

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 • JUNE 2023

THE HERNDON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING
QUAKER, 660 SPRING STREET HERNDON, VA 20170

LIVING OUR FAITH

There is no one way to be a Quaker. The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, is by definition inclusive of all as we believe that there is something of God in everyone and that each human being is of unique worth. Quakers grow and live out their faith through the experience of sharing the quiet presence of God. Over the centuries of experiencing this shared presence Quakers have come to share core insights, called testimonies: integrity, equality, simplicity, community, stewardship of the Earth, and peace. Quakers challenge ourselves to live out these testimonies and then review our progress by responding through deep reflection to queries. Each newsletter will pose a query and offer responses from Members of Herndon Friends Meeting.

Community query for this edition:

Earth is a precious gift with which we have been entrusted.

*Climate change is harming Earth. We need to return to our appropriate relationship with Earth.....*Quaker Earthcare Witness

What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our relationship with the Earth?



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MOST CURRENT INFORMATION .

WWW.HERNDONFRIENDSMEETING.ORG



QUERY RESPONSES

We are receiving almost daily and weekly reminders about disturbing trends about the implications of the long-term health of the planet. As part of our stewardship of the earth, I think we have to act more thoughtfully in terms of how we live, what we eat, how we spend our money, how we dispose of the excess of things that we own, how we treat our immediate environment in terms of physical care of the earth, the plants we buy and the chemicals that we use.

Herndon Friend, Harry Tunis

The Anti-Racism Working Group of Herndon Friends Meeting encounters the effects of the pollution crises in our monthly discussions on-line. Less affluent neighborhoods in the DMV (DC, MD, VA) experience the extremes of weather and man made pollution in ways that endanger human existence. But all neighborhoods have people born and made of earth, atmosphere, and water. We must accept the bleak reality of ecocide and resist by ending the consumption of fossil fuel and animal products as Chris Hedges writes so emphatically in his Requiem for Our Species.

Herndon Friend, Marguerite Miller

At the macro level, advocate for public policy and support candidates for office that will work for solutions, such as alternative sources of energy and protection of natural habitats. At the personal level, practice recycling and composting, religiously. And then limit the amount of lawn around our own houses, plant and nurture native plants, and if possible, establish an organic vegetable garden to grow some of our own food. When home gardening is not possible, shop at farmers markets to support local farmers. I realize all of these suggestions are 1st world solutions, but that's where I live.

Herndon Friend, Cathy Tunis

The greatest causes of climate change have mostly originated from overconsumption. Our gridlocked roads, polluting jets and egregious waste are examples. By valuing the Quaker testimony of simplicity, we might consume less and thereby value the testimony of Stewardship.

Herndon Friend, Matthew Lofgren

Think about how your mother told you to "clean your room" That's what we have to do in making sure we are aware of how our activities affect others and the world in which we live. Always leave your space cleaner than when you found it.

Herndon Friend, Fred Cresson

We turned on the solar panels on the Meeting House in July 2020. The project included replacing the asphalt shingle roof with a metal roof that cost three times as much, but should last more than three times as long as shingles. In the year before we turned on the panels we were paying an average of \$59 a month for electricity, and since then our average monthly bill is 12.40, so a little less than 1/4th as much.

The savings is important, but it's also important as a model for our community that solar is possible and not unsightly

Herndon Friend, Terence McCormally

HERNDON FRIENDS SUPPORT PRIDE MONTH



EASTER WITH FRIENDS





Committee list and Leadership

CLERK: Meg Wallace

MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

Tim Stanley

Care Coordinating Sub-Committee

Priscilla Chamlee

FINANCE

Harry Tunis

Terence McCormally-Treasurer

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

Stacey LaRoy

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

Mary Brandon & Katherine Cole

Anti-Racism Working Group

Marguerite Miller & Tivonia Nagle

Peace Awards Committee

Margaret Fisher & Margaret Rogers

Friends Committee on Federal Legislation

Mary Brandon

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Inga Erickson

HOSPITALITY

Cat Wilkins

HOUSE AND GROUNDS

Harry Tunis

Green Working and Landscape and

Habitat Working Groups

Margaret Fisher

**COMMITTEE LEADERS CAN BE CONTACTED
AT HERNDONFRIENDSMTG@GMAIL.COM
WITH LEADER'S NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE**

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communication and Outreach:

Herndon Friends new website is live! Please visit us at www.herndonfriendsmeeting.org. All personal member information is password protected. Send a note to herndonfriendsmtg@gmail.com to get instructions on how to create an account.

Peace and Social Concerns:

Herndon Friends raised over \$2500 to purchase much needed bed linens Artemis House Shelter. Friends purchased 20 bed-in-a bag sets for the shelter. The remaining funds are being held in reserve for future assistance as needed. Thank you, Judith Fox, for taking the lead on this effort.

Discussion is ongoing regarding conducting a special public peace vigil at the Friends Meeting House to commemorate the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Saturday August 12. More details will be sent via worship announcements, list serve and on the website.

The Herndon Friends Antiracism Working Group led a First Hour Discussion at our Meeting House on May 22nd. Three queries guided our discussion on racism: 1) How would your family's history change if your skin were a different color (given that not everyone within a family has the same skin color or skin tone.) 2) How has your thinking about the roles we play in a racist society changed over time? 3) What are small or large things you do, or could do, to defeat white supremacy?

Two members of the ARWG History Committee Subgroup met with the Town of Herndon Director of Community Development to discuss changing the wording of a historical marker near the Herndon Friends Meeting House. The Director expressed interest in replacing the current marker with one that states accurate information about segregation and historical use of the Meeting House. Herndon Friends members will help with the wording of the new sign

House and Grounds:

The Green Working and Landscape Working Group needs assistance keeping the weeds under control in the lovely gardens around the Meeting House. Weeding Parties spring up all summer long. Be on the lookout for announcements weekly. Many hands literally save backs on this job (and knees, and shoulders, and....)

Religious Education:

Our weekly Godly Play sessions continue during Meeting for Worship with our youngest friends and teens. Our session theme for summer is "Lightly Spiced." We are looking for volunteers to lead sessions from June 18- September 3 to give our current leaders a break. Two security cleared adults are needed for each week. For further information contact Inga Erickson



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO QUAKERS

QUAKERS AND THE LIBERAL LABEL

Modern Friends struggle with the “liberal” label. It’s easy to see why. Many Monthly Meetings, particularly those associated with the practices and traditions of the Friends General Conference, advocate for peaceful conflict resolution, gender and racial equality, social justice, access to food and health care, environmental stewardship, same sex marriage and other issues that have come to be associated with modern liberalism.

But as I have become more deeply involved with Quakers over the years I see the meaninglessness of political labels. Issues related to peace, environmental stewardship, equality and other practices can be perceived as both “liberal” and “conservative.” But beneath the labels, I find Quaker values like integrity, simplicity and community running through most decisions and discussions.

Coming to Quakerism in college from another religious tradition, as I did, led some members of my family to believe I had undergone a radical-liberal transformation, confirming their worst fears about sending children away to college. But for me the opposite was true. Sitting in the silence of my college’s Chapel House on Sunday mornings seemed in so many ways a much simpler and more traditional way to relate to the Spirit.

In the end, it’s not how others characterize Quakers or the political and social groups individuals are aligned with. What we believe, and what we act upon as a result of our beliefs, defines who we are.

Herndon Friend, Paul Murphy



ENJOY THIS NEW, INCITEFUL AND ENTERTAINING PODCAST EXPLORING STORIES OF SPIRITUAL COURAGE AND THE BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT MODERN LIFE AND SPIRITUALITY. PRODUCED BY THE CREATORS OF QUAKER SPEAK VIDEOS. LISTEN AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SERIES AT [HTTPS://QUAKERPODCAST.COM](https://quakerpodcast.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR MEETING AT 660 SPRING STREET SUNDAYS AT 10:15. A.M. TO ATTEND VIA ZOOM PLEASE CALL 703-736-0592 TO ACQUIRE THE LINK

POT LUCK SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AFTER MEETING FOR WORSHIP AT THE MEETING HOUSE

VIGIL FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND EQUALITY: SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M. AT MEETING HOUSE

MEN'S GROUP: SUNDAY, JUNE 11 AT 7:30 P.M. AND THEN BI-WEEKLY (VIA ZOOM)

SANDWICH MAKING (FOR LOCAL SHELTER): SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 10:30 A.M.

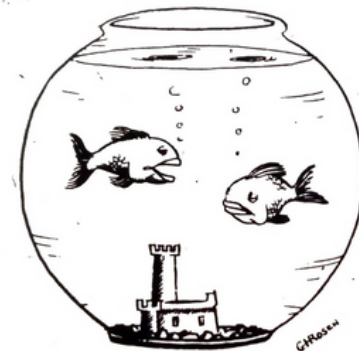
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL) ADVOCACY TEAM: FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH 7:00 P.M. (VIA ZOOM)

ANIT-RACIST WORKING GROUP: FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM

VIGIL FOR NAGASAKI AND HIROSHIMA ANNIVERSARY: SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

SEVERAL COMMITTEES TAKE A BREAK DURING THE SUMMER. SEE YOU IN THE FALL.

Princeton Tiger



OKAY—IF THERE IS NO GOD, WHO CHANGES THE WATER?