

The Herndon Light



10th Month 8, 2017 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 246

- 10/14 BYM 10th Month Interim Meeting Homewood Meeting Baltimore
- 10/15 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 10/22 Informational Q&A Meeting with BYM General Secretary Ned Stowe at rise of Meeting
- 11/2-5 FCNL Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute
- 11/5 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
- 11/12 Meeting for Business 9:00 AM
- 11/17-19 Pendle Hill Workshop on clerking Led by Arthur Larabee Register at
- 11/19 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot

Query 6 Equality

Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices?

How do we respond, as individuals and as a community, to prejudice and injustice?

How do we benefit from inequity and exploitation?

Do you oppose the use of our resources for human exploitation?

How do we show through our ways of living that love of God affirms the equality of all people?

Advices:

It is important to realize that equality does not mean sameness. Each person is a separate individual and should have the opportunity to pursue her or his own gifts. To deny anyone the right to develop his or her full potential for any reason is not equality. Cultural and other differences among us weave a tapestry that is immeasurably enriched by our diversity. It is the right of every person to be treated with dignity and respect.

In our Meetings for Worship, God's message may be delivered through any person attending that meeting. In our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business, each person present may shed Light on a matter under consideration. We also need to recognize that the young among us need to be listened to as any adult, for their words might bring the spark of unity among us.

We need to be careful that we speak in positive terms when talking about others, especially those who might be different from ourselves or our close community. Adults have a specific responsibility to model Friendly values to children, who do not see other children as different until they are taught that others may be different and in some way may not be as "good" as they are. Speaking in a negative way about a person or group of people may be a form of violence, especially if the statement is not carefully qualified to show the rationale and purpose of the remark.

Meeting for Business 10/8/17

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 14 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m. on October 8, 2017,

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. Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Meg Wallace **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 Abbey Compton, Clerk, at AbbeyComptonisHere@gmail.com; or Priscilla Chamlee at dandpchamlee@gmail.com; or Fred Cresson at cresson4@verizon.net, or Stacey LaRoy at staceybear@laroyfamily.com or Margaret Rogers at margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com

with a reading of the 6th Query on Equality from the 2013 edition, Second Reading, of *Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting*.

Religious Education – Jolene Smith, co-clerk, presented the committee's Annual Report for 2016-2017 school year. The report was accepted and is reproduced in the Newsletter

Treasurer – The Finance Committee will meet 11/11/17 to formulate the budget for 2018; committee clerks are asked to evaluate their projected needs for next year for consideration in the budget.

M&O – Inga Erickson reported that the committee asked that the line amount for **Friends United Meeting** be removed from the budget for this year, until further discussions can be held. The Meeting approved this suggestion for this year, but not as a permanent removal from consideration. A discussion ensued about how we should proceed and which committee should decide outside organizations we want to support and how much money that support would entail. One suggestion was that the **P&SC committee determine which organizations we should support and that the Finance committee determine the amounts**. Debbie McCormick from P&SC said she would take this to the P&SC and general agreement was expressed for this idea.

Inga announced that the **Adult Discussion on October 17 at 9 a.m.** will be a panel discussion on the work of Herndon's FCNL Advocacy Team.

Associate Membership for Kyle Benjamin was requested by his mother, Abbey Compton, and accepted by the committee for recording. This happy event was referred to Hospitality to arrange a welcoming.

Inga also submitted a report received from attendees of a **Pendle Hill workshop on Racial Justice**, held last February. The attendees received support from the Meeting to attend; the report is included in the newsletter.

Inga read the revised proposal for the new **Communications and Outreach Committee**, prepared by a subcommittee. This description was extensively revised with member input over the last few months. While general support for this committee's goals was expressed, a concern was also expressed about the number of people available to serve in this capacity. A suggestion was made that by including young Friends we would enlarge the pool of possible committee members. **The Clerk asked for and received approval of this proposal and the Nominating Committee was asked to begin forming a new Communications and Outreach committee.**

House & Grounds – The committee's updates on the electrical work and air system were delayed until next Meeting for Business, but it was noted that the new lights are on.

Landscaping Committee Report

--Margaret Fisher

The conservation landscaping work was successfully completed. We are awaiting the final bill, but it should be around \$10,500, \$3500 of which will be reimbursed by the state in return for a promise to maintain the native plantings for at least ten years.

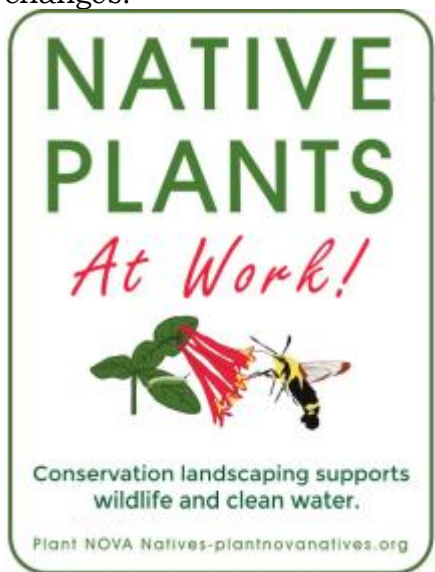
The plants in the new beds were chosen to require as little maintenance as possible, consisting only of shrubs, two trees, and some ornamental grasses, ferns, and sedges. Once they are established, it should be very evident what is intentional and what is a weed. We have divided the entire property into 20 small sections and invite individuals and families to Adopt a Plot, so we can keep our grounds looking as nice in the future as they do now. All but a few of these plots require just a minimum of attention. If you adopt one of those plots, then whenever you come to meeting, please pay it a visit, pick up any trash, and plan to yank out any weeds as soon as it is convenient for you. You are welcome to sign up for more than one plot or to double up with someone else.

It is important to step or walk on the garden beds as little as possible, as compacted soil is

bad for the plants and less able to absorb runoff. Please tell your children.

We hope to have our property certified as a wildlife sanctuary by the Audubon-at-Home program. In addition to requiring certain healthy yard practices, the program's motto is, "Let the animals decide," meaning that the property must in fact have attracted at least 10 species on a [list of 33](#). So far, we have spotted eight species on the list: a catbird, Carolina wren, toad, ruby-throated hummingbird, hover fly, orb-weaver spider, Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly, and native bees. So keep your eyes open as you walk around.

At Meeting for Business, Friends approved the installation of an 8.5 x 11 inch aluminum sign that explains the purpose of the landscaping changes.



Being There

And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great. Job 2:13

No se habla español en la oficina de ICE (They don't speak Spanish at the ICE office)

--Katherine Cole

As a representative of Herndon Friends Meeting, which has joined the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network, I completed my first accompaniment recently.

To explain, I am on a list of people who have been trained, and who can be asked to accompany a person to their Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) check in, or to a court date.

We were a group of three who accompanied our "campa," the term Sanctuary has chosen for those we accompany. This term implies companionship and friendship.

To me, accompanying is much like being present while holding her in the light, and being a witness. It is to provide moral support to the campa, who often is alone (as friends and family are afraid to attend and/or cannot leave work) and may have to wait for hours.

Imagine knowing that you are going to an interview, and that you may never come back to your family, home and work here in the United States where you may have lived for decades. You may be detained indefinitely or deported. So we are also there for a practical reason. Before going into the office, we take down the campa's emergency numbers so that her family, friend, and attorney can be notified if she is detained. We write down her alien number so that, if she is detained, her family and attorney can try to find out where she is being held. We hold her personal belongings, including cell phone, because these will be taken from her if she is detained and/or deported.

All information about the campa we accompanied is confidential, but I can tell you about the ICE office. (I am using "she" to refer to our campa no matter their gender as this is what is used in our accompaniment manual.)

The ICE office on Prosperity Blvd. in Fairfax is a short walk from the Dun Loring Metro Station. The walk passes upscale restaurants, a nice grocery store and new residential properties. Upon entering the building, one proceeds through a metal detector while a machine screens your bags. (Don't take food or drinks as they may be taken from you). Then you take an elevator down to level C into a narrow hall with a door to a windowless room that seats about 15 people. At the front of the room there is a dark window with a

speaker in the center. The person on the other side of the window can see the people in the room, but the people in the room cannot see her, even when called up to speak through the microphone to the receptionist. Our campa said she could just make out the outline of a person's head.

Our campa checked in and was asked to wait until her name was called. Initially all the chairs were full so we stood outside the room with her near the door so she could hear her name when she it was called.

After an hour the room cleared out some and we sat in the empty seats. It was there that I witnessed what was happening. Several people were there to post bond (a sign on the wall in English and in Spanish listed what is needed to post bond), several were checking in, some were told things about when they could travel somewhere else in the U.S. One man was advised that his form was incomplete.

The two most memorable things I witnessed were:

1) **Fear:** Everyone had a look that I would describe as fearful except for the attorneys posting bond. Our campa was overtly fearful.

2) **The receptionist did not speak**

Spanish. If someone did not understand her due to this fact, she just repeated herself in English, saying, "I do not speak Spanish." At this point, sometimes someone else in the room would speak up to help -- not go to the window -- just speak from their seat, or help the person after they had left the window. This is why Sanctuary provides an interpreter for our campas if one is needed. As persons without an alien number we do not have to be fearful about approaching the receptionist to help.

We all waited 3 hrs until she was called back to the dark receptionist window and given a date and time in about 2 months to return. All her questions went unanswered; she was told that she could ask them at her next check-in - - though at this appointment there was no interview and no time to ask questions. She was visibly relieved that she was not detained

-- as were her three accompaniers from Sanctuary.

She expressed heartfelt gratefulness to us for being there for her.

If you are interested in finding out more about getting involved with Sanctuary, please contact me. There are many ways to help.

--Katherine Cole

Coins For Kids

Junior Young Friends recently counted the change in the Coins For Kids collection jar. In the time of one Meeting for Worship with attention to rolling coins they packaged up \$256 worth of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and one Liberty dollar. The money was donated to Save the Children for operating in Greece assisting refugees.

Guidelines for Participation in Meeting for Business

(modified from *Where Should I Stand?* by Elizabeth Boardman and *Faith and Practice of Pacific Yearly Meeting*)

Meeting for Business in a Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends provides an opportunity for Friends to practice several of their testimonies as they carry out the practical work of maintaining their faith community. Guidelines for conduct of the Meeting for Worship go back to the mid-1600s and are spelled out in the Faith and Practice.

The first guiding principal is that our Business Meeting is also a form of Meeting for Worship. We expect to be Spirit-led in our work. We do not engage in clever argument or heated debate, but instead move slowly or wait in expectant silence between offerings for the insights that will guide us.

No vote is taken and the majority does not rule. Instead, our Clerk guides us toward unity, and a decision will not be taken until the weight of the Meeting is behind it.

Whatever material decision might be at hand, it is essential the "love and unity" should be maintained among us. We resolve that disagreement or criticism will be presented in a loving way, with the intention that eventually we will reach unity. Tone of

voice is a crucial indicator of attitude: judgmental or loving. We should be attentive to both the promptings of the Spirit and to what fellow members are saying, seeking to test their leadings by the wisdom of the community.

Often recommendations are brought to the Meeting for Business by a committee that has researched and “seasoned” the issues carefully. Friends are expected to trust the diligence and care of the committee.

Often a matter presented at one Meeting is “laid over” for decision a month later. Friends are expected to ask questions, raise concerns, and make suggestions to the committee or officer that is seasoning the matter during the month, not on the floor of the ensuing Meeting.

In Meeting for Business, as is Worship, we are warned “not to speak at undue length.” To affirm respect while interrupting a long-winded speaker, the Clerk or a weighty Friend may say, “Friend, you have given us a lot to think about - let’s go into silence for a bit.”

Friends try to seek Divine guidance at all times, to be mutually forbearing, and to be concerned for the good of the Meeting as a whole, rather than to defend a personal preference. Thus, having once expressed a view, a Friend is expected to refrain from pressing it unduly, at length, or repeatedly.

Generally in Meeting for Business any given Friend speaks no more than once on an issue, except to acknowledge a change of perspective during the course of the sharing of ideas.

The concept of “clearness” applies in the course of Business Meetings. Friends offer ideas to “test” whether they may be useful. When others in Meeting do not find the clearness to pursue that leading, the speaker will consider whether it should be further seasoned or perhaps dropped altogether.

Generally when the Clerk’s head is up, he or she is looking for contributions. When the Clerk’s head is down, the Meeting waits in a worshipful silence while the Clerk is preparing a minute or leading the Meeting in deep consideration of the matter at hand.

Friends wait to be called upon by the Clerk, who will discern an appropriate sequence. Friends stand, and address the Clerk, not one another, even in a small

Meeting. “Friends who stand to speak find that their ministry is more faithful, concise, and better heard. Each vocal contribution should be something that adds to the material already heard.

To express agreement with another’s message, Friends nod or use the phrase, “This Friend speaks my mind.” Then there is no need to express the same thought in other words. (If a Friend finds that he or she wants to speak primarily to get attention, he or she may ponder how to do that at a more appropriate time and place.)

The Clerk watches for the coalescing of a “sense of the Meeting,” utilizing long knowledge of the participants and body language as well as Friends’ explicit words. He or she may find the Meeting to be in substantial agreement or unity on a matter even when one or two members still have doubts. Absolute unanimity is not considered essential in most cases.

A member of the Meeting who is out of unity with most others in Meeting will generally “stand aside” from the decision, being recorded thus if she or he requests it. Douglas Steere describes how an experienced Friend releases his objection to an action:

I have had a chance at different stages of the process...of making my point of view known to the group, of having it considered and weighed. Even if the final decision goes against what I initially proposed, I know that my contribution has helped sift the issue, to temper it, and I may well have...come to see it somewhat differently from the point at which I began...I have also come to realize that the group as a whole finds this resolution what seems best to them. When this point comes, if I am a seasoned Friend, I no longer oppose it.

Once in a great while, a seasoned Friend may find “a stop in his mind” that leads him to “stand in the way” of a proposed action supported by everyone else. When this position is taken from a deep place of concern and love, the Meeting, trusting that the Spirit is moving through the concerned Friend, will not proceed with the recommended action.

Brief Notes

FCNL Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute Nov 2-5 Register at fcnl.org website

Pendle Hill Workshop Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence Nov 17-19, 2017

A weekend with Arthur Larrabee \$455/shared room; \$515/private room; \$320/commuter. Materials fee included.

Financial assistance available.; call 610-566-4507, ext. 137. Do NOT register online

Adopt a Plot The Landscaping subcommittee invites everyone to share in the satisfaction of keeping our property beautiful. If you have not already done so, please adopt a small section. Look for the map on line or at the meetinghouse to claim your space. Most of these sections require no knowledge of plants, because it will be very obvious what belongs and what does not. All you have to do is go visit it whenever you are at the meetinghouse and pick up any trash or cigarette butts. If you see a weed, plan to pull it out whenever it is convenient for you. Easy-peasy!
Feel free to double up on a section or to adopt more than one plot.

Herndon Friends Meeting
660 Spring Street
Herndon, VA 20170