

The Herndon Light



2nd Month 9, 2018 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 257-

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2/24, 9 am – Ministry and Oversight Committee meeting

2/24, 1 pm – “Women Together” a meeting of women from Herndon Friends Meeting and The ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslims) Center, at Herndon Friends Meetinghouse. All women are welcome.

3/10, 4:15 pm – Fairfax County Student Peace Awards Ceremony, Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Volunteer help needed.

3/17: Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Library Depot, 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton, Meeting for Worship and First Day School 11 am, hospitality before and after.

3/17, 9 am – First Hour Discussion on Northern Virginia advocacy for immigrants and refugees led by Just Neighbors.

4/ 7, 9 am– Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting; all are welcome.

4/21 at Rise of Meeting for Worship – Easter Potluck and children’s Easter egg hunt.

Queries

Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God’s world?

How do we use the world’s resources with care and consideration for future generations and with respect for all life?

Do you endeavor to understand the detrimental changes affecting earth systems and humanity?

Do you seek to meet your needs in a sustainable way by preserving resources, enhancing the health of the earth, and by protecting the future?

Do we intentionally explore and live our conviction that there is that of God in all creation?

Advices

Connect with the earth and all it holds as part of your spiritual development. As John Woolman was concerned about the injury man was doing to the Earth, be aware that we are stewards of a gift of God for future generations. Misuse of the Earth and the abundance it offers often leads to injustice and war. Some common present practices so violate our sense of stewardship that they seem to constitute a war on the Earth. We need to be constantly aware of how our actions affect the rest of the world. By not using more than we need and by sharing with others, we help ensure that the earth will continue to support everyone.

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. LGBTQ+ welcoming and affirming. 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: <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

Voices

Sustainability as a concept has recently acquired new spiritual depth of meaning to include a resolve to live in harmony with biological and physical systems, and to work to create social systems that can enable us to do that. It includes a sense of connectedness and an understanding of the utter dependence of human society within the intricate web of life; a passion for environmental justice and ecological ethics; an understanding of dynamic natural balances and processes; and a recognition of the limits to growth due to finite resources. Our concern for Sustainability recognizes our responsibility to future generations, to care for the Earth as our own home and the home of all that dwell herein. We seek a relationship between human beings and the Earth that is mutually enhancing.

Quaker Earthcare Witness, 1998

We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own – indeed to embrace the whole of creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.

Wangari Maathai, 2004

The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.

John Woolman, c. 1760

As a Religious Society of Friends we see the stewardship of God's creation as a major concern. The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth, which is to till it and keep it so as to reveal the glory of God for generations to come.

London Yearly Meeting, 1988

That the sweat and tedious labor of the farmer, early and late, cold and hot, wet

and dry, should be converted into the pleasure of a small number of men – that continued severity should be laid on nineteen parts of the land to feed the inordinate lusts and delicate appetites of the twentieth, is so far from the will of the great Governor of the world, [it] is wretched and blasphemous.

William Penn, 1668

All things are bound together. All things connect. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls also the children of the earth.

Oren Lyons, Onondaga Nation

Worship Sharing Out of the Silence

Resolve and creativity made hunger, predicted for China in a 1970s report, not come to be as predicted. Perhaps this same resolve and creativity can bring about a brighter future for the earth and its people. We live in an economic and political system that rewards short-term gain over long term sustainability. The choices we make as individuals about the best personal options for living sustainability, economically, efficiently are not always clear. Quaker testimony of simplicity can guide us.

Minutes, 2/11/2019

Clerk **Liz Willson** asked Friends present to introduce themselves, which was accomplished, then she reviewed the agenda.

Recording Clerk **Katherine Cole** reviewed minutes of the 12th Month 2018 Meeting for Business.

Margaret Rogers advised the group of a new attender, **Irene Johnson**, a long-time Friend who has moved to our community. She needs transportation to and from Meeting for Worship and other events. The Care Coordinating Committee is working

with her to arrange for her transportation to meeting.

Inga Erickson (outgoing clerk of Ministry & Oversight) read the 2018 Ministry & Oversight year end Committee report. The Meeting gratefully accepted the report as written.

Terence McCormally, Treasurer and Clerk of the Finance Committee, reviewed the 2018 Finance Committee's year-end report and the Treasurer's year-end report. The Meeting gratefully accepted the report as written. In 2018, 40% of the contributions for 2018 came from 5 families and 20% of our contributions came from donors who never attend meeting.

Discussion around the issue of contributions included whether Friends could benefit from more detailed information of the type included in the report, sensitivity to the situation of those who cannot donate more, and consideration about what we would do if we had more donations.

The Meeting united around tasking a working group consisting of members of M & O, members of Finance Committee, and the Treasurer to discuss whether more communication to Meeting members and attenders about financial and demographic information concerning donations to the meeting would support our financial stewardship. The results of their discussion would be presented to the meeting in June after the newly constituted Finance Committee and this working group have met.

The Meeting united with the sense of this decision giving the clerk and the recording clerk faith to reword as needed to reflect the meeting's decision. (reflected in the above wording).

Paul Murphy, for the Nominating Committee, nominated **Katherine Cole** to the P & SC committee. The nomination was enthusiastically approved.

Inga Erickson, for the Naming Committee (Formerly referred to as the Committee to nominate the Nominating committee) nominated **Cathy Tunis** to the Nominating Committee. The nomination was wholeheartedly approved.

Student Peace Awards Reception Scheduled

The reception to honor the recipients of the 2019 Student Peace Awards for their achievements will be Sunday, March 10, 2019, at 4:15 pm, Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

Keynote speaker will be **David Swanson**, author, activist, journalist, radio host, and director of World BEYOND War, a global movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace.

www.fairfax.studentpeaceawards.org



In the Bleak Midwinter... A surprise snowstorm in Northern Virginia the weekend of January 12 forced the Meeting to cancel all activities, including Meeting for Business. Official snow totals for Herndon / Reston were around 10 inches over about 35 hours.

BYM Women's Retreat 2019

By Cathy Tunis

On the last weekend in January, 140 Quaker women from many Meetings in Baltimore Yearly Meeting met at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD. Seventeen women were from Herndon, qualifying us for a second-place tie for numbers of attenders. First place went to Sandy Spring and the tie was with Adelphi, but we like to think we won (in a non-competitive way) because our percentage of attenders in relation to the size of our Meeting was greatest.

The theme of the Retreat was *Women's Treasure: Honoring our Time and Talents*. The activities reflected this theme, from the Playback Theatre improvisations to workshops and worship sharing queries. **Playback Theatre** is an interactive form of improvisational theatre in which audience members tell stories from their lives and watch them enacted on the spot. The 6-person ensemble based in DC that came to the Retreat included a violinist, four actors, and an emcee. They enacted stories from our group that were sometimes very touching, but also made us laugh.

We gathered in worship sharing groups three times over the course of the weekend to consider a series of queries, such as "What makes my heart sing," "How do I deepen my awareness of my gifts," and "How can we help each other treasure our time and talents."

A wide variety of workshops to choose from were available Saturday morning and afternoon, including several presented by Herndon Friends. **Abby Burford** led a discussion on the Spiritual Opportunity of De-Cluttering, **Abbey Compton, Liz Willson,** and **Katherine Cole** led a discussion on Eldercare, and **Inga Erickson** co-led Sacred Chanting. Inga

also co-led us in chanting throughout the weekend. There was even time for circle dancing, walks around the beautiful countryside, visiting the goats and chickens, and the occasional nap. Saturday was capped off with a very entertaining evening Coffeehouse, "wherein we amuse and inspire each other with songs, stories, and poems."

Herndon Friends featured prominently, with **Margaret Fisher, Stacey LaRoy,** and Inga Erickson singing a trio and **Leah** and **Camryn Joy** singing and performing a song, with sign language interpretation.

Katherine Cole and **Anna McCormally** performed a rousing violin and piano finale that brought the house down.

Everyone agreed that one of the highlights of the Retreat is the fantastic healthy and fresh Kosher food, with a wide variety for every dietary need. All in all, everyone went home feeling better than when they arrived. As a matter of fact, Herndon Friends couldn't say goodbye, and got together at a local restaurant for lunch on the way home. (see photos)



Post-Retreat Lunch ... (clockwise from top left) Abby Burford, Stacey LaRoy, Jodi Beatty, Margaret Fischer, Inga Erickson, Margaret Rogers, Liz Willson, Abbey Compton



Post-Retreat Lunch ... (clockwise from top left) Bert Curtis, Amy Shinkman, Gretel Von Pischke, Katherine Cole, Camryn Joe, Cat Wilkins, Cathy Tunis

Clerk's Corner

By Liz Willson



Someone recently asked, “How do I learn about ‘Quaker process?’” She was referring to the process of clerking a Quaker committee or Monthly Meeting for Business. It is intimidating to think about leading a group of people in what has been described as “practical group mysticism” – collective decision-making, not by majority rule, or even consensus, but by seeking unity with that divine Inner Light that lives within each of us and permeates our community.

Wow. How can we possibly manage the mundane needs of the Meeting community, such as keeping the lights on, cleaning up after potluck, and making sure there’s a teacher for First Day School, if we also must follow a sacred process to accomplish those seemingly ordinary decisions? It can sound ridiculous. But wait, there is a brilliant wisdom behind the way Quakers make decisions through listening intently to the Inner Light in each other and waiting expectantly for a sense of unity before moving into action.

The subtler truth in Quaker process is that we’re not just keeping the furnace working; we are building a beloved community. The decision about the furnace (or landscaping or getting a dishwasher) is just a tool for learning to love one another.

There are a lot of legitimate reasons why members of the Meeting may disagree or have seemingly irreconcilable concerns about the right course of action for the Meeting, even when making what seems like a very practical decision. If our meetings are held in a spirit of worship and a climate of safety for all who are attending, then each voice can be heard and honored, and the group will find a

Resources on Quaker Process

A Practical Mysticism: How Quaker Process Opens Us to the Promptings of the Divine (PHP 453) by Elizabeth Meyer; Pendle Hill Pamphlet

Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting (PHP 307) by Barry Morley; Pendle Hill Pamphlet

Leadership and Authority in the Religious Society of Friends by Arthur Larrabee; 44th Annual Walton Lecture, Southeastern Yearly Meeting

way forward.

Committee clerks and Monthly Meeting clerks have a responsibility to create this climate of safety and to listen deeply and provide guidance. We believe that the authority of our Meetings comes from the Divine. At the same time, no organization can function without leadership.

Thankfully, clerks are not alone in this responsibility. Each time we attend a

committee meeting or a monthly business meeting, we share responsibility for creating space for the sacred to manifest itself, listening deeply to both the words and the hearts of others, and building our beloved community ...one "furnace" decision at a time.

There are several ways to learn about Quaker process: attend a clerking workshop, read Pendle Hill pamphlets, and watch other clerks to see what they do. However, the best way is to experience it. Come to Monthly Business Meeting; be part of loving each other through both the mundane and difficult decisions; actively participate in the beloved community.

News from Fauquier Friends Worship Group

*By Bonnie Stockslager, Convener,
Fauquier Friends Worship Group*

Fauquier Friends have been holding a second gathering for worship each month at a Friend's home in Warrenton. That one has been nicknamed "Friendly Eights at Jean's" although actual attendance is more like 3 to 6, not counting **Jean's** well-behaved and Quakerly-quiet canine friend.

Isn't it remarkable how often pets catch on with the spirit of silent, expectant worship? The storm required cancellation of Friendly Eights' worship on January 12.

When the weather is more settled, Fauquier Friends Worship Group would like to have a similar "Friendly Eights" once-a-month worship somewhere south of Bealeton for the convenience of those who live in the greater Fredericksburg area.

All are welcome, including one-time visitors who just want to experience this

different way of worship. There is no longer a worship group in Madison County and the Preparative Meeting in Fredericksburg was laid down years ago, so if you know of anyone in this large area who might want to get details on a future Stafford/Spotsylvania County worship meeting once a month, please pass along the above information. Friends might want to take notice of the great job **Sue Gass Burson** does on the FB posts including links to QuakerSpeak videos. If you haven't already done so, please "like us" on Facebook: Fauquier Friends Worship Group - Quaker.

Friends may also email for more info: fauquierfriends@gmail.com or call in the afternoon and leave a message for the Convener, **Bonnie Stockslager**, at (540) 439-6289.

Solving the Life Equation in an Expanding Universe

By Abbey Compton



I was a true believer in the rich promise of modern convenience, so I was blindsided when as a 34-year-old wife and working mom of a preschooler, I found my own mom suffering cognitive impairment and losing the capacity to care for herself. Read more: <https://wp.me/p7uAor-7P>

Herndon Friends Meeting
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