequon Quaker Camp's long-term and forever home. While Friends love and will forever treasure the camp property at the top of that hill, for several reasons - including location, size, facilities, and long-term stability - we knew that the Opequon program needed to move so it can grow and thrive in the coming decades.

Opequon will take over and run its program at Rolling Ridge on the site of a former summer camp that closed in 2018. The new Opequon property at Rolling Ridge is approximately 230 acres within the larger 1600 acres of the Rolling Ridge Conservancy. Throughout those 1600 acres there are miles of trails, streams and waterfalls, as well as ponds and cliffs. Furthermore, the property touches both the Appalachian Trail and the Shenandoah River. Campers can walk to the AT, swim or float in the river, and have simple and constant access to the wild spaces that are at the core of our camping program. The new location will allow us to both deepen our arts programming at Opequon Quaker Camp and provide improved 4-season facilities for non-summer camp uses.

The camp is deep in the forest on its own private driveway which will allow us to create a safe and protected experience for all campers, something that has proven difficult in and around these Appalachian Mountains that we



love. This move is a big step in our journey to making the Opequon camp community a genuinely inclusive and welcoming space where all campers can find a sense of home and connection and belonging.

In addition, by being co-stewards of the Rolling Ridge Conservancy with the [Friends Wilderness Center](#) and the [Rolling Ridge Study Retreat](#), this new Opequon location will enable us to establish and strengthen and deepen partnerships with other Friends organization - including many artists, artisans, naturalists, and educators who are already involved in the Conservancy.

Between now and the start of the 2024 camping season, there is much to be done to prepare Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge. Soon, we will launch a special fundraising campaign necessary to make repairs and improvements to the camp now and in the years to come. Work is already underway by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Together, we can ensure the transformative BYM Camping Program shines on for another 100 years.

WELCOME NEW INTERIM CLERK TOM WEBB



Tom Webb playing around at home.

At Annual Session in August, BYM approved Tom Webb (also known as T-Dubbs) as our new Clerk of Interim Meeting. The Clerk of Interim Meeting convenes and guides the sessions of Interim Meeting (held between BYM's annual summer sessions), serves as an alternate to the Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting, serves on the Supervisory Committee, and provides overall care and concern for the Yearly Meeting in collaboration with the Presiding Clerk.

Tom has been involved with Baltimore Yearly Meeting for over 20 years. After attending Catocin and Teen Adventure, he was nominated to the leadership committee of BYM Young's Friends program in 2009, and later went on to serve as the clerk of Young Adult Friends and more recently on Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee. Tom graduated from Earlham College with a degree in Music Performance and Composition and works at the Sandy Spring Museum. In his free time, Tom enjoys writing, computer games, and singing in local choirs.

As Interim Clerk, Tom hopes to advance a process for acknowledging racial wounding among BYM Friends, and to remind Friends that the Way that Opens is not always where we expect it to be.

Tom can be reached at IMclerk@bym-rsf.org.

THINKING ABOUT RACE

A Monthly Column of the Working Group on Racism

Welcome to the October *Thinking About Race* column from BYM's Working Group on Racism (WGR). *Thinking About Race* is prepared monthly by the WGR and sent to each Monthly Meeting. We offer these columns as an opportunity for Friends to think, reflect, and worship on topics related to racism and anti-racism. This month, we share a story from the history of the Working Group on Racism.

The Working Group on Racism first met at Friends Meeting of Washington in the spring of

2002. Initially, it was under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Over time, Friends realized racism was a spiritual issue that needed to be under the care of Ministry & Pastoral Care, and the change took place as Friends realized that anti-racism is at the core of Quaker faith and practice. The quote that follows came from WGR Friends advocating for this change.

"The most basic belief of Friends is that there is that of the divine within each of us. This holy

essence is in every person on earth, regardless of individual strengths and weaknesses. This is the basis of our testimony on equality.

We live in cultures that value some people over others based on extrinsic qualities, of which skin color is one example. This is contrary to our most basic belief in that of God within. We must free ourselves of our cultural conditioning. This is difficult; it is core spiritual work; and

not to do it is a sin against the Spirit.”

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each local Meeting. The BYM WGR meets most months on the first Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, currently via Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact the clerk at david.etheridge@verizon.net.

Annual Session



From L to R: Musician Slim Harrison, Greg Robb (FMW), Sarah Gillooly (Adelphi), and Tom Webb (Sandy Spring) play a jug-band tune at the Annual Session Squaredance.



Committee Speed Dating at Annual Session. 23 Committees & Working Groups in 56 minutes shared how they serve Friends, neighbors, and the world!



Georgia Fuller (Langley Hill) reports on the delegation of 9 Friends who attended the FUM Triennial in Nakuru, Kenya



Terrence McCormally (Herndon) soothes the littlest Annual Session attendee.



Friends enjoying a daily meal together.

PLANNED GIVING GIFTS HELP BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING SECURE THE FUTURE... AND HONOR THE PAST



Arthur & Meg Boyd Meyer

Arthur Boyd and Meg Meyer at Stony Run Friends Meeting, made the generous decision to include a planned gift to BYM through their will more than 10 years ago.

“It gave us real pleasure”, Arthur explained, “to know that we would continue to support BYM after we’re gone.”

Planned gifts are passed along to BYM after the donor’s death, in the case of a bequest through their will. Friends can also make BYM the beneficiary of an insurance policy or an IRA, or a trust. Planned gifts are a lasting legacy, representing the generosity of some of BYM’s very closest F/friends.

“But”, continued Arthur, “we realized this year that we had never actually told anyone that we had made a planned gift to BYM, so we did, and they were very grateful. We felt good all over again! So, if you have kindly remembered BYM in your estate plans, or through a beneficiary of your IRA, or in any way, please let them know by contacting the office.”

Also, if you are interested in learning more about making a planned gift to BYM, please contact Barbara Wille, Interim Director of Development at Development@bym-rsf.org, or by calling the office at 301-774-7663.

BYM Calendar Set for 2023-2024

The BYM program years begins each fall after the conclusion of our summer Annual Session. Below are a few key dates for the months ahead. The full 2023-2024 BYM calendar is available online at <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/>

November 11, 2023

Fall Interim Meeting
York Friends Meeting

December 6, 2023

Winter Interchange Deadline

January 15, 2024

BYM Camps Summer 2024
Registration Opens

March 23, 2024

Winter Interim Meeting
Sidwell Friends School

June 8, 2024

Spring Interim Meeting
Location TBD

June 30, 2024

BYM Camps Open

July 29-August 4, 2024

Annual Sessions
Hood College

UPDATE FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS

We are grateful to the 100 people who signed up for the Vegan Challenge at Annual Session, up from 75 last year, and to everyone who participated in the other activities: Cookie Ministry, plant-based cheese taste test, “guess the famous vegan” contest, etc.. As people come to accept the imperative of reducing animal products in our diet to save the planet’s ecosystem, not to mention to reduce animal suffering, our role as a working group is to demonstrate that once you get beyond the unavoidable time needed to think out new meal plans, eating a plant-based diet is no more difficult than the standard American diet, and twice as fun!

Submitted by Margaret Fisher

UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE ADDRESSES PLASTIC POLLUTION

Single-use plastic is a complex global problem with a social injustice twist—Western countries make it, and developing countries are asked to take care of the problem. Now, after China refused to continue as the world’s pollution container, Turkey is accepting plastic and turning it into pellets, which are a problem in themselves.

The Australian Plastic Free Foundation promotes ending plastic pollution through their international program “Plastic Free July.” The program sensitizes people to plastic’s harms and encourages reducing plastic in our lives. For Annual Sessions this year, the Unity with Nature Committee highlighted plastic pollution in a hyper-local “Plastic Free July.” Our display table was located beside the bookstore, complete with a faux “ocean” of single-use plastic trash. Everyday plastic-alternative items, such as bamboo toothbrushes and small laundry detergent sheets, were available to encourage Friends to think outside their plastic boxes. “Unity with Nature Cinema” ran each day from 1-2pm, screening various films about plastic pollution’s effect on our lives. The Unity with Nature Committee created a middle school curriculum on plastic pollution, to be distributed to Friends Schools within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The curriculum can be shared with public schools upon request. If your school would like a copy of the curriculum, email unity-withnature@bym-rsf.org.

Here’s an interesting fact: orange medicine bottles are not recyclable through county recycling programs. Matthew 25: Ministries, <https://m25m.org/> will send these bottles abroad for use as medical supplies. They have to be clean inside and out and free of labels or medication residue. Your local drug store may have a medicine bottle drop box, while police departments sometimes recycle medications.

Submitted by Jean Pfefferkorn

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS COMMIT TO DEEPENED RELATIONSHIP WITH MONACAN NATION

Charlottesville Friends Meeting is increasing our engagement with the Monacan Nation, on whose lands their Meeting House sits. Understanding Indigenous American issues is a continuing, gradual and holistic journey. Other Meetings will find different paths. Building relationships with Indigenous Americans is a joyous process.

Historically, Friends in Charlottesville have focused corporately more on African American neighbors than on our Indigenous neighbors. Occasionally we learned of issues affecting Indigenous people either locally or across the country. For example, some of us heard of the Quaker



Charlottesville Friends Meeting First Day School visit the Indigenous Americans exhibit at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton



Dioramas Made by Charlottesville Young Friends

Boarding Schools for Indians run by Friends in the late 1800s to the 1960s at an FGC Gathering in Minnesota [2016] interest group led by Paula Palmer. It came as a shock. When we brought the concern back and presented it at an adult forum, many were similarly surprised and shocked. Corporate action remained elusive. In November of 2022, we met virtually with Paula Palmer in another adult forum, and those who had not heard the information in 2016-17 were aghast.

Rassawek was an historic Monacan city at the Point of Forks on the James River. In 2017, Fluvanna and Louisa Counties announced a planned pumping station at Rassawek to carry water northward from the James. I was living in Fluvanna County at the time, and brought the concern to Meeting, asking other members to write messages opposing the counties' action and supporting a different route. Ultimately, the Water Authority chose a different route. Then in 2020, I became a member of the BYM Indian Affairs Committee and began to share news and concerns from them in our Meeting's monthly Newsletter. Next month, I hope to share part of an excellent description of the difference between

cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation, found in an article of <https://www.americanindianmagazine.org/story/cultural-appreciation> from [issue Winter 2021 / Vol. 22 No. 4](https://www.americanindianmagazine.org/story/cultural-appreciation). Though this may have given me a twinge of sadness at my own appropriation, it provides me with a clear sense of how to proceed moving forward - something I hope to provide with other Friends.

Last fall, our Religious Ed Committee shared their intent "to explore American Indians/Native Americans/First Americans through a Quaker lens. Throughout October we will take a look at some of the tribes who are in our region. In November and December, we will learn about some of the different creation myths, explore spiritual beliefs of different tribes, and learn about thanksgiving from the perspective of some tribes." In preparation for teaching a FDS lesson, I began to correspond with Lou Branham, the Director of the Monacan Nation Museum, and the daughter of their current Chief, Kenneth Branham. She was generous in answering my questions and sent their pamphlet on Monacan history and current life. Early in this session, I asked the First Day Schoolers [FDS] if they knew the name of

the tribe of Indians who were native to the local area. The 4th & 5th graders responded quickly - 'The Powhatan' and secondly, 'The Pamunkey'. They had never heard of the Monacan Nation.

In November, RE committee members accompanied the children and their parents to the interactive exhibit on Indigenous Americans at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. We had the opportunity to hear a local Cherokee speak about historical tribal activities in the area. The children had the chance to see cooking over a fire, making of arrows, working with animal hides to prepare them for clothing, some simple games connected with life skills for later, and a shelter constructed as it would have been at the time of settler arrival. For potluck that month, they cooked cornbread and fry bread - similar to two staples of the Monacan diet - to share with the rest of the Meeting. I heard Chief Branham speak in December. During that presentation to our senior living community, he spoke of his experiences growing up in Amherst County, and stated his feeling that this was the most racist place in the country. In the early part of 2023, FDS young people each chose a tribe on which to do some simple research and to construct a diorama depicting the life of that tribe. They shared these with Meeting in a Connections session in mid-April.

In early May, a group of Friends accompanied the FDS children on a visit to the Monacan Nation Museum in Amherst. We learned from their exhibits and listened as two Monacan women 'docents' shared their own life experiences growing up there. We took with us several bags of canned goods for the Food Bank. They had suggested these in response to our asking what we could bring as a sign of respect and thanks for their time in helping us learn more about them.

Meanwhile, Meeting asked whether we might create a land acknowledgment for ourselves. One member offered to do some research and then presented the result in June's Meeting for Business. There is still some work to do. We agreed that acknowledgment is important, but only part of a necessary change - it must be accompanied by action. In early June I went with another Friend from our Meeting to the first day of the Monacan Pow Wow. We had fun visiting the various booths of Indigenous vendors and chatting with them about their wares and a little about their lives. Though we were unable to stay long enough to identify ourselves, we did learn much by watching the participants in the 'Grand Entrance' and various ceremonial dances.

Currently, members of our Peace & Social Concerns Committee are considering a trip of their own to the Museum, and opening a dialog about where some of our Corporate Witness grant money might assist our Monacan neighbors. Throughout these modest activities, the goal has been to become more aware of the continuing presence of the Monacans in our area, and to bear witness to our hopes for moving towards true friendship.

While I have now rotated off the newly renamed Indigenous Affairs Committee, I remain committed to continuing to bring issues before the Meeting and to look for opportunities to deepen our knowledge of the many who preceded the colonists living on our continent.

Do you need to start on your own path? For more information, visit the [Indigenous Affairs Committee page](#) on the BYM website.

Submitted by Frances Schutz

Community News

Adelphi Friends Meeting

Greetings from Adelphi Friends Meeting! As is likely the case with most Meetings, we are gradually moving back to primarily in-person Meetings, with some small numbers still attending worship each Sunday via Zoom. We have kept the Wednesday noon Zoom worship that centers on “Healing a Broken World” that debuted during the pandemic, and it is still faithfully attended by about 10 people each week. Families and children are returning in person on Sundays and our First Day School, though smaller than in the past, is up and running. Our weekly potluck after worship, always popular, is thriving.

We managed to pull-off our annual Strawberry Festival with some tweaks to account for fewer volunteers. The weather was beautiful and we were extremely busy all day long. The community that lives around us was very enthusiastic in attendance and participation, and many of our now grown-up children or F/friends who had moved away came back to visit and enjoy the day.

In July, we had an exciting and well-attended Reparations Dinner organized by our Change Group and our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, with an African American chef-prepared meal (awesome!!) We focused on brainstorming where we want our “mini-reparations” to go towards this year. Our main focus is on donating to local organizations (meaning Prince George’s County, if possible) with emphasis on housing, financial wellbeing, and health.

The Building Committee continues to work on an affordable plan for an addition to our Meetinghouse. This addition would focus on making our facilities more accessible, adding an updated kitchen and a new classroom or two. We have had to pare down our plans several times, and really hope that we will arrive at a feasible option soon.

Finally, MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Adelphi is hosting the **Women’s Retreat as a one-day retreat on October 21, 2023**. It will be both in-person at Friends Community School (nearby to Adelphi in College Park) and on Zoom. Watch BYM announcements for further details! (Maybe next year we will go back to Pearlstone for a weekend???)

Submitted by Carole Hoage.

Annapolis Friends Meeting

Annapolis Friends have had a busy summer! Our Outreach Committee ensured us a table at the Earth Day event and also at the Pride march. We will take part in the Kunte Kinte festival in September. AFM’s Ministry and Worship Committee facilitated adult Meetings for Learning on the Pendle Hill booklets Beyond Consensus and the Four Doors to Meeting for Worship.

Peace and Social Concerns have been very active. Threshing and discernment continue on funding for Reparations, having approved a new restricted fund for Retrospective and Restorative Justice (RRJ) for harms from systemic racism.

One Change Group goal involved organizing community dialogues across our racial divides. We have joined a “Racial Reconciliation Collaborative” with a number of other faith groups and launched “Community Conversations” this October.

In May, we welcomed the historic Quaker sailboat “The Golden Rule” (which successfully protested nuclear weapon testing in the south Pacific) to a vigil at the Annapolis City Dock. We hosted a second public gathering at City Dock on the 78th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and, in worship-sharing format, considered what we have in common with the approximately 200,000 civilians killed by American atomic bombs between August 6 and 8, 1945. Our former clerk, Wes Jordan, was pictured on the front page of the local paper discussing former military officers’ leadings to oppose nuclear war.

Finally, we invited participants to join us in a campaign of support for HR 77 by which Congress could direct the President to end U.S. nuclear weapons “hair-trigger” status, disavow first strikes, and resume disarmament negotiations with other nuclear powers.

Submitted by Barbara Thomas.

Alexandria Friends Meeting

In April, Clinton and Kathryn Pettus trained Alexandria Friends on how to facilitate a Trust Circle. We formed a Trust Circle of eight Friends who have been meeting monthly during the summer. We are enjoying learning how to discuss serious queries in a group, and we are getting to know one another better in the process. We hope to expand the program to include more Friends in the fall.

The Alexandria Friends Meeting has also begun monthly presentations called “**Quaker Conversations.**” The meetings are held after Meeting for Worship and each conversation presents a different topic in the Quaker faith. The conversations give newcomers a chance to learn about Quakerism and to ask questions in a friendly format. It is well attended, and people have become introduced to the community and our faith in the sessions.

Submitted by Leslie Gallagher.

Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Charlottesville Friends have enjoyed the summer. Friends attended BYM camps, Annual Session, and the FGC Gathering. We ended with our annual swim and potluck at Mint Springs.

We were recently introduced to the newest addition to the Meeting House: a large computer screen and the equipment to connect everyone for hybrid programming. Some of us have been trained on the system, which we have started to use, and which will be gradually added into activities. As of now, we do not have total clarity on when and how it will be used.

The Building Committee has decided that on Friday evenings our facilities will be solely for Friends activities, so we can build community. We started with an art exhibit this spring with contributions from both youth and adults. In September there is already a pizza and discussion program scheduled, as well as an evening of singing.

The Religious Education Committee is excited to start the Fall programming. The focus is service to the community, recipes from the community, and stories from the community. The committee hopes that as they cook together, provide service together, and share stories together, the youth will develop a deeper understanding of how the Quaker adults in their lives live their faith in the world.

Submitted by Linda Goldstein.

Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting

The Fishertown Quaker Museum (under the care of Dunnings Creek Meeting) has been open weekends

through the summer. Located at 3140 Valley Road, the Museum continues to welcome visitors Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4, through September 3. Attending Dunnings Creek Meeting for Worship and then visiting the Museum makes a pleasant day trip. We look forward to offering the third event in our Still Listening speakers series on Sunday, October 1, at 2 pm at Dunnings Creek Meeting House. Our speaker will be Harriet Gaston, Coordinator of Minority Programs, Penn. State Altoona. Ms. Gaston, an historian, chairs a community organization dedicated to documenting African American History in Central Pennsylvania. She will be talking about the Underground Railroad in this region. We welcome all members of our local community, and invite all BYM Friends to join us.

Submitted by Ellen Prentiss Campbell.

Herndon Friends Meeting

Herndon Friends have been holding a monthly silent vigil for peace, equity and justice. In August, in remembrance of the victims of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we invited the public to join the vigil as well as learn about the history and participate in art projects. We publicized it widely, including with a Facebook ad. As is so common with events, actual attendance (other than by our members) was “low” (read: zero). We were not dismayed, though, since it was a good gathering for us, the vigil was seen by everyone passing on the busy street, and the publicity itself generated thought and discussion among the general public.

Submitted by Margaret Fisher.

Homewood Friends Meeting

Dominique Zeltzman and Paula Cronan were married under the care of Homewood Friends Meeting on April 29th as witnessed by many family, friends, members and attenders. Dominique and her two sisters grew up in the Meeting as has Dominique’s daughter, Aurelia, who read the marriage certificate. Congratulations to Dominique and Paula!

The Golden Rule sailing ship visited Annapolis and Baltimore, bringing its message of peace and fervent opposition to nuclear weapons. The Golden Rule is a restored version of the ship that sailed in the late 1950’s to oppose nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands. On April 30th, Homewood hosted an event in Baltimore to celebrate the sailing crew, the Veterans for Peace organizers, Baltimore performers and artists, and academic and activist speakers.

On June 25th, Homewood, along with Stony Run Friends Meeting and the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, sponsored an author’s talk and book signing by Dr. Charles Chavis, Jr. of his book, *The Silent Shore: The Lynching of Matthew Williams and the Politics of Racism in the Free State*. Ninety years after the event and through a meticulous search for documents, Dr. Chavis pieced together both the horrible public lynching and the subsequent cover up by the white people in leadership roles. The talk was a profound reminder of the importance of historical research in revealing and understanding the impact of white supremacy.

Gunpowder Friends Amy Schmaljohn and Alan Evans facilitated a spiritual formation mini-retreat for Homewood Friends held in late July. While this retreat was whole unto itself, it provided an excellent entrée for those who are considering participating in the BYM Spiritual Formation Program in 2023-2024. A total of 22 Friends attended, a number that exceeded the expectations of Homewood’s coordinator, Susan Russell Walters. Susan noted that there is a hunger at Homewood to have more opportunities for spiritual growth and spiritual friendships. This bodes well for growing the program so that it connects with and supports Friends at all stages of life.

Homewood Friends are happy and excited to announce that Hinenu Justice Shtiebl, a Jewish Congregation and a longtime renter of space at Homewood, is now renting a dedicated office in the building. We celebrated with an office warming party on August 15th at which Hinenu discussed some of their plans for the space. We hope that this commitment by Hinenu and Homewood will lead to more sharing of work that we have in common.

Prepared by John McKusick on behalf of Homewood Friends Meeting.

Patapsco Friends Meeting

Patapsco Friends is gradually returning to our pre-pandemic ways—during the “before times.” We’re stitching ourselves back together to create a community that we hope is more resilient and stronger than it was nearly four years ago.

The Religious Education and Unity with Nature committees joined hands over the Memorial Day weekend to create the first annual Patapsco Campout, held at Ramblin’ Pines camp in Woodbine (western Howard County). The heartier souls slept in tents while others came to camp to take a walk and enjoy the out-of-doors, eat dinner, and roast something over the campfire. S’mores were popular! Thanks to the Bechis family—especially parents Chris and Leslie, who shared their girls’ campout birthday celebration with us.

As renters of Hebron House, we now have housemates! The Glen Burnie Korean Presbyterian Church has started to meet after our worship and second hour close. The Religious Education children created banners with “Welcome” in Korean, and our meeting looks forward to a positive working relationship with our new neighbors.

We are focusing on the community to regroup from the pandemic restrictions. Friends are encouraged to return to the meeting house, and we are reinstating one potluck at the end of the month. To encourage more participation in business meetings, Friends are being encouraged to bring a sandwich as a quick lunch—meeting will provide a drink and dessert. Cupboards are being cleaned out and religious education classes are participating in more of the work of the meeting. Pandemic changes have meant growth in our RE classes—now we have 9-10 children for students.

The Unity with Nature committee is researching the 8 acre property where we meet, acquired by the Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church over 60 years ago. There are plans to remove dead or dying trees, apply for grants to replace them, and plant new trees to enhance the property’s beauty and add environmental value. This is a long-term project, and will require the efforts of the entire community: the 3 churches and Friends Meeting, Boy Scout troop, daycare and nursery school. Community building is a side effect.

Our annual Fall Retreat will take place on the weekend of November 3-5, 2023. Ken Stockbridge will generously repeat the retreat that he gave before the Annual Sessions: “What Binds Us in the Quaker Community (Especially when we want to Walk Away)” :Stitching us together more firmly.

Submitted by Jean Pfefferkorn

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

With both great sadness and great joy for her life of service, we remembered Bette Rainbow Hoover at a memorial meeting for worship. Bette died peacefully circled by her loving family in late August. She was a beloved member and former clerk of our Meeting, the recent interim meeting clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and a lifelong activist for peace and justice worldwide.

Poetry and art bring us comfort and wisdom. Sandy Spring Friends make good use of the art gallery in the Lyceum. This new space was included in the design of our renovated building, and has a rotating series of exhibits by meeting members and attendees as well as local artists. Most recently it featured Poetry & Art: An Exhibition Inspired by the Work of Mary Oliver. The opening included a poetry reading and artists spoke about how Oliver's work influenced their own visual art or their choice of artwork.

Solar panels are the newest addition to our Community House, and are now providing lots of renewable energy for our buildings. RE-Volv, the company that funded our solar panels, hired a photographer and videographer to capture our festive Solar Panel ribbon-cutting in June. The short video and photos can

New Solar Panels at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting Community House



be seen on the website at <http://sandyspring.org/earth-care>.

Sandy Spring Meeting is blessed with a wealth of offerings for adult religious education and spiritual nurture. Our Meetings for Learning start up in September, and will include monthly sharing of individual spiritual journeys, and a 3-part series on "The Spiritual Dimensions of Aging and Dying." Regular Bible study and a monthly reading group also resume in September.

Three Friends have been led to start a Centering Prayer group which will meet twice each month beginning in October. Centering Prayer is a well-known contemplative practice, familiar to many Quakers. A typical hour-long group experience of Centering Prayer includes time for introductions and welcoming, a short spiritual reading, 20 minutes of silent Centering Prayer, followed by worship-sharing, and other concerns of those gathered (prayers of need, joys, etc.). All are welcome, and community members from local congregations will be invited to participate. Times and dates will be posted on our website.
Submitted by Barb Platt.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
Address service requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
STD MAIL
PAID
Sandy Spring, MD
Permit No. 10112

Do you want to receive the
Interchange via e-mail?
Send your current e-mail
address to:
admin@bym-rsf.org

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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