

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

CHOOSING A PATH OF VITALITY, GROWTH, AND WHOLENESS

Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk

At this year's Annual Session, we got a powerful glimpse of the rich future that could lay before us, if we choose it. We engaged in deep discernment on a number of concerns, including supporting transgender people, how to extend our love and compassion to animals,

especially through our food choices, and considering end-of-life decisions. And nothing engaged our passion more than discerning how to continue our work to dismantle racism, especially through our efforts to become ourselves a more whole, pluralistic community, as embodied in the efforts of our Growing Diverse Leadership Program (GDL) and Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE) Groups.

Our GDL and STRIDE efforts began nearly 10 years ago when a group of young adult BYM camp alumni undertook an effort to recruit campers of color for Catoclin Quaker Camp, raise money to cover their camp fees, and develop efforts to support their camp experiences. Their remarkable success inspired us to expand these efforts to all BYM camps and establish similar working groups in Baltimore, DC, and Charlottesville, supported by a large grant from the Shoemaker Fund. Those funds largely supported the creation of the Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator position, which was ably filled by Dyresha Harris until she stepped down in May and returned to serving as co-director of Catoclin Quaker Camp. The grant funds have nearly all been spent, intended to help us through the start-up phase and leaving it up to us whether and how to continue to support that work on an ongoing basis. And here we are, having succeeded in meeting the goals of the start-up phase and now focused on where to go from here and how.



All-Ages Celebration mini-golf Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

Vitality and Growth continued on page 3

FRIENDS HOUSE BEGINS EXPANSION PROJECT

Megan Shook, Homewood

Going to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office in Sandy Spring? As you drive through Friends House, a continuing care retirement community, you will notice major construction. Friends House is breaking ground to add fourteen new duplex cottages and 33 lodge apartments. A new three-story apartment building with 80 moderately priced apartment homes will replace the charming garden apartments built in 1967, which are impossible to upgrade to meet requirements. Diversity of income is something found in few other retirement communities, and is very important at Friends House. A large proportion of Friends House residents are Quakers. Many are drawn to Friends House because of Quaker values.

a loop road. The extensive vegetable gardens and pond remain undisturbed in the central portion.

Friends House continued on page 7

The common areas, which are centrally located and are in need of modernization and will be renovated as part of the redesign of all. The commercial kitchen will be redesigned and the dining area will be updated and expanded.

The new construction embodies care for the environment, employing LEED Gold standards in the cottages and lodges. The campus will have a new entrance and be encircled by



Fall Family Camp Weekends 2018



Fall is the time for a Family Camp Weekend!

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful camp properties at a special time of year. Individuals and families are invited to spend the day or the weekend at camp. Each weekend will have a program coordinator who will plan camp-type activities for Saturday and Sunday mornings, as well as Saturday afternoon and evening. These may include things like playing in the creek, crafts projects or hiking around one of the most precious places on earth. There will also be plenty of work projects to do! Work projects offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to enjoy some meaningful and satisfying work! We will enjoy meals together, have time to explore and even spend some time around a camp fire in the evening. Come and enjoy a camp experience, give the gift of your time, participate with children in activities and find yourself rejuvenated.

More information is available at bymcamps.org/programs/family-camp-weekends/

COST: To cover the costs of hiring a program coordinator and pay for supplies, we will be asking participants to contribute according to their ability - \$25 - \$50 per person.

Please send an e-mail to campproperty@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend. We will need to know the names and ages of all members of your party, when you will be arriving and departing, and any dietary restriction you may have.

Fall 2018 Family Camp Weekends	
Shiloh Quaker Camp	September 21 – 23, 2018
Catoctin Quaker Camp	October 5 – 7, 2018
Opequon Quaker Camp	October 26 – 28, 2018

FLOYD FRIENDS MEETING'S WORK ON INCLUSION AND ANTI-RACISM EVOLVES

While some individual members of Floyd Friends Meeting have a long standing interest in issues around racism and racial equity, historically it has not been a major issue for the Meeting. We are located in a part of Virginia where the population is 95% of European origin, and it has never seemed likely to us that we would attract members of African descent.

We do try to be attentive to issues of concern to the wider BYM community, so when the Yearly Meeting began encouraging Monthly Meetings to look at issues that might make people of color feel unwelcome in our Meetings, we gave it a try. We had a visitor from the Working Group on Racism, and we used *Waking Up White* as the basis for several sessions of our Adult Discussion program.

Waking Up White was a great help to us in understanding white privilege, which is so often invisible to people of European origin. With greater understanding came an awareness of ways we might make a difference in our community. The shooting at the AME church in Charleston, SC led us to write to the two African-American churches in Floyd County to express our sorrow for that event and the pain we believed it must have caused them.

We are fortunate to have several people among our members who have experience with working and socializing in multi-racial settings. One has been led to regularly visit different churches in Floyd County, including the two African-American ones. The connection he had already established meant that we had an opening to take action when a motorcycle ride from Bedford to Floyd by Confederate Nation was scheduled to take place on the same day that Mt.

Zion Christian Church had scheduled their biannual Rainbow Tea. He obtained the blessing of the pastor for another member to write a letter to the editor of the Floyd Press to encourage people who opposed the Confederate Nation ride to skip the counter protest and do something positive instead – attend the Rainbow Tea. The church was packed, and in addition to Quakers, there were people from the local Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, as well as other white people with no or unknown church connections. A year later we heard indirectly that a member of that church, who said she had been feeling hopeless about race relations, said that the leadership of the Quakers in that situation gave her hope again.

Subsequently one of our members helped arrange Floyd County's first ever Martin Luther King Day celebration, which had about 50 people in attendance (a lot for Floyd) and split evenly between black and white. The event involved an hour of sharing what Dr. King had meant to those in attendance and an hour socializing over a shared meal. The announcement in the Floyd Press listed Floyd Friends Meeting as a co-sponsor and the Meeting provided beverages and tableware for the meal. The person who helped arrange this is now working to have a repeat event so that the dialogue can continue.

We have found that as we try out these new opportunities for connecting with our African-American neighbors, our comfort level with being in a multi-racial setting increases, our fear of saying the wrong thing decreases, and our motivation to look for other ways to build community increases. We no longer see outreach and inclusion as looking for African-American members. We see it as jointly building a more inclusive community in our area.

CONVERSATION CONTINUES ABOUT GROWTH AT ANNUAL SESSION 2018

Vitality and Growth continued from page 1

In all of that work, we were breaking new ground as a Yearly Meeting and doing new things we had never done before. We have learned a lot in the process. We knew from the beginning that we could not expect additional grant funds to keep the effort going after three years and that we needed to plan ahead for the transition away from the grant funding. Yet things didn't always go as planned, a lot of other things have been going on, and we are not as far along in that discernment as we hoped to be.

Still, at Annual Session, we heard an inspiring [report](#) from the Young Adult Friends who are leading our STRIDE efforts. They reported how much they had accomplished and also how much this program means to them. In fact, they said, "If we [in BYM] want to engage with young people, we must work with them on dismantling the implicit bias in our communities." Thanks to them, the body of the Yearly Meeting became quite clear and unified that this work must continue and we all need to support it, including providing the funds to continue staffing it.

And yet, our proposed 2019 budget, which was approved, did not include funds for that staffing. Why not? First, we have not finished

discerning how this work will continue beyond the startup phase. In particular, with the startup complete, the staffing support for the ongoing work may look a little different. Also, it has become increasingly clear that we need to integrate the STRIDE efforts more closely with the overall camping program. As a result, the discernment process has been complicated by the need to focus on this summer's camping program. That discernment will ramp back up as the camp season winds down. Finally, we have been unclear where the funds would come from. We heard that budgets are plans and can be revised as our discernment unfolds.

Well, Annual Session cast new light on all that. We finished with a deeper understanding and greater clarity about just how amazing these efforts have been, how important they are to our future, and what they will require of us. We came away with a clear and deep commitment to carry this work forward. And we understood that this will require an increased level of financial support from all of us, both as individuals and as Meetings. Just what form all that takes is part of our ongoing collective and individual discernment. Please join with us in that, in part by coming to Fall Interim Meeting, where we expect to have more fully developed plans.

The Yearly Meeting Epistle that we approved this year has been heralded as one of our most powerful ones ever. It may give you a better feel for the spiritual experience that we all shared as we engaged these possibilities. That and all our epistles may be found at www.bym-rsf.org/who_we_are/epistles.html.

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

CONFERENCES FILLED WITH GAMES, WORKSHOPS, SPIRITUALITY, AND SMALL GROUP BONDING IN VARIOUS QUAKER MEETINGS IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

2018-2019 YOUTH PROGRAM CONFERENCE DATES

Junior Young Friends (11-13 years old)

November 3 - 4 - Location to be announced

January 12 - 13 - Location to be announced

March 16 - 17 - Location to be announced

May 10 - 12 - Shiloh Quaker Camp

Young Friends (14-18 years old)

September 21 - 23 - Homewood Friends Meeting

November 23 - 25 - Location to be announced

February 22 - 24 - Location to be announced

March/April TBA - Location and dates to be announced

May 24 - 26 - Location to be announced

JYF Conference Registration: www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/jyfs/

YF Conference Registration: www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yfs/

Contact Jossie Dowling, Youth Programs Manger for info: Youthprograms@bym-rsf.org



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

BYM Youth Programs
\$36,000.00



This year, 2018, BYM Friends will need to raise **\$36,000.00** to support Youth Programs. Help us share in lifting this important BYM program to success. Join together and **#BYMLIFTTHEMUP**.

Need additional information? Ask any BYM Youth Programs person or Ann Venable, at 301-774-7663 or annvenable@bym-rsf.org.

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICANS TODAY

An event to raise awareness of the cultural vibrancy of the indigenous peoples who were once the only residents of this area will be held at Sandy Spring School on October 13. Organized by the Indian Affairs Committee, this festival of dance, food, and information will be open to the community of Sandy Spring as well as all members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, their guests, and anyone else who wants to attend. The event is intended to be fun for all ages, and an appropriate family venue, as well as being informative and engaging for adults.

There has been a continuous presence of Native Americans in this area, yet many people know little about these first inhabitants, and their lives today. According to the 2010 Census, there are more than 220,000 Native Americans in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania – close to 1% of the population. Six tribes in Virginia are federally recognized, and Maryland has three state recognized tribes. The only Reservations in the three states are in King William County, Virginia. The Mattaponi Tribe has 150 acres on the Mattaponi River, and the Pamunkey Tribe has 1200 acres on the Pamunkey River.

A prominent part of the October event is the Piscataway Mobile Museum. Tribal members of the Cedarville Band will present interactive activities for all ages, a cultural interpretation and activities that include hand drum and dance. At one time, the Piscataway Indian Nation was the most populous and powerful Native polities

of the Chesapeake Bay region. The tribal government of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, recognized by the state of Maryland, owns and operates the Piscataway Mobile Museum to teach others about the Native peoples.

The October event will also feature members of the American Indian Society of Washington DC, an organization established in 1966 by a group of young American Indian professionals. Recognizing the unique and rich culture of America's indigenous nations and their contributions to society, the AISDC works to preserve Indian Culture through teaching, customs and Arts. They also work for the well-being of American Indian communities.

No Native American celebration would be complete without dancing in Native American regalia, accompanied by drummers in their customary way. Similarly no such event would be complete without food for purchase, provided by Native American groups. There will also be vendors with hand made and other items of interest to those who appreciate Native American artifacts, culture and customs. Some Native American art work will be on display and a craftsman who will demonstrate beading. Information tables will feature various tribal groups as well as a poster display of the history of interaction between Quakers and Native Americans. And a film festival – a continuous stream of documentaries - will be showing throughout the event. Films will include: 1) *100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice*, 2) *Mankiller*, and 3) *In Light of Reverence*.

To fill in the gap of knowledge that many have about Native Americans, there will be at least six Information Sessions. ***Living as Native Americans in Today's Society*** will feature several Native Americans from the area discussing the challenges of everyday life. ***Youth and Mascots*** – will feature local Native Americans and students from Sandy Spring School discussing the use of mascots and related regalia by sports teams. ***Native Americans and the Environment*** will look at current issues concerning the environment, including Standing Rock, Bears Ears National monument and water resources. ***The Dynamic Native American Landscape*** is a presentation by Dan Cole, GIS Coordinator, Smithsonian, looking at the changes throughout North America during the last two centuries. ***Native Americans and Legislation*** will feature Laci Onco, of the Shinnecock Nation (New York), who is a FCNL Congressional Advocate on Native American Policy. Lastly, there will be a ***Presentation of Tribal Leaders***, followed by a session on topics of interest to them, which may include the significance that federal recognition holds for tribes and tribal members.

The Indian Affairs Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, was formed in 1795 because of the concern of early Quakers in Baltimore for “the difficulties and distress” of the Native Indians. Since then, Quakers have continued to befriend, work with, and help Native Americans in the various concerns of the day. As neighbors, as Quakers, as fellow humans, we want to continue to learn from Native Americans, share with them in fun and interactive ways. Please join with us in this endeavor! Celebrating Native Americans Today, October 13, 2018; noon to 5 pm. Sandy Spring Friends School (Yarnall Hall), 16923 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, Md 20860. We are grateful for the generous support of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting and to the support of Sandy Spring Friends School for this event.

Celebrating Native Americans Today

October 13, 2018
Noon to 5 p.m.

Sandy Spring Friends School (Yarnall Hall)
16923 Norwood Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

FOR ALL AGES
Film Festival
Dancing, Drumming
Food
Art Exhibit
Craft Vendors
Speakers
Piscataway Mobile Museum
American Indian Society (Learning from the Elders)
Tribal Leaders

An opportunity to Learn

Sponsored by the Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Indian Affairs Committee

Suggested Donation \$2. Person, \$5. Family
For more information:
shorsfall99@hotmail.com, patricia_r_powers@yahoo.com
akumaldreams@gmail.com, delliestari@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

THE 2019 BYM WOMEN'S RETREAT WILL TAKE PLACE

JANUARY 25-27

**WE WILL GATHER AGAIN AT THE PEARLSTONE RETREAT CENTER
IN REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND.**

STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!

WWW.BYMWOMENSRETREAT.ORG



*Intergenerational Plenary Session
Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick*

SEEKING FRIENDS WITH GIFTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education Committee of BYM is seeking a few good people to strengthen the work to support local Meetings' religious education programs. If there are Friends in your Meeting who have a passion for religious education, have ideas to share, and are always seeking ways to strengthen their own work in teaching children, teens, and/or adults, the BYM Religious Education Committee may be a great place both to be supported and in turn to share wisdom and resources with other local Meetings.

Sometimes people very involved in RE in their Meetings are not so familiar with the Yearly Meeting. If you are familiar with BYM, take a moment to reach out and encourage an RE person to join in BYM's religious education work. Some things the committee will be working on are how to address the changing needs of Meetings (changing numbers and ages of people), how to teach all the ages of the Meeting in an integrated way, and how to help teachers feel prepared to teach in a reasonable amount of time. We are full of good and workable ideas—we need people to join us! And we'd love to hear the ideas of others. Please contact Marcy Seitel at IMClerk@bym-rsf.org or RECommittee@bym-rsf.org.

Fund	Goal
Annual Session	\$5,000.00
*Camping Program	\$165,000.00
Youth Programs	\$36,000.00
General Fund	\$159,800.00
Spiritual Formation	\$2,000.00
Women's Retreat	\$4,000.00
Camp Property Capital	\$329,000.00
Barry Morley Endowed Fund	\$10,000.00
2018 BYM Fundraising Goal	\$710,800.00

BYM 2018 Budget Fundraising Goals



HEY FRIENDS! THERE IS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE FOR YOU TO "LIKE & FOLLOW"! UNITY WITH NATURE HAS A BRAND-NEW PAGE CALLED UNITY WITH NATURE/BYM.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK TO "LIKE & FOLLOW" IT.

EXCITING CHANGES AT FRIENDS HOUSE BEGIN

Friends House continued from page 1

Friends House and BYM have always been closely connected. Last year BYM approved Friends House establishing its own Board of Directors, with BYM recommending two members annually. Quakers have always been supportive of Friends House, and are encouraged to continue to contribute and to get on the waiting list to move in!

Along with the physical and organizational changes, the community maintains its vibrant array of enrichment activities, largely through the energy and leadership of residents themselves. Art classes and exhibitions, bus trips to gardens, museums and concerts, library, greenhouse and vegetable gardening, in-house films, lectures and concerts, dance classes, singing groups, worship services, yoga and more are regularly scheduled.

More information about Friends House, including the expansion and how you or someone you know can join us, can be found at www.FriendsHouse.com.

ALEXANDRIA FRIENDS MEETING

We celebrate the life of Jean Clark Jones, who died in January 2018 at the age of 104. Jean was an active, engaged Quaker for over 50 years, first at Bethesda MM, then at Alexandria MM. We loved her for her intelligence, curiosity, faithful spirit, independence, and infectious good humor. She was a lifelong activist and volunteered at FCNL, William Penn House, and the League of Women Voters.

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Our First Day School has been focusing on Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments, history of Ancient Jews, and more recently, Islam and Buddhism. Our children act out stories, make puppet shows, and create bulletin board displays among other activities. Our "Green Team" is exploring issues such as environmentally smart cleaning products for the meeting house, composting kitchen waste at AFM, and vegetarianism. The meeting has ended its use of bottled water and is now filtering our well water. We are very proud of 14-year-old Young Friend Kallen Benson whose Parachutes for the Planet project has already inspired the creation of 116 art projects by young people around the world that encourage sustainable living. The art is created on real parachutes



104th Birthday celebration for Jean Clark Jones

or on large circles cut from sheets. See <https://motherearthproject.org/parachutes/>. We are saddened by the deaths of Mardy Burgess in May and Ward Lowder in July.

TRANSCENDENT INFORMATION FROM ANNUAL SESSION INTEREST GROUP

Q & A WITH LOUIS MITCHELL OF TRANSCAITH ONLINE SHARED

"Louis Mitchell, Transcaith Online executive director, offers 'Transcendent info for and by transgender people on faith, spirituality, resilience, and resistance.'" Invited to speak, Louis came to a Friday night interest group at Annual Session 2018. As many Friends missed this opportunity, we took questions and asked Louis to respond. Limited space precludes a full account. Here is a brief taste:

Q: Please explain these terms: Cis-gender, transgender (or trans), gender non-conforming, non-binary.

A: "Cis" ("same"): you identify with the gender assigned to you at birth; trans: you don't identify with the gender assigned to you at birth; gender non-conforming and non-binary: you don't identify with the gender assigned to you at birth and your identity doesn't conform/doesn't conform exclusively with binary constructs of male or female.

Q: How can Friends be more welcoming?

A: Begin with language and go from there. Transwomen of color and gender non-conforming people are the most vulnerable in our communities. Find ways to avoid binary language; invite

people to gendered activities that align with their identities (if you can't eliminate gendered activities all together); provide resources and information that are affirming of trans and gender non-conforming people; keep trying, even when you mess up!"



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, STONY RUN

After a 2015 retreat, Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, created an ad hoc committee named Vision, Functions, and Structure. The committee was charged with bringing a vision statement to the meeting for approval. On 5/6/2018, Stony Run approved this vision statement: *To be a thriving Quaker worship community living our values by embracing pluralism, nurturing individual spiritual journeys, and honoring the Light in all peoples.* During the approval process, we had lively discussion about how pluralism and diversity are different. To meet our vision of embracing pluralism, we will first need a common understanding of what “energetic engagement with diversity” looks like in our community.

The committee is also charged with determining the functions and structure that would allow our vision to become reality. At Stony Run, we have many committees. Do we need them all? Are there essential functions not within the scope of the current committee structure? To what extent should paid staff be involved? Work continues.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Members of Charlottesville Meeting are increasingly concerned about our government’s treatment of immigrants in this country. Several Friends have participated in recent demonstrations in support of keeping families together. In addition, we continue to prepare ourselves for the possibility of hosting in sanctuary a person or persons in imminent danger of being deported.

Summer vacation includes an array of Quaker activities for both youth and adults. Members of our Meeting have enjoyed experiences at BYM camps and the FGC Gathering, and look forward to Annual Session in August.

As the anniversary of last August’s violent Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville approaches, Charlottesville Friends are active in preparing for the possible return of white supremacists to our city. Our Ad Hoc Committee that is addressing issues of white supremacy and the events of August 12 is hosting a faith-based training in non-violent, but non-passive, action. We have also agreed to lead one of the noon services in Emancipation Park in the lead up to Aug 12th, and we will have a Meeting for Worship on August 12th at noon at a downtown location near or in one of the parks. In addition, a number of community events have been planned including an evening interfaith worship service, a sunrise service on the morning of August 12, and a community singout that same day in which Friends will participate.

DUNNINGS CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Dunnings Creek Friends celebrated the life of our dear Friend Bette Lu Miller. Our little Meeting House was full to capacity for memorial. A retired 2nd grade teacher for many years, Bette Lu filled her students with a passion for learning. She was full of life whether it was teaching, directing high school plays, playing bridge, or giving us words of wisdom and grace. A visit to Bette Lu’s home left one always feeling supported and valued. We are sad, but not sorry. After many years of multiple health issues, Bette Lu got the “committee” to “get her from here to there” to be with her much loved husband, Bob in the hereafter. Happy Trails, Bette Lu.

Our loss of Bette Lu among us has however been pleasantly softened by the addition of a new member, Linda Gunn. Linda has been a faithful attender for five years and is an integral part of our little community. We look forward to having a welcome potluck for Linda. Isn’t a potluck the best?

One important role Linda Gunn has taken on is scheduling and framing our First Day discussions. We have learned about inspiring Friends in the past, looked into the darkness of racism, and parts of the book, *Uprooting Racism*. We have a long way to go, Friends. Tying in with this search to learn about the world and ourselves are the ongoing workshops at our Meeting House given by Sarah Creider, a member who grew up in Dunnings Creek Meeting, and now lives in Brooklyn. Sarah makes it to the countryside about four times a year. Each time she leads workshops in “Upstanding”; that is learning how to act in situations where there is bullying, or injustices being witnessed without escalating the situation. Words and body language are powerful. These workshops are offered to our local Indivisible group, Dunnings Creek Friends, and anyone from the community.

The local AA Group continues to meet at our Meeting House on Wednesday evenings.

We were very fortunate to be able to host John Lozier from Monongalia Friends Meeting. John traveled in West Virginia and close by states with his two young companions and fellow musicians, two lovely young people from Colombia. Their music is Colombian Harp music. What a treat! Friends and folks from the community were so delighted with these talented young people sharing their love for the very popular harp music of their country. “Harping for Harmony” was the name of their concert. The harp was not the only instrument; maracas were used as we have never, ever seen before!

The Fishertown Quaker Museum has been open on weekends now since the beginning of June. Attendance has been moderate, but some folks have given us some amazing stories of one house in our area, and its connection with the Underground Railroad. Others have come and looked photos we have, and have been able to give us more information about them. Hopefully we can gather some of these visitors and get them to tell their tales on video. Stay tuned.

We may be small, but sometimes, big things happen.

FREDERICK FRIENDS MEETING

Frederick Friends were pleased to host Sixth Month Interim Meeting. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business was held at the Bernard Brown Community Center down the street since we were concerned it would be too hot in our Meeting Room. We now have a quiet mini-split system for the Meeting Room and part of the rest of the main floor of our building. We are happy that Friends with heat-related health issues are now able to worship with us during the summer months.

This spring Frederick Friends held two workshops where we began looking at our structure as a Meeting. Beginning in seventh month we changed our leadership structure. We have a Clerking Team of two who share the jobs of Clerk and Recording Clerk. Another friend shares some of the communications responsibilities. This coming fall, and through the winter, we plan to continue our discernment

regarding Meeting structure and to begin assessing our leadings as a Meeting.

FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON

Friends Meeting of Washington has FINALLY embarked on their long, long (long long long) hoped for renovation of our buildings and grounds, designed chiefly to increase accessibility and improve our environmental impact. One of our members publishes a detailed, rather amusing description of our weekly progress (or not), which can be found online at www.quakersdc.org/renovation.

HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

Herndon Friends now has a Facebook page and group, where we can share announcements and information about our projects (while avoiding political discussions). We hope to increase our visibility that way. Facebook is also a fun place to share our photos of the wildlife that we are supporting on our property by adding native plants and eliminating insecticides.

We are working to include children more in our activities. For example, three children are involved with our FCNL advocacy team, and a fourth taught a First Day School class on crocheting.

HOPEWELL CENTRE MONTHLY MEETING

The past few months at Hopewell Centre Meeting have been busy and productive. Led by Anne Bacon, we are sponsoring a FRED (Faithful Reflection, Exploration, Discernment) Forum to provide open listening opportunities in order to build communication and understanding between people with differing points of view and opinions. So far, the Forum has held public conversations on Civil Communication, White Privilege and Racism in our community. We welcomed Alice Sayo, founder and director of Kenya's Nasaruni Academy for Maasai Girls, and were moved and inspired by her mission to help disadvantaged girls at risk for FGM and early marriage. Both events were well attended by people from our local community. Individual attenders and members have been reaching out to the greater Quaker family, enjoying Friends Wilderness Center; doing Advocacy Training; attending Pendle Hill workshops, FGC and of course, the not-to-be-missed BYM Annual Session.

After a long process of discussion and discovery, our Ministry & Counsel Committee has published the booklet, *Building a Community of Faith*, a statement of what makes us who we are; what

it is about the Quaker experience that we value most; and what we should focus on to make Hopewell Centre Meeting better. We thank Dick Bell for his fine work on this important project. Our Shed Committee presses on for approval of our plan to rebuild our carriage house, which would include a meeting area, storage room, and pavilion. And the Meeting was pleased to sponsor a young camper to Opequon this summer.

Friends are rising earlier on First Day for Tai Chi lessons, given by new attenders, Casey Willson and Meg Kinghorn, who, along with the basics, explore connections between Quaker discernment, *Tai Chi*, and moving meditation. With game nights and potluck, a dedicated men's group, fun women's lunches, and an intense spiritual growth group, we are taking time outside Meeting to better know ourselves and each other. And of course, many old Friends returned, once again, to reconnect at this year's—as always—joyful August Homecoming.

We celebrate the publication of Maggie Stetler's first full-length poetry collection, *Under a Wanton Magnolia*. We will miss longtime member, Judia Gallinger and her husband Rolf Menzel (married under Hopewell Centre's care in May), and wish them every happiness as they move to the Pacific Northwest. May Autumn be bright bountiful for us all.

LITTLE FALLS MEETING OF FRIENDS

During Adult First Day this year, we have presented a series of programs on Quakers who have distinguished themselves in some way. Using a comprehensive list, members and attenders have chosen individuals on which to report. Our first talk was on George Fox. Following that, we have heard about Elias Hicks, Thomas Kelly, Rufus Jones, Sandra Boynton, Signe Wilkinson, and Edward Hicks. The presentations have been especially unique, bringing in personal interests in the subjects and using audiovisual aids to enhance the talks. One on Elias Hicks, who was a great traveler, was opened with the sound of hoof beats as he approached the Meeting House. Another on Sandra Boynton used clips of her musical stories for children, and one on Edward Hicks was done with power point illustrations of his life and art. We are looking forward to more presentations including Parker Palmer, Mary Dyer, Benjamin Ferris, John Dalton, Bayard Rustin, and Lucretia Mott. The programs are informative and thought provoking, and at the same time they enable individual Friends to participate and to use their skills and interests to inform others.

Torrential rains could not dampen the spirits of the friends and neighbors who attended our summer Blueberry Concert. This year's program featured the music of Walt Michael & Company. Sheltered inside the meeting house, attenders enjoyed a repertoire of southern Appalachian, Celtic and folk tunes accompanied by the fiddle, guitar, hammered dulcimer and string bass. This event is our annual outreach gift to the community.

PATAPSCO FRIENDS MEETING

Our Meeting's Unity with Nature committee recently replaced every light bulb in the building we rent with LED bulbs, with the owner's blessing. Also, its members toured the large recycling facility that handles recycling for Howard and Anne Arundel Counties. Seeing the Latina workers standing at fast-moving conveyor belts



Annual Session 2018 photo by Jennifer Domenick

to sort recyclables gave the committee an appreciation of their patience and the importance of following directions for recycling materials. The focus of the committee's work this fall will be soil sequestration as an aid to slow climate change. We will be holding a book discussion of *The Soil will Save Us*, a book by Kristin Ohlsen.

Patapsco has completely redesigned its website and invites everyone to visit: <https://patapsco.bym-rsf.net/>. Our Outreach committee has facilitated a marvelous continuing series on "Quaker Luminaries." Any member of the meeting community can choose a Quaker leader he or she is interested in and lead a presentation/discussion after meeting. So far, we've heard about the lives of Margaret Fell, Elise Boulding, John Woolman, Thomas Kelly, Elizabeth Fry, Lucretia Mott, Anna and Howard Brinton, and Rufus Jones. It's been inspiring and refreshing to reflect on what we can learn from these well-led, insightful, and courageous spirits.

RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

Richmond Friends Meeting has an aging, but very vital population. We would like to increase our membership, foster diversity and encourage young people to join us. In light of these goals, our ad hoc welcoming committee has asked each of our other committees to find more ways to be welcoming to new comers. Ministry and Worship has created a display of brochures about Quakerism in the entry way. Our Library committee has created a shelf of books and DVDs about Quakerism for attenders to check out. Multiple committees have signed up to host coffee and light refreshments after meeting for worship each first day. Our Visibility Coordinators brought our RFM banner to several local festivals and protests. Several intergenerational activities this Spring included a coffee house hosted by our Young Friends, a spaghetti dinner and movie viewing for our Young Adult Friends, and our annual Spring Re-

clearing. Adult Spiritual Education has been lively this Spring with a series on Living the Quaker Life focusing on the Testimonies. Another continued focus for many in our Meeting has been community activism. Our work camp committee helped a new homeowner in the Highland park neighborhood to landscape her yard and begin a small vegetable garden. A number of Friends have been active in concerns about the environmental impact of pipelines proposed or under construction in Virginia. Many folks have been active in the Sanctuary movement in the Richmond area. Richmond Friends Meeting created an ad hoc group to determine how to best help those in need of Sanctuary. After many months of consideration, we found that our Meeting House is not suitable to provide Sanctuary at this time. We decided to continue to offer help through more established groups, to offer rides, legal aid and items needed by refugees seeking asylum. On a sad note, we lost two long term members of our community, Tom Washburn and Bob Rugg.

WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

West Branch has been busy this summer. About 200 attended an interdenominational community vacation Bible school during Grampian Days. The Meeting donated goods for 3 auction items that support the festival. A special thanks to Bill Thorp for donating one of his beautiful handmade end tables. Susan Johnson was named citizen of the year for her many talents with Relay for Life, Vacation Bible school, West Branch Meeting and many other contributions. We welcomed our new birthright member baby Beau Daniel McGary, son Adam and Justine in January. On the 3rd Sunday each month a well attended potluck breakfast is held at the Meeting House. If you are in our area we would welcome you. We continue to support our neighbors and friends with prayer, and gifts. Many have much, many more have less.

BYM QUAKER OAKS

A planned vision for a sustainable future.

The legacy of **BYM Friends** in the mid-Atlantic region is much like the mighty Oak. The roots are deep and the community is strong and solid. When each member's time is done their legacy continues.

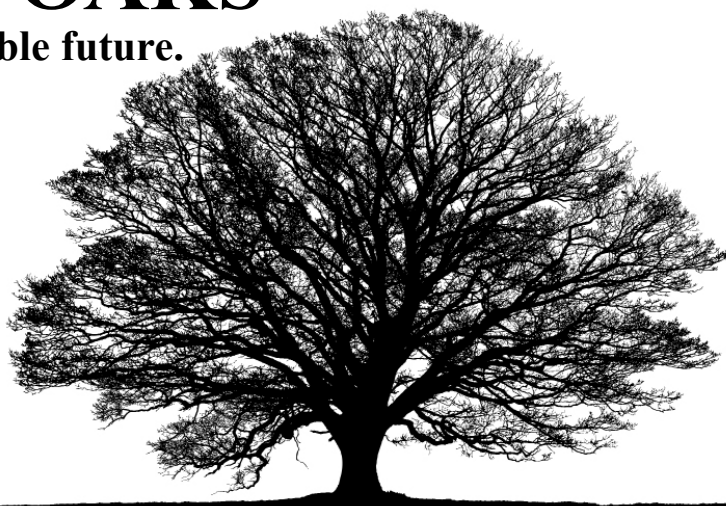
Legacy gifts provide opportunities for extraordinary long-term change. It enables donors like you to create and support programs that are important. This year will likely provide some unique opportunities for you, our donors, to use planned gifts as a vehicle to maximize your charitable dollars.

The impact of the whole BYM Quaker community can be powerful. Help to assure this legacy of Friends.

How you can create your lasting legacy:

- *Name Baltimore Yearly Meeting in your will or trust.*
- **Gift from your retirement.*
- **Gifts of stock or appreciated assets.*
- *Gift of Life Insurance.*
- **Invest in a Charitable Gift Annuity.*
- **Create a Charitable Trust*

*May have tax benefits for you and your family in 2018. Call Ann Venable at 301-774-7663 or email her at development@bym-rsf.org for additional information, or go to www.bymrsf.plannedgiving.org/bymrsf/giving/1.html.



What will your legacy be among Friends?...

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17100 Quaker Lane
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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

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SEPTEMBER

- 3 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 21 – 23 – Family Camp Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 21 – 23 – Young Friends Conference at Homewood Friends Meeting
- 21 – 23 – West Virginia Fall Gathering of Friends
- 23 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Annapolis Friends Meeting
- 28 – 30 – Opequon Quaker Camp Reunion

OCTOBER

- 5 – 7 – Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 7 – World Quaker Day
- 13 – Celebrating Native Americans Today at Sandy Spring Friends School
- 20 – Tenth Month Interim Meeting at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting
- 26 – 28 – Family Camp Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp

NOVEMBER

- 3 – 4 – Junior Young Friends Conference
- 22 – 23 – Yearly Meeting Offices Closed
- 23 – 25 – Young Friends Conference

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Kenneth “Ken” Stockbridge	Presiding Clerk ymclerk@bym-rsf.org	Ann Venable	Development Director development@bym-rsf.org
Martha “Marcy” Baker Seitel	Clerk of Interim Meeting imclerk@bym-rsf.org	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Manager janemegginson@bym-rsf.org
Thomas “Tom” Hill	Treasurer treasurer@bym-rsf.org	David Hunter	Camp Property Manager davidhunter@bym-rsf.org
Ned Stowe	General Secretary nedstowe@bym-rsf.org	Jossie Dowling	Youth Programs Manager youthprograms@bym-rsf.org
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