

The Herndon Light



11th Month 10th Day, 2019 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 262

November 22, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm -- A Native American Perspective, Richmond Friends Meeting House, 4500 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221

December 1, Rise of Meeting – Potluck

December 8, 9:00 am – Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

December 15, 9:00 am – First Hour Discussion: *What Quaker Camp Means to Me* a panel of current and former HFM campers tell their stories

December 21, 5:30 pm – Annual Christmas Sing and sweet and savory finger foods potluck

January 17 and 24, 2020 – HFM Change Team Book Discussion on White Fragility and How to be an Anti-Racist

February 7-9, 2020 – BYM Annual Women’s Retreat, Pearlstone Retreat Center, Reistertown, MD

4th Query: Diversity

Does your vision of a just society include people living their lives without fear of discrimination based on who they are, what they believe, and whom they love?

Are we willing to be in communion with each other, open to our differences yet secure in the one Spirit that calls us all to be Friends?

Do my decisions reflect the voices of people of color, people of different sexual identities, people of different ages and economic conditions? Do I take the risks that right action demands?

Do I seek out and listen to perspectives that promote equal access, inclusion, and welcome for people of all cultures and backgrounds?

How do we work toward creating a community of different people, rather than being a community that just lets different people in?

Do we take the time to see what we want to become as people and as a global community, and do we humbly acknowledge that we have some work to do?

Minutes of 11th Month Monthly Meeting

Clerk Elizabeth Willson opened the Meeting for Business with a reading of the 4th Query on Diversity from the *2013 Resource for Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting*. She also read from the *Advices and Voices*. Friends responded to the Queries out of the silence. One Friend spoke about David Scull, a member of Langley Hill, whose life spoke of his concern for equality. He was instrumental in integrating the lunch counters in DC. Another offered the metaphors: “Diversity is the invitation to the party” and “Inclusion is being invited to dance.” Another added, “And who gets to pick the music?”

The Clerk asked the 15 Friends present to introduce themselves by saying their names out loud.

Acting Recording Clerk, Cathy Tunis, read the Minutes from 10th Month Monthly Meeting.

Report from BYM Interim Meeting – Harry Tunis gave a report of the November 2nd Interim Meeting, held at Stony Run Friends Meeting in Baltimore.

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 McLendon (bluejay258@gmail.com). Correspondence and notices can be sent to PO Box 88, Herndon, VA 20172.

The Care Coordinating Committee is available for Friends in need due to illness, emergency, or other concerns. Please contact Priscilla Chamlee (dandpchamlee@gmail.com), Fred Cresson (cresson4@verizon.net), Margaret Rogers (margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com), or Bert Curtis (bertedits@gmail.com).

That report is included in its entirety later in the newsletter..

Report of the Nominating Committee – Paul Murphy read the preliminary report, prepared with committee members Cathy Tunis and Cat Wilkins. The committee was asked to redo the section on First Day School class coordinators based on input from Jolene and Abbey. Margaret Fisher asked that we list names for the Greening and Landscaping Working Groups. They can be added at the time the annual report of the working groups is prepared. Some appointments need to be confirmed or completed, so the final report will be distributed next month.

House and Grounds Committee. Harry Tunis reported on the completion of the masonry work around the meetinghouse grounds. These tasks included replacing sections of the sidewalk at the Locust Street side entrance, replacing and painting the cement facing on the foundation across the front of the building, patching the concrete steps and porch, and replacing sections of the sidewalk from the front porch to Spring Street. Both sets of steps were also power-washed.

Proposed Budget for 2020 – First reading. Liz Willson presented the proposed budget on behalf of the Treasurer Terence McCormally who could not be present today. Terence will be here for the final report in December, but Friends are asked to contact him with any questions or comments. Liz pointed out the reduction in apportionment from BYM.

Meg Wallace raised a question about the Gifts section of the budget. The ad-hoc committee working on this will prepare a revised list of recipients to give to Terence. Possible additions are the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions and Quaker Earthcare Witness. William Penn House is now under the jurisdiction of FCNL and should be removed as a separate line item.

The Meeting thanked Terence for his work on the budget.

BYM Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals has requested to use the Meetinghouse for a public showing of the film: *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*. **The Meeting approved this use.**

Cat Wilkins reminded us that the Women's Retreat will be on the second weekend in February 2020,

Feb. 7-9, which will conflict with our Meeting for Business time. The suggestion was to reschedule the Meeting for Business to the third Sunday of February, February 16. The January Meeting for Business will be held as usual on the second Sunday, January 12.

Report from Interim Meeting at Stony Run

An active young Friend, Kallan Benson, age 15, from Annapolis Friends Meeting spoke to us about her activism on climate change. She was awarded the United Nations prize, "Champions of the Earth Award" along with Greta Thunberg and others. They elected to hold the award for the UN to earn. She spoke about the project "Parachutes for the Planet" and encouraged us all to become involved in creating them. Play parachutes (non-functional) are circular pieces of cloth decorated with artwork and collective commitments to sustainable actions. Individual action is not enough; we need corporate change. The next Fridays for the Future action is November 29.

Clerk Marcy Sietel reviewed the queries approved at Annual Session on antiracism and urged us to keep that context in mind as we move through the agenda. A handout at the session included examples from many Meetings, including Herndon, about what they were doing on this topic.

Abbey Compton spoke about the work of the Indian affairs committee and recognition of Piscataway lands. Abbey sent a note to Herndon Friends about a Monacan chief speaking at Richmond Friends Meeting on 22 November at 3 p.m.

We were reminded of the Friends General Conference "Gathering" at Radford University, Radford, Virginia, June 28 to July 4. This location might be the closest ever to Northern Virginia.

Camp Program Manager Jane Megginson reported that camps were 84% full this year. Expenses were adjusted accordingly. Let's get the word out for the 2020 camping season. If you enlist a camper then your own camper can get \$100 off the camp registration fee.

Camp Property Manager, David Hunter, gave an overview of the repairs and maintenance done at the camps. Donations to the Camp Capitol budget are very low so we likely will need to cut back on some of the plans for new cabins and repairs. Please

donate to the Yearly Meeting with designated funds if you are so led.

A subcommittee of the Program Committee is beginning consideration of a "Pay as Lead" approach to fees for Annual Session. Please see Harry Tunis (who is on this subcommittee) for further explanation and questions you have so this new format can be more carefully considered.

Meg Meyer and Arthur Boyd returned their traveling minute for their work at Ramallah Friends School. They would be glad to speak to Meetings about their experiences.

We have a new STRIDE coordinator, Khalila Lomax, who works with others to help ensure diversity at the BYM Camps.

An ad hoc committee was formed to think about celebrating BYM's 350th Anniversary in 2020 as well as the 100th anniversary of the camps. If you are interested, please contact Liz Hofmeister (301 987-6313).

Treasurer Tom Hill gave an update on the budget. Traditionally most of the donations are received at the end of the year. Now, more than ever, donations are needed. Apportionment and fees only cover about two thirds of the expenses of the Yearly Meeting.

Quaker Q&A:

Q: What is the process for becoming a member?

A: The Meeting encourages everyone who is a regular attender and is in general agreement with the Religious Society of Friends principles of belief and testimonies to think about becoming a member of Herndon Friends.

To start the process, submit a short written note or letter that explains why you are drawn to membership in the Meeting to Stacey LaRoy, the Clerk of Ministry and Oversight (M&O) or to the Clerk of the Meeting. M&O will appoint a Clearness Committee (2-3 people) to meet with you, talk about your understanding of Quaker faith and practice and your desire for membership. The Clearness Committee makes a recommendation to the Monthly Meeting for Business.

Most people who have gone through the process of clearness for membership find the process to be deeply meaningful and affirming.

Thanksgiving Baskets for Needy Families



On Sunday, November 17, Herndon Friends prepared 60 Thanksgiving baskets for Cornerstones to deliver to needy families in our community. Thanks to the great organization of the Young Friends and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, especially Tim and Melanie Stanley, members and attenders each grabbed a box and walked through the assembly line putting all the ingredients for a great family meal and extra treats into each box.

The cost of the baskets this year was approximately \$45 per basket, including a \$25 gift card for groceries. The meeting collected \$500 above and beyond the actual cost of the food, which will be donated to Cornerstones separately.

Becoming an Anti-Racist Community

At the October Monthly Meeting for Business, Herndon Friends adopted the declaration of the BYM Growing Diverse Leadership Committee on Anti-Racism. This declaration suggests that Monthly Meetings and their committees consider a series of queries as they engage in decision making. These queries are:

- How could this decision affect those who have been harmed by racist behavior?
- To what degree have privilege, class, stereotypes, assumptions, and our ability to include other perspectives affected this decision? Will this decision promote equity, diversity, and inclusiveness? Will it enable us to be more friendly and whole?
- How will we provide opportunities for those most likely to be directly affected by our decision to influence that decision?
- How does this decision support the declaration of our Yearly Meeting that we are an anti-racist faith community?

These queries are helpful in reminding us that we often come at decisions with assumptions that are based on our own particular and unique experiences and assumptions. It's good to remember that we don't know what we don't know and step outside our individual perspective.

Marguerite Miller and Lynn Nagle are helping members learn about racism and how to be anti-racist in our thinking and actions is by hosting a series of book discussions. In January, they will host two opportunities to discuss *How to Be an Ant-Racist* by Ibram X.Kendi and *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. The discussion on January 17 will be held at Marguerite Miller's home – before the fire and with hearty snacks – at 7:00pm. The second opportunity for discussion will be held at the Meetinghouse on January 24, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Both books will be discussed during both sessions, but you do not have to have read both books to participate.

BYM Annual Women's Retreat

Registration is open for the Annual BYM Women's Retreat! The retreat will be held at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reistertown, MD on February 7-9, 2020. **Scholarships are available for anyone wishing to attend from Herndon Friends.** Let someone on the Ministry and Oversight Committee or Treasurer Terence McCormally know if you wish to use a scholarship.

You can register at www.womensretreat.bym-rsf.net. There is a discounted early registration rate for people who register before December 27, 2019.

Will Meinert Performs in the Magic Flute at the Kennedy Center

On November 22, Herndon Friends turned out in force to support Will Meinert in his Kennedy Center debut as the high priest Sorastro in Mozart's opera, *The Magic Flute*. Will is the son of Laura Mackie and David Meinert. He grew up in the Meeting and attended Catoctin Quaker Camp. One of his high school teachers noted his vocal talent and deep bass vocal range and encouraged him to study opera. Will has completed both his university and conservatory studies and is beginning a promising international opera career.

On one level, *The Magic Flute* is an enchanting fairy tale on a deeper level the opera is about the triumph of light over darkness, reason and science over irrationality and fear. The role of Sorastro is notable because it contains one of the lowest bass notes written into an operatic aria – an F that is two octaves below middle C – and Will had the range to nail it!

Herndon Friends Gretel von Pischke, Katherine Cole, Terence McCormally, Cathy Tunis, Harry Tunis, Bert Curtis, Liz Willson, Anna McCormally and Aaron Goldbeck all enjoyed a festive night out to cheer Will on in his Kennedy Center debut.



Declaration by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as an Anti-Racist Faith Community

In struggling with how to ensure that our Yearly Meeting is an anti-racist faith community, we have come to some convictions.

WE ASPIRE TO RECOGNIZE AND AFFIRM DIVERSITY AS A MEANS TO TRUTH

We Friends are of many skin colors, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, stages of life, and socially constructed racial identities. We are all seeking the Spirit's presence in our lives, and in our life together. We recognize that some of us have experienced oppression and marginalization in ways that others have not. We aspire to live as members of the blessed community, which is one of liberation, equity, and great diversity across all differences.¹

WE APPROACH RACISM AS A VIRUS TO BE HEALED

Simply "addressing" racism is too weak. Believing that we can simply end racism is too optimistic. Our response to racism must be to challenge it, to confront it, to correct it, and to heal this societal infection.²

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BECOMING MORE INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING TO ALL

We are committed to discerning how our Meetings at all levels can be more inclusive and welcoming to all, can encourage participation and leadership among all Friends, and can build an anti-racist, multicultural community.³

WE STRIVE TO DO MORE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN TRUST

We will focus upon being more authentic (sharing the real me), logical (being rigorous in my thinking), and empathic (my being in it for others).⁴

WE SEEK TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT BENEFIT SOME AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS

We are encouraged by a practice that was adopted by the Board of Trustees at Pendle Hill Conference and Retreat Center several years ago to vet each decision using the following queries:

1. How might this decision affect people from other cultures or those within the same culture who have different experiences, perceptions, belief systems, and perspectives from our own?
2. To what degree have privilege, class, stereotypes, assumptions, and our ability to include other perspectives affected this decision? Will this decision promote inclusiveness, allow equal access, and welcome those we perceive as different from ourselves?
3. How might this decision advance Pendle Hill's goals of promoting diversity, fostering justice, and creating the Beloved Community for all people?

¹ Baltimore Yearly Meeting Statement of Vision (2016, adopted as revised)

² Baltimore Yearly Meeting Epistle (2017 Annual Session)

³ Baltimore Yearly Meeting Epistle (2018 Annual Session)

⁴ Pettus, C. (2018). A Descriptive Analysis of the Views of People of Color Regarding Building a Bigger and Better Worship Community (A report submitted to the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting)

A Proposal by the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee to the 2019 BYM Annual Session

A MAJOR STEP TOWARD BECOMING MORE ANTI-RACIST IS TO TEST DECISIONS WE MAKE

Using queries to examine how our decisions may promote inclusiveness, allow equal access, and welcome those we perceive as different from ourselves could, we believe, guide us in our deliberations. It will also make us more accountable for our actions and less likely to be satisfied with a statement that sounds laudatory, but proves empty or even harmful. In that regard, we seek to always be able to answer the following queries:

1. How could this decision affect those who have been harmed by racist behavior?
2. To what degree have privilege, class, stereotypes, assumptions, and our ability to include other perspectives affected this decision? Will this decision promote equity, diversity, and inclusiveness? Will it enable us to be more friendly and whole?
3. How will we provide opportunities for those most likely to be directly affected by our decision to influence that decision?
4. How does this decision support the declaration of our Yearly Meeting that we are an anti-racist faith community?

IN LOVE AND PEACE, WE CAN LIVE AS FRIENDS

We will reach out to and welcome others we do not yet know, but who are God's children, as we are. This must be done with warmth, compassion, love, and truth so it is rightly ordered (has integrity) and reciprocated in love and peace.

Further, we will include friends-to-be in our activities and welcome their questions and differences in understanding and action so as to develop friendships and become a whole community, richer due both to our more diverse composition, perspectives, and strengths and to the truth and love we have grown and used in the process.

Herndon Friends Meeting
660 Spring Street
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