

The Herndon Light



12th Month 9, 2018 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 256

- 12/24 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Potluck followed by Christmas Eve candlelight worship at 7 p.m.
1/20 9 a.m. First hour discussion on "Spirit Led Eldering", Pendle Hill pamphlet #392
1/25-1/27 BYM Women's Retreat at Pearlstone Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD
2/3 10:30 a.m. Worship sharing to determine the Spiritual State of the Herndon Friends Meeting
2/17 9 a.m. First Hour discussion. Eveline Marquardt discusses her visit to Ramallah Friends School last summer

Query 17 Stewardship of Personal Resources

from *Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting*

- *Do we regard our resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given?*
- *What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to nurture our gifts?*
- *How do we encourage the members of the larger community to be careful stewards of their gifts?*

Advices

"To turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives": this, in the words of John Woolman, is the meaning of Quaker stewardship. And this applies to all that we have and are, as individuals, as members of groups, and as inhabitants of the earth. As individuals, we need to be careful to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, our material possessions, and other resources in a spirit of love, aware that we hold these gifts in trust and are responsible to use them in

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 and hearing 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

the Light. Investment of assets and consumption of resources require our careful stewardship. As Friends, we can direct our investments toward socially desirable ends, avoiding speculation and activities wasteful or harmful to others. Seek to participate constructively and without greed in the economic life of the community.

Voices

Of the interest of the public in our estates: Hardly any thing is given us for our selves, but the public may claim a share with us. But of all we call ours, we are most accountable to God and the public for our estates: In this we are but stewards, and to hoard up all to ourselves is great injustice as well as ingratitude.

John Woolman, 1720

In reading those short last essays of John Woolman, which are little treatises on economics, I have been struck by his intuition that wrong roads were being taken by his contemporaries, upon which we their descendants should find our direction almost irreversibly fixed. Unrighteous use of other human beings, unrighteous use of one's own powers, irresponsible use and waste of land and other natural

resources - he touches on them all. It is evident that he was convinced that the spiritual life of men and women is deeply conditioned by their economic life.

Mildred Binns Young, 1966

Friends need to examine their decisions about obtaining, holding, and using money and other assets, to see whether they find in them the seeds, not only of war, but also of self-indulgence, injustice, and ecological disaster. Good stewardship of economic resources consists both in avoidance of those evils and in actions that advance peace, simple living, justice, and a healthy ecosystem.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1986

To “stretch beyond one’s compass” grasping at shadows, and encumbering oneself with more than is needed for simple, wholesome living, is at variance with all our best traditions.

Caroline E. Stephen, 1890

Friends responded out of the silence that greed is the most egregious of these, resulting in the utter destruction of the planet. The Nominating Committee was cited as a major contributor to identifying the gifts of those in the Meeting to serve on committees that would make use of or develop these gifts.

Minutes, 12th Month, 9th Day, 2018

Clerk **Liz Willson** asked the 18 Friends present to introduce themselves and then she reviewed the agenda.

Recording Clerk **Cathy Tunis** read excerpts from the Minutes from 11th Month Meeting for Business.

Finance Committee. **Terence McCormally** presented the final reading of the proposed 2019 Budget, highlighting some of the changes from last month’s report. A discussion ensued about the categorization of unrealized capital gains as income related to the operating budget versus reporting it on a balance sheet. Also discussed was the question of real income on investments (dividends and interest) versus unrealized

gain. This discussion was referred to the Finance committee for further discernment. The Clerk suggested that the Finance committee also consider having a threshing session with the whole Meeting to discuss these issues and the larger question of how much we should hold in reserves or what the purpose of these reserves should be. The operating budget was approved by the Meeting. Terence would also like to remind members and attenders that there is still a shortfall in contributions in our 2018 Budget. The actual 2018 figures will be presented in January.

Nominating Committee. **Paul Murphy** gave the final reading

of 2019 Clerks and Committees list, highlighting the addition of **David Whomsley (Jr)** to the House & Grounds and adding **Mary Brandon** to the Peace Awards Committee. The Meeting approved this slate with thanks to the committee.

The Clerk reminded us that we need to appoint an ad hoc committee to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee. The Clerk asked for volunteers for this Naming Committee. **Inga Erickson, Harry Tunis,** and **Kim Glazer** volunteered and were appointed to this Ad Hoc committee. They will name a member of the Nominating Committee to replace **Kim Glazer** whose term has expired.

Communications and Outreach – In the absence of the clerk **Ting Yi Oei, Inga Erickson** reported that we have been asked to name HFM representatives to two sessions of the BYM Change Group Training. This is being conducted under the care of the BYM Working Group on Racism and the Growing Diverse Ad Hoc Leadership Committee. Volunteers to attend this training were **Marquerite Miller** and **Inga Erickson.**

Cathy Tunis also reported from the committee that one of our goals is to make new attenders feel welcome. Nametags have been printed for the 16 relatively new attenders. Friends were reminded that we should all be wearing our nametags. Names of new attenders have been added to the Directory that appears on the website, as well as the printed directory that was sent out last week. If corrections are needed, please contact **Cathy.**

Announcements. Paul Murphy displayed the Christmas ornaments now on sale for \$15 to benefit the Medical Care of Children Partnership. The ornaments represent a shooting star.

And for the calendar:

December 24 – 5:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve potluck followed by candlelight worship at 7 p.m.

January 20 – 9 a.m. - First hour discussion on “Spirit Led Eldering”, Pendle Hill pamphlet #392

January 25-27 – BYM Women’s Retreat at Pearlstone Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD

February 3 – 10:30 a.m. - Worship sharing to determine the Spiritual State of the Herndon Friends Meeting

February 17 – 9 a.m. - First Hour discussion – **Eveline Marquardt** will report on her visit to the Ramallah Friends School last summer.

The Clerk closed the meeting with a period of silent worship.

-**Cathy Tunis**, Recording Clerk

“All You Need is Love” Field Trip

Marguerite Miller is organizing group of Herndon Friends to attend “All You Need is Love,” a presentation of contemporary classical music on the subject of romance from multiple points of view.

where? Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) and National Portrait Gallery; 8th and G Streets, NW, Washington, DC 2004, Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown (Red, Yellow, and Green lines)

when? Saturday, February 16, 2019; discussion 4 p.m., concert 5 p.m.

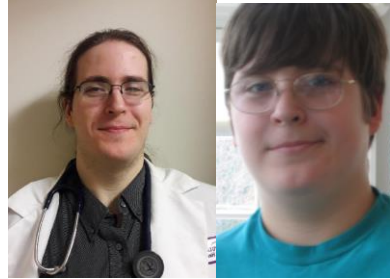
cost? Free!

Marguerite recommends arriving around 2:30 p.m. in order to take in "Between Worlds: Art of Bill Traylor", new portraits of Michelle Obama and Barak Obama, plus more art to see before the discussion and concert. We can travel to DC together or separately.

Sign up with Marguerite, mbmsfumato@gmail.com, or at Meeting for Worship. We can plan transportation that best suits you.

News of Friends Near and Far

(News of Friends Near and Far is a regular feature of The Herndon Light, enabling us to keep in touch with members and attenders who’ve moved on or moved away. Want to be included? Email Jay at bluejay825@gmail.com.)



Joshua Rosenthal, now and then.

Joshua Rosenthal graduated from Oberlin College in 2012 and spent the following year working as a scribe in an emergency room in Middletown, New York. From there he went to medical school at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, graduating in 2017. He currently is in the second year of his Internal Medicine residency at Lutheran Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

Taylor Stanton has been accepted to a Fellowship program in Family Planning at Stanford University beginning in Fall 2019. She is completing her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago this spring. This two-year Fellowship will give her additional training in a full range of family planning and reproductive services.

Report from the Ministry of Finance

(with thanks to Paul Murphy for the title)

By Terence McCormally, Treasurer

After a second reading, Herndon Friends united with the 2019 budget prepared by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee works to ensure that the Meeting has the financial means to fulfill the priorities set by the meeting principally through the work of our committees. Each year, the Treasurer asks Committee Clerks to submit their requests for the following year,

based on their expectations of what work the committee will be doing.

Committees are authorized to spend the money in the budget. If unanticipated needs arise, requests are referred to the Meeting for Business.

The budget presented shows Friends both where the Meeting expects to receive money, and where we expect to spend it. In 2019 the Meeting hopes to receive \$69,000: \$54,000 in contributions and \$15,000 in investment income. Most of the contributions are to the general fund, but some are designated for specific purposes (such as the contributions expected for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets), and these are used only for the purposes for which they are designated. Likewise, the investment income is designated only for the specific purpose of maintaining or replacing the meetinghouse.

The 2019 budget plans that about 25% of the meeting income is required to maintain the building: pay for insurance and utilities, expected maintenance and groundskeeping. Another 15% is to be spent on programs that primarily benefit members of the meeting: the Religious Education Committee, the annual retreat, scholarship programs for Camp or to attend annual session. The remaining 60% is planned for community outreach and aid: gifts to other organizations, our contribution to BYM for the work it does, including the Growing Diverse Leadership Program, and our Peace and Social Concerns Committee work (Sandwich making, Thanksgiving Food Baskets) and Communications and Outreach Committee.

A budget serves as a plan, not a constraint, and the plan may change during the year. For example, in the 2018 budget we anticipated receiving \$49,000 but as of 12/8/18 we'd received only \$40,000. If year-end contributions don't make up the difference, we will be unable to fund expected contributions to the Capital Fund or the Growth and Building Fund. This is not a crisis, as we have reserves to cover anticipated expenditures for the next few years, but over the long run we have to plan to save for future expenses.

In January, Friends can expect to review the 4th quarter and year-end financial report for 2018. The quarterly report includes a cash flow report with year to date expenses and income, and a balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of the Meeting.

Herndon Friend's Rock Climbers Reach Amazing Heights



Twenty-seven members of youth rock climbing teams coached by **Lauren Demeis-Ortiz** will compete in divisional championships in January after successful showings in the recent regional bouldering championships. A total of 51 athletes from her club, Earth Treks in Crystal City and Rockville, competed in the regional bouldering championships.

As a team, Earth Treks, which also includes the Columbia and Timonium teams, placed first in the Regional Team Championships. "It was great to see the athletes give it their blood, sweat, and tears, literally. I am consistently inspired by their commitment and determination. "

(The Herndon Light welcomes news of this type. Want to be included? Email Jay at bluejay825@gmail.com)

Annual Christmas Sing A Success



Participants in the annual Hallelujah Chorus

A host of Herndon Friends and guests filled the meetinghouse on December 15 for the annual finger-food potluck luck, Christmas Sing and Hallelujah Chorus song styling, conducted by **Margaret Fisher**.

The annual event is organized **Stacey LaRoy**.

This year, several Friends brought their instruments for solos, duets and accompaniment. These included **Jack S., Amy Shinkman, Finn W., Milo W., Jim Nagle, Andrew O'Connor, Rene E., and Katherine Cole.**

Melanie Stanley told a moving Christmas story about a former student, who, though she couldn't afford buy opulent gifts for her teachers, gave Melanie a handmade gift she will remember forever.

The story reminded listeners of big impact that seemingly small things can have, that Christmas is about simplicity rather than opulence, and that we can never really know when we touch someone's heart in ways that will last forever.



Melanie Stanley shares a Christmas memory

20 Years Ago in *The Herndon Light* A Christmas Message

After the Christmas Pageant of 1998, the Big Kids Class complained that they didn't like the story. That was the year the First Day School classes enacted a contemporary parable involving modern day people stranded by a snowstorm in an overcrowded motel. The message was not deep, but it had its charms, and we did get to see our children perform. But "We could do a better one ourselves" was the message from our First Day School class.

So they did. With lots of Friendly guidance from the First Day school teachers, with lots of nagging, they

began in August to write their own play. By chance, the vehicle they chose was a play in which they explained why the play they had wanted to do wasn't acceptable. The curious thing is that the play came true.

Friends whose opinions were sought regarding the content of the play raised concerns about it. It was, frankly, blasphemous.

Mary: His name is Gerturde Anne you kapped up fool

Owen: Hmm. That name has gone out of fashion you know. Jesus is a wonderful new name, though...

As copies of the script circulated, anxieties rose. The play did not tell the traditional Christmas story; it was biblically unsound. In places it was obscure.

Wacky guy with sign that says "Beginning is Near" walks in stage left

WGWSTSBIN: The Messiah is coming! The Messiah is coming! And I heard his mother makes great quiche!

There were concerns that the play was inappropriate for the setting and occasion. An ironic, even sarcastic production could be funny and acceptable presented in some other venue but in the meeting room at Christmas time it would be in poor taste and offensive to an audience expecting little girls and boys in angel costumes and sheep suits.

In the week before opening night the decision to put on the play or not changed several times. The performers wondered if it was worth the trouble; the teachers had doubts about this as well. Other Friends were wondering if it should be allowed, others if they should avoid the performance and the issue.

Conflicts like this challenge Quaker process. The need for silence, centering, reflection, consultation and unity demands time, and yet the date of the Christmas play approached inexorably. It is hard to keep the faith that this laborious process is possible, let alone practical. But the lesson of our Quaker history is that the clearness process is eminently practical, and that people who earnestly seek truth together will find it—

not through compromise, not through consensus, but through discernment. The story is told of the meeting clerk conducting a meeting at which several contentious issues were to be raised. Knowing that the agenda was full, that there were many who needed to speak, and that time was limited, the only reasonable thing to do was start the meeting with an extra half hour of silence, to allow the Friends an opportunity to discard their own prejudices and needs in the community experience.

Herndon Friends are a mixed bunch, from birthright friends to recovering Catholics; from convinced Methodists to repentant agnostics, all carrying different burdens of spiritual baggage. The traditions that we learned in childhood—the sanctity of Christmas and the Christmas Pageant-- have a power over us that is difficult to escape. All blended families have to cope with melding traditions together, and this inevitably causes conflict.

By offering to let the children produce our Christmas entertainment, we gave them our trust that their message was worthwhile—that the Light is within them. Children (and adults) need guidance on when to speak their inner thoughts—how to recognize the difference between the message that we alone should hear, and the message that must be spoken. (We may want to consider a paraphrase of Fox’s advice to Penn, and, rather than speak quickly, to keep silent as long as we can.)

But when a message is spoken we have the obligation to hear it. We may not like the message; it may be that after hearing it and considering it, we will learn that the message does not “speak to our condition” – that it is not for us. It may be that, understanding the message, we will reject it—but if we believe that it springs from the inner light, it deserves our attention, no matter its first appearance. This includes listening to criticism for, offered lovingly, it just as surely comes from that central spirit.

Herndon Friends stumbled through a clearness process on the Christmas play. It was performed, it was well received, and its message—all of its messages—had a chance to be heard.

The point is, things can be magical without being magic! So, on Christmas morning when Jesus was or was not

born, think about being peaceful, truthful, and kind. Because that is what Christmas is all about.

QuakerSpeak Videos

Did you know QuakerSpeak, a project of Friends Journal, releases a new video every Thursday? Check it out here: <http://quakerspeak.com/>

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