

The Herndon Light



8th Month 10, 2018 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 253

8/19	9 a.m.: First Hour Discussion: Jon Burton will share his spiritual journey.
8/19	11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Depot, 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton
9/2	Annual retreat at Runnymede Park in Herndon after rise of meeting.
9/16	9 a.m.: First Hour program on Diversity within our Meeting and BYM Diversity Initiatives.
9/16	11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Depot, 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton
9/30	1:30 p.m.: FCNL advocacy team meets at the meetinghouse at 1:30. All invited.
10/21	11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Depot, 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton

Query 14 Peace

How does my life reflect “the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion for war”?

Where there are hatred, division, and strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?

How do our lives illustrate our understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace within and among ourselves?

How do we regard those we believe have harmed us or others?

How does this affect our spiritual lives?

Advices

Since its founding over 350 years ago, the Religious Society of Friends has testified to the worth of every individual by refusing to participate in war. We repudiate war because it violates the primacy of love, destroys lives that God has given, and tears the fabric of society. Members of our Society have traditionally

refused to serve in the armed forces. The Peace Testimony is, however, more than a mere refusal to participate in war.

Fox’s assertion that he “lived in that light and power that takes away the occasion for war” and Woolman’s advice that we “examine our lives to see that the seeds of war are not contained therein” firmly establish connections between this and other testimonies. As we work for peace in the world, Friends need to search out the seeds of war in ourselves and in our way of life. Instead of joining in actions that may lead to destruction and death, Friends are urged to cooperate to save life and strengthen the bonds of unity among all people. Work to create the conditions of peace, such as freedom, justice, cooperation, and the right sharing of the world’s resources. Seek not only peace with one another, but peace with the earth. Recognize that wars can arise when poor environmental practices lead to scarcity and unjust distribution of resources.

Our faith calls for us to be fully present to the person before us. We need to bring into God’s light those emotions, attitudes, and prejudices in ourselves which

Herndon Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends holds Meeting for Worship at 660 Spring Street in Herndon each First Day (Sunday). Hymn singing begins at 10:15 am. An unprogrammed Meeting for Worship begins at 10:30 am and lasts about one hour. After worshipping with adults for 10-15 minutes, children and teenagers attend First Day School classes until the end of Meeting for Worship. The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information call the Meeting’s telephone answering machine at 703-736-0592. The Newsletter Editor is Jay McClendon. E-mail bluejay825@gmail.com Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Stacey LaRoy. Correspondence and contributions can be sent to PO Box 88 Herndon, VA 20172 **WEBSITE AT** <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/herndon-friends-meeting>

The Care Coordinating Committee is available for Friends in need. If you need assistance because of an illness or other emergency, contact Priscilla Chamlee at dandpchamlee@gmail.com; or Fred Cresson at cresson4@verizon.net, or Margaret Rogers at margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com, or Bert Curtis at bertedits@gmail.com

lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging our need for forgiveness and grace.

Voices

Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each one of us. To build for man a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just. And how can we fight for liberty if we are not free in our own minds? How can we ask others to sacrifice if we are not ready to do so?... Only in true surrender to the interest of all can we reach that strength and independence, that unity of purpose, that equity of judgment which are necessary if we are to measure up to our duty to the future, as men of a generation to whom the chance was given to build in time a world of peace.

Dag Hammarskjöld, 1953

May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses, and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.

John Woolman, c. 1760

Why are we here? If I understand the message of God, his response to that question is that we are to take part in the creation of the Peaceable Realm of God. Again, if I understand the message of God, how we take part in the creation of this realm is to love God with all our heart, our mind and our strength and to love our neighbors and enemies as we love God and ourselves. In its essential form, different aspects of love bring about the creation of the realm.

Tom Fox, 2005

One Friend responded out of the silence, referring to the John Woolman quote about looking to oneself to eliminate the seeds of war. He noted that in addition, we must also make sure we nurture the seeds of peace.

Minutes, 8th Month, 12th Day, 2018

Clerk **Liz Willson** gathered 17 Friends and opened the Meeting for Business with readings on why we call it “meeting for worship with a concern for business” and our role in the Meeting. Material was shared from a presentation by Arthur M. Larrabee. Responding to the “Characteristics of a Meeting for Business Held in a Spirit of Worship,” Friends suggested that rather than “tentativeness” in speaking in point three, perhaps a better word would be “care”

or “humility.” Also, Friends noted that the list of characteristics was careful not to reference the time it would take to make decisions or the process of how to make decisions or come to unity. In the writing of “The Role of Those Present,” and “being present with clerking consciousness,” a Friend responded that we are all clerks.

After each person present gave their name, the Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Recording Clerk **Fred Cresson** read the highlight of the Minutes from the 6th Month Monthly Meeting. The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Terence McCormally reviewed the HFM Second Quarter financial report. He noted that clerks will be asked for their 2019 budgets in September and can compare their expenses so far for this year to estimate what expenses will be for next year.

Terence said that while contributions for operating expenses are currently lagging behind projections, we don’t need to be concerned because these are usually made up during the second half of the year.

Terence said that HFM’s apportionment contribution to BYM has been increasing due mainly to three factors: the relative generosity of contributors and overall health of HFM, a changing BYM apportionment formula, and an increase in BYM’s financial needs. But he also said that our BYM apportionment probably won’t continue to increase.

He said that, as one of the wealthier Meetings in BYM, it might be nice for HFM to have an endowment. Terence said that about 24 percent of the HFM income (about \$11,000) goes to BYM.

There was discussion around the possible additional \$5,000 contribution to BYM for specific projects it needs. The Meeting agreed that we need further information on the BYM budget and our relationship to the BYM budget. This would include why BYM is running a deficit, how we can participate in specific BYM projects and how we would pay for them. The Finance Committee will set up a Meeting with BYM to discuss this.

Communications and Outreach Committee - Ting-Yi Oei said there will be a meeting of the committee on August 23 at 7 p.m. at the

Meetinghouse Members of the committee and all HFM members and attenders are welcome.

Ting-Yi gave an update on the committee's work, including the transition of the newsletter to Jay McClendon. Ting-Yi noted a good article in the latest Friends Journal about handling change and creating communities by using social media platforms.

Meg Wallace, as part of our outreach, proposed that our Meeting send a letter of love and support to the Oak Grove Baptist Church in Herndon, which is celebrating 150 years. The Meeting is in accord with us sending the letter.

A Friend is working with the Town of Herndon to change the historical marker about the Meetinghouse to note that it had previously not allowed blacks. She said that perhaps the letter to Oak Grove Baptist Church could include an open invitation to visit our Meetinghouse, since it no longer excludes people of color.

Guest column: Thoughts on Race, Diversity and Inclusion

By Ting-Yi Oei

Back in March, Friends were asked to fill out a survey that included a question regarding one's race/ethnicity and it sparked some surprising reactions. Afterwards, I shared the following thoughts I had about the discussion with two committees, Communications and Outreach and Ministry and Oversight, but have been encouraged to put it out more broadly so that it may prompt further discussion:

I just haven't been able to shake from my mind this question of why some were resistant to answering a question about race/ethnicity. At first, I was just perplexed. We are asked about race on a million forms. The reason behind the question is to grow our diversity. And underlying this is another question, "Why is this important?"

I accept that there are a lot of reasons why Quakers lack diversity, many having to do with the nature, the style, and form of our worship. There may not be much we can do to attract more minorities but it does not mean we should not try. Even though I believe we are a welcoming group, welcoming others also means identifying more closely with those we would like to have join us.

Listening to comedian Roy Wood, Jr. on Fresh Air clarified one aspect of this for me. It's from a routine he does about buying a case for his iPhone at Best Buy, and the checkout clerk asks him if he wants a bag for that. He says, "Yes" and the clerk looked at him kinda funny, like "Really?" And he then went on this hilarious riff about what it's like for a black man to walk out of a store with something in his hand - and no bag - "... and you better believe I want the receipt - and staple it to the outside of the bag!" I can't do it justice but the clip is on YouTube.

We (and I include both my White half and my Asian

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half in this context)... we don't have a clue. And if we are serious about wanting more diversity in Friends and in Friends leadership we must become more attuned to what minorities really experience. And the only way we can do that that is by hearing directly from those affected by it. We can take all the most heartfelt and sympathetic Quaker values and beliefs, say and do all the "right things" socially and politically, and still not understand. It's the difference between sympathy and empathy: "I think I understand how you feel" vs. "I feel what you feel." We fall short in really knowing the struggles of others unless we are truly sharing those experiences together and among ourselves. At some level, I think this is a major factor in our inability to attract and hold minorities.

Another example: Peter Liang was a Chinese American cop who was convicted in 2016 of manslaughter and of official misconduct by a jury of shooting an unarmed black man in a stairwell in NYC. By all accounts the shooting was accidental and the fatal bullet was a result of a ricochet. It was, though, the extremely rare instance of a police officer being convicted for the shooting of a black man plus a conviction for misconduct because neither he nor his partner performed CPR on the victim. C'mon! We

have seen time and again white cops not even get charged because they argue they felt “their life was in danger” and yet an Asian American cop gets convicted!

I think we want diversity on our terms. By this I mean we hold very dear to us our principles, beliefs and behaviors that we collectively identify as “Quaker” and our expectation is that people will come to our Meeting and join us based on that. Well, it’s not enough. There has to be an internal change of how we approach others. Color shouldn’t matter but we know it does.

We want diversity on our terms. We hold very dear to us our principles, beliefs and behaviors that we collectively identify as “Quaker” and our expectation is that people will come to our Meeting and join us based on that. Well, it’s not enough.

So what does this have to do filling out a form or how we answer a question about ethnicity?

If by not counting ourselves accurately we are trying to say race and ethnicity should not matter, that’s a nice sentiment, but we know it’s not true. We know these distinctions lead to pain and injustice. But if among ourselves, we don’t see and count ourselves in that way, are we sending a message that we are not as welcoming as we think we are? By not acknowledging the “race question” are we denying the importance to others of a piece of their identity?

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

HFM is part of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, which is hosting this event.

Walk the Talk: How to Reduce Waste in your Congregation: September 23, 3 PM – 5 PM, Peace Lutheran Church, 6362 Lincolnia Alexandria

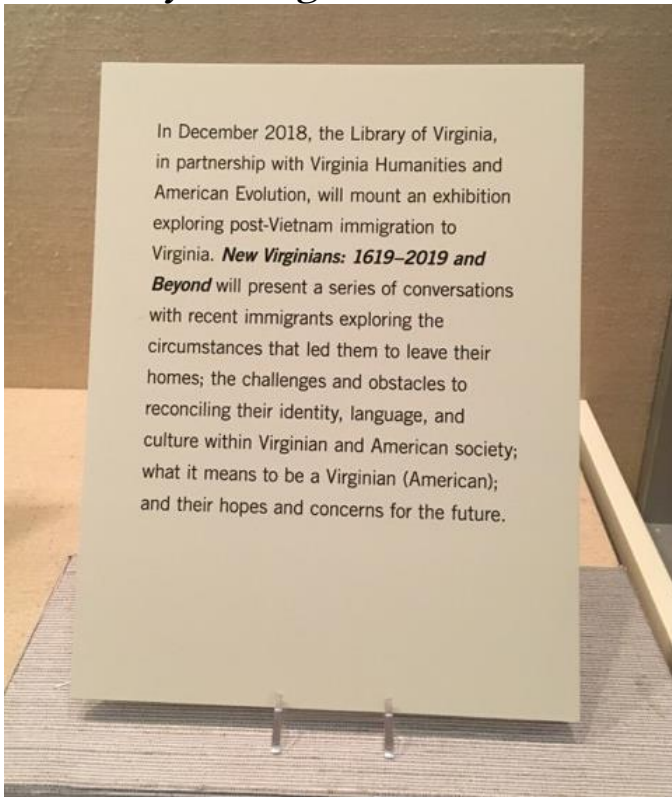
The FACS' annual general meeting will focus on how congregations can take direct action to reduce their waste. We will hear from the Rev. Stephanie Allen, who founded Zero Waste Church. She will discuss her experience of leading a congregation to reduce their waste footprint. This event is designed to teach and encourage congregations to reduce their footprint.

Below are other FACS sponsored events happening throughout September and October to work towards a Plastic Free Fairfax.

Plastic Free Forum: September 22. 10 AM – 12 PM. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

Bag It Movie Screening: September 28, 7:30 PM, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax. 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton

***Peace Award recipient to be
In Library of Virginia exhibit***



2018 Peace Award recipient Zhiyi Wang from South Lakes High School is included in this group of “New Virginians” whose conversation will be part of the exhibition opening at the Library of Virginia in December (one of about 30).

Her father is a Chinese dissident.

Friend **Ting-Yi Oei** had referred her name to **David Beringer** of Virginia Humanities as a possible interviewee when he said he was specifically looking for a young Chinese American voice to include.

This notice is in the Library’s current exhibition for 2018: Remembering African American soldiers of The Great War: World War I centennial.

Herndon Friends Meeting
660 Spring Street
Herndon, VA 20170