

# The Herndon Light



4th Month 10, 2016 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 234

Apr 17	Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30AM Singing; 11:00AM MFW at the Depot in front of the Bealeton library
Apr 17	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Meetinghouse 9:00 AM Adult Discussion: Remembrances Potluck lunch to follow MFW
Apr 24	Earth Day Event and plant exchange sponsored by Greening Committee at rise of MFW (Details below)
May 1	Potluck at rise of Meeting for Worship
May 8	NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS
May 13-15	BYM Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat Priest Field
May 15	Adult Discussion session 9:00 AM Meg Wallace: Spiritual Journey
May 15	Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30AM Singing; 11:00AM MFW at the Depot in front of the Bealeton library
May 22	RE committee after rise of Meeting for Worship
June 5	Potluck at rise of Meeting for Worship
June 12	Meeting For Business 9:00 AM

## Query: Membership

How can I actively support the meeting community?

How can I support the Clerk of Meeting and clerks of committees?

How am I maturing into the fullness of membership in this spiritual community?

How does the meeting community nurture my spiritual growth and transformation?

In what ways does the Meeting make its needs clear to each of us?

## Meeting For Business 4-10-16

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 19 Friends for Meeting for Business with Attention to Worship at 9:00 am on a chilly First Day 10<sup>th</sup> day 4<sup>th</sup> month with a reading of the query, voices, and advices on Membership from the draft version of BYM Faith and Practice.

**Devon Mahoney** presented the treasurer's report.

At the end of the first quarter, the meeting has received donations of \$7892, about 15% of the \$51,000 budgeted for 2016.

The clerk reminded friends of the availability of automatic contributions through the bank. Forms to set up automatic contributions are available

**Margaret Fisher** reported on activities for Earth Day scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> including

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 Terence McCormally. Notices for the Newsletter can be sent to him at 2514 Trophy Lane, Reston, VA 20191 E-mail [tmccormally@ffpcs.com](mailto:tmccormally@ffpcs.com). Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Meg Wallace **WEBSITE AT** [www.herndonfriends.org](http://www.herndonfriends.org).

The Care Coordinating Committee is available for Friends in need. If you need assistance because of an illness or other emergency, contact Abbey Compton, Clerk, at [abbey.compton@verizon.net](mailto:abbey.compton@verizon.net); or Priscilla Chamlee at [dandpchamlee@gmail.com](mailto:dandpchamlee@gmail.com); or Fred Cresson at [cresson4@verizon.net](mailto:cresson4@verizon.net), or Stacey LaRoy at [stacebear@laroyfamily.com](mailto:stacebear@laroyfamily.com) or Margaret Rogers at [margrog@juno.com](mailto:margrog@juno.com)

--Creative Banner-making Activity

--Plant exchange (and gardening tools/supplies) – Bring some, take some. No invasive introduced plants, please!

--Learning Centers:

1. Environmentally-friendly Cleaning Solutions - Margaret R
2. Do-It-Yourself Anti-ant Kits – Margaret R
3. Stop Weeds w/Safe Substitutes for RoundUp – Margaret F

--Action Opportunity: Write Letters and/or sign Petition

--Learning Opportunities:

Native plant guides (\$5 each). Why to use them – Margaret F

*This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate* by Naomi Klein. \$11. This provocative book is a real eye-opener. Alarmist or prophetic? Either way, you will learn a lot about the disaster that is coming down on our world over the next few decades.

--Giving Opportunity:

Purchase Fundanas to reduce paper waste and support Friends Wilderness Center - Keith Margaret also read the annual report of the Greening Committee. The Meeting accepted the report, which is printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

## Ministry and Oversight

**Fred Cresson** presented the work of the Ministry and Oversight Committee. The Committee is planning a Meeting retreat at Friends Wilderness Center on First Day, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Friends will gather at Niles Cabin about 10:00 AM (Friends Wilderness Center is about an hour west of the Meetinghouse.) Meeting for worship will be held outside at 10:30 so bring your own chairs. Meeting will be followed by a "Bring your own Picnic" lunch. After lunch Friends have the option of fellowship, an inspection of the Geodesic Dome and the Treehouse, and one of two hikes. Keith Curtis reports there is a gentle two mile round trip walk to the river and back, or a more strenuous two hour roundtrip hike to Crescent Rock. The Retreat will be held in lieu of Meeting for Worship and the Meetinghouse will not be open that morning. There will be a sign up list to get an estimate of the number of attenders.

To observe the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Meetinghouse, M&O is sponsoring an adult discussion session at 9:00 AM on 4/17/16. Friends are invited to come and share their memories of the purchase, remodel, and occupation of the Meetinghouse.

Meg Wallace reported on the Committee on Clearness for membership for Louisa Davis. Meg Wallace, Ting Yi Oei and Katherine Cole met with Louisa and found her clear for membership. The Meeting accepted the recommendation of the Ministry and Oversight that Louisa be welcomed as a member of Herndon Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The recorder will forward the information to BYM, and the hospitality committee will be asked to arrange a welcoming.

Clerk Cat Wilkins read aloud the Spiritual State of the Meeting report prepared by the Ministry and Oversight committee. The Meeting accepted the report with minor revisions. A copy of the report accompanies this newsletter, and a copy will be sent to BYM.

Ed Markam reported on the status of the Herndon Friends Meeting website, herndonfriends.org. The website is currently hosted on a commercial hosting site and is operated on a content management system program called Drupal. (This is the same software that WAMU uses to run their NPR website). The website is using version 6 of the software, which is soon to be non-supported because the program has been upgraded to version 8. Last year a committee investigated the possibility of moving the website to another

program but decided against that. Ed plans to migrate the website to the new version of the software over the next six months. We currently pay about \$250 for hosting fees, and running both sets of software for the next few months will cost another \$70. The meeting approved the expenditure. In addition, Ed requests that anyone interested in helping with the content or the design of the new site contact him.

## Greening Committee 2015 Clerk's Report

In response to a call by the BYM Unity with Nature Committee, Herndon Friends created an *ad hoc* committee on Greening the Meetinghouse. The committee's goals are to seek out and recommend ways to minimize energy and resource use on the meeting property, to educate attenders about opportunities to practice good stewardship at home, and to consider how we could use the property to demonstrate our priorities to our neighbors.

We first convened in August and started with an awareness that the living world is undergoing a process of global destruction which includes mass extinction of species, that much of that destruction is due to human activities, and that if there is hope for turning the situation around, the time to act is now before it is too late. We are each responsible for our contributions to global destruction and most particularly to damage done to the living world on our own property, which is (or could be) home to a myriad of other creatures besides ourselves. We also recognize that some actions to help the living world are simple, low cost, and potentially money-saving in the long run, but that others could cost an appreciable amount of money which would not be recouped later. Herndon Friends Meeting is in the fortunate position of having considerable savings in the capital fund that has been set aside in case we ever want to move; spending some of those savings would mean delaying the accumulation of money toward that goal.

Actions taken by the meeting in 2015 include:

- Installing a bike rack
- Obtaining a bigger recycling bin and updating the list of items that can be recycled
- Composting table scraps
- Joining the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions to work with others to reduce fossil fuel consumption in Fairfax County
- Switching from paper to cloth napkins
- Increasing the use of reusable cups and plates
- Inviting people to bring their own tableware
- Changing some light bulbs to more energy efficient bulbs

- Cancelling the lawn service that has been putting chemicals on the lawn
- Encouraging people to carry a handkerchief to use to dry their hands instead of using paper towels

Membership of this *ad hoc* committee is fluid: anyone who shows up is part of the process. Attenders in 2015 included Jodi Beatty, Bill Benson, Don Chamlee, Priscilla Chamlee, Katherine Cole, Keith Curtis, John Dyke, Margaret Fisher, Andrew LaRoy, Ed Markham Debbie McCormick, Paul Murphy, Margaret Rogers, Weez Rothrock, Nathan Tice, Andrew LaRoy, and Kindra Whomsley.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Fisher, Clerk

## ***Unspoken Messages***

### **If at tree falls in the forest....**

#### **...you probably live in Reston**

Harry and Cathy Tunis recently had the not uncommon experience of having a tree in their yard fall in a windstorm. Grandson Jack confirms it was “a gigantic tree”, a hundred years old and a hundred feet tall, but it fortuitously fell in such a way to miss the cars, the houses, the plantings—and the people. An unexpected misfortune to be sure, but one that could be mostly remedied with money and some entertaining heavy equipment. Such an occasion can give rise to many feelings: gratitude that so little damage was done, and that one has the resources to take care of it; anxiety that the next such incident may be worse; resolve to have the arborist come and assess the risk, or awe that such a powerful and strong appearing entity could be struck down so abruptly. But it puts this author in mind of the Babel Fish, a mythical animal described in Douglas Adams’ “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.” Because the Babel fish lives on and excretes only thought waves, if you put one in your ear (so the story goes) you can instantly understand and be understood by any creature speaking any language. As *The Hitchhiker’s Guide* explains, “The Final Proof of the non existence of God was proved by a Babel Fish.

“Now, it is such a bizarrely improbable coincidence that anything so mind bogglingly useful could have evolved purely by chance that some have chosen to see it as the final proof of the non-existence of God. The argument goes something like this: ‘I refuse to prove that I exist,’ says God, ‘for proof denies faith, and without faith I am nothing.’

‘But,’ say Man, ‘the Babel fish is a dead giveaway, isn’t it? It could not have evolved by chance. It proves You exist, and so therefore, by Your own arguments, You don’t. QED.’ ‘Oh, dear,’ says

God, ‘I hadn’t thought of that,’ and promptly vanishes in a puff of logic.”

If ever there was an invention so mind bogglingly useful that it couldn’t have evolved by chance, it is the tree. It provides us food and shelter, beauty and shade, warmth and protection, the air we breathe. Consider even the nature of wood. It can be bent, and sawn, drilled and nailed, strong enough to sustain bridges, light enough to fly, in all respects a “wholly remarkable” substance, a gift of nature; this particular tree with the grace to end its long life with a minimum of fuss. In truth, the tree disproves neither the existence of God, nor the theory of evolution but it would take a special blindness to look upon the forest without some sense of wonder.

## ***Performing Friends***

Herndon Friends had the opportunity to see Young Friends performing this weekend.

Ian Beaty demonstrated his dance moves at the Velocity Dance Studio showcase at Luther Jackson Middle School on 4/7/16. The studio offers classes in Ballet, Jazz, Pom, and Hiphop dance; Ian competes with the Youth Jazz and Youth Hiphop teams. Velocity Dance Studio is located in Vienna. Friends Margaret Fisher and Lynn Nagle who attended the showcase were observed tapping their feet on the sidewalk outside after the show and talking about whether they should sign up for classes.

Renee Erickson brought her ballet and acting talent to the Thoreau Middle School production of “Beauty and the Beast.” Renee performed as the rose whose blossoming and wilting represents the hope and despair of the Beast’s curse. She was also one of the three wolves who attack the Beast. Friend Katherine Cole described her performance as graceful and moving.

## ***Recorder’s Report***

Cathy Tunis in her role as Meeting Recorder submitted information to BYM on Herndon Friends Members and attenders.

At the beginning of 2016 there were 72 registered members of HFM, 27 Associate Members (children) and 57 Attenders.

When Reston Friends Meeting became a preparative meeting of Langley Hill, there were 16 members. When we started the process of buying the current meetinghouse (undertaken in part to provide a permanent home that might encourage the growth of the Meeting) there were 37 members. The complete report sent to BYM will be posted on the HFM website. It includes information on age breakdown and racial diversity.

#### Brief Notes

From the Advices on Membership:

Membership is costly ... It is not just about belonging, feeling accepted, feeling at home. It has also to do with being stretched, being challenged, being discomforted ... We can never be entirely sure of where the venture will lead us ... [but] the one thing we can be sure of is that the process, taken seriously, will call us to change.

-Helen Rowlands, 1952

Cornelia Sparks, long time Herndon Friends Meeting member and mother of former Herndon Friend David Smith, died in Arizona on March 6. She was 92.

Meg Wallace is making progress on the First Day School Clubhouse! The building of a 12 x 16 foot shed, to fit in the back corner of the parking lot has been approved by the town of Herndon. Now the application has to go to the Heritage Preservation Review Board for approval of appearance and color (probably brown, with white trim). With any luck, the clubhouse/shed/classroom will be available next fall in time for the school year.

Quakers meet

In quiet retreat

Second Sundays, all the time

Except for months five, seven and nine. (No business meeting in May!)

Herndon Friends Meeting  
660 Spring Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170