

The Herndon Light



4th Month 9, 2017A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 244

- 4/15 BYM Faith and Practice Revision Listening Session, Bethesda Meeting 1-3 pm
- 4/16 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship—Easter!
- 4/23 Adult Discussion: 9:00 AM The Conversation Project: End of Life Planning K. Cole
- 4/23 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 4/26 Active Bystander Training 2-5 pm at **Langley Hill Meetinghouse** Registration Required
- 4/30 Plant Exchange at Rise of Meeting for Worship
- 5/7 Potluck again!
- 5/7 Active Bystander Training at the Herndon Meetinghouse 1 to 4 pm Registration required
- 5/14 NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS IN MAY
- 5/21 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 5/21 Adult Discussion 9:00 AM To Be Announced
- 6/4 Pot Luck at Rise of Meeting For Worship
- 6/11 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9:00 AM

Query: Community

Are love and unity maintained among you?
What helps our Meeting build trust in one another?

How do we get to know one another in our spiritual community and in other religious communities?

How do we make time in our lives for our Meeting?

How do our conflicts have the potential to enrich the life of our community?

Advices

The Meeting can consciously cultivate fellowship and community, and is enriched when all members and attenders participate actively. The working of the Spirit in our lives is expressed through ministry, pastoral caring for each other, and the example provided by lives lived in the Light. As we worship, work,

and laugh together, we forge bonds of trust, understanding, and communication.

When need arises to address contentious issues, they then may be addressed openly and honestly. Conflict thus experienced can also build trust and intimacy. When resolution is not immediate, the Meeting can make room for different expressions of continuing revelation, while persisting in earnest search for unity. Convictions that might divide or disrupt a Meeting can, through God's grace, help to make it creative and strong.

From BYM Faith and Practice, 1988:

“Friends who restrict their experience of the Society to their local Meeting are missing rich experiences of fellowship in the wider community. Quarterly, Half-yearly and Yearly Meetings as well as larger gatherings provide opportunities for Friends of all ages to

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** <http://www.quakercloud.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 abbey.compton@verizon.net; 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

broaden their experience of the Society and the circle of their spiritually-based friendships.

“Our belief in the universality of the Inner Light requires us to “walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone” as George Fox urged. No human being is excluded from our sense of community, for we are led by our faith to view human beings as children of God rather than as stereotypes of cultures, nations, or ideologies. It is individual people with whom fellowship must be established, and each Friend must seek in the quiet of worship the personal strength to work at the establishment of community.

“It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.”

Meeting For Business 4/9/17

Cat Wilkins gathered 22 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with a reading of the 3rd Query on Community. Terence McCormally presented the treasurer’s report.

Payoff of Meetinghouse Mortgage: Following up on the minute approved at last month’s Meeting for Business, the meeting has paid off the Promissory note to complete the purchase of the Meetinghouse from the Herndon Fortnightly Club. Assistant Treasurer Liz Willson and Trustee Harry Tunis coordinated the presentation of the \$72,000 check, and received the original copy of the note in return.

Nominating Committee:

Harry Tunis reported for the nominating committee that Debbie McCormick has asked to be released from the nominating committee. Her request is granted; Paul Murphy will serve out the remainder of her term which runs

through the end of 2017. The clerk expressed gratitude to Debbie for her service on the committee.

The Nominating Committee has expressed some concern over the name of the group of people who meet to suggest who should be on the Nominating Committee. In the past, this has been referred to as the “ad hoc committee to nominate the nominating committee”, or abbreviated as the ComNomNomCon. The Recording clerk offered that at BYM this function is referred to as the “Search Committee”, although this might reasonably be applied to the Society as a whole. This weighty matter will be held over for further seasoning.

Spiritual State of the Meeting Report:

Stacey Laroy read the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, which was accepted with some modification. The report can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Care Coordination Committee: Fred Cresson read the annual report of the Care Coordination Committee, which was accepted without revision. The Care Committee has been in place for 7 years. Tim Stanley expressed gratitude for the support of the Care Coordination Committee during his recent health issues.

Greening the Meetinghouse

Margaret Fisher reported on the work of the Greening Committee and landscape designer Ed Colohan to develop a comprehensive landscape design for the Meetinghouse property. The goals of the committee are to create a property which is environmentally friendly, especially in terms of impermeable surfaces and rainwater runoff, welcoming to both wildlife and human visitors, and economical in maintenance. This is a multi year project which may eventually include outdoor seating, and replacement of some of the impermeable asphalt that leads to the Meetinghouse. For the next phase, the Committee is recommending the removal of the foundation shrubs from the front of the Meetinghouse and replacement with an assortment of naturally shorter shrubs and groundcover. Friends united with the recommendation to spend up to \$500 from the

Capital Fund for this project, with selection of specific plants to be delegated to Margaret, the Committee and the landscape designer.

Plant Exchange: Margaret Rogers announced that the Annual Plant Exchange will occur 5/30/17 at rise of Meeting for Worship Friends are encouraged to bring cuttings or transplants from their houseplants or yard plants. Friends should label plants and provide care instructions as needed. Contributors are asked to avoid bringing invasives.

BYM Interim Meeting

Harry Tunis reported on highlights of Interim Meeting which was held March 18th at Richmond Friends Meeting.

--Planning is underway for BYM Annual Session, to be held this year at Hood College in Frederick Maryland from July 31-August 6. The theme is "Growing towards Justice—Acting on Faith". The featured speaker on Friday evening is Shan Cretin, General Secretary, AFSC. Certificates are available for first time attenders to stay overnight.

Children up to eighth grade can attend Annual session for free (lodging and meals)

--Progress is being made towards completion of the new Camp Catoctin bathhouse, and it is anticipated that it will be completed in time for the summer camping season.



BYM has raised \$427,000 to support the construction of the facility, which is estimated to cost about \$800,000. A number of meetings and individuals have made no interest loans to BYM totaling \$270,000 so that it appears that it appears BYM will not need to use much, if any, of the unrestricted

reserves of BYM to meet the financial obligations to the builder.

There will be a fund raiser on June 3 at 7 pm at Frederick meeting to further financing efforts for the bathhouse.

-- BYM's Faith and Practice manual has been under revision for many years. An Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Process Clarification Committee has been formed to further this revision. There will be a listening session at Bethesda Friends from 1-2 on April 15. Thoughts are welcomed at fandp@bym-rsf.org This group will transition to a standing committee called Faith and Practice Committee.

--Each year, BYM expenses are divided among the monthly meetings using an apportionment formula based on "ability to pay." The goal is to ask each meeting for the same percentage of their income to support the Yearly Meeting. The formula is based mainly on income for each meeting but tries to account for the size of a meeting, meetings that have revenue generating endowments, larger than average expenses for maintenance of multiple buildings or burial grounds, or restricted funds for special purposes such as building a new Meeting house. The apportionment formula is reviewed yearly and is being refined so that it is more easily understood. Friends who are interested in the process are invited to attend one of two meetings to discuss the apportionment process at Floyd Meeting in Floyd Virginia on April 22 or Nottingham Meeting in Pennsylvania on April 29. Friends who plan to attend should register on the BYM website.

Active Bystander Training—Two Chances

Cat Wilkins announced a training session on Active Bystander Training on May 7 from 1 to 4 pm at the HFM Meetinghouse. This is in addition to the opportunity on March 26 – from 2 to 5 p.m. at Langley Hill Meeting. This training will prepare us to be active bystanders and actively intervene against bullying, harassment, or intimidation of others. The training is free, but registration is requested at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/active-bystander-training-tickets-32484598308>

Spiritual State of the Meeting 2016

Herndon Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Drawn Not Driven

There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end. Its hope is to outlive all wrath and contention, and to weary out all exaltation and cruelty, or whatever is of a nature contrary to itself.

--James Naylor 1660

As Herndon Friends gathered on 12th day Second Month 2017 to consider the Spiritual State of our Meeting we are affected most by the turmoil in our larger community. We find refuge in the comfort of our gathered meeting and at the same time we are drawn outward into struggles of the wider world.

We are grateful for our spiritual heritage and our spiritual practices. Central to this is our Meeting for Worship with its intense interior listening and the willingness to hold up our fears and joys and certitude, and aging and kids, and a kind of Eucharist not of bread and wine but of our shared lives. We recognize the value of persistence—Friends who bind the Meeting together by their faithful presence, their participation in committee work, their dedication to welcoming visitors and providing hospitality and shared meals, caring for the sick and caring for the Meetinghouse. Our Adult Discussion sessions on vocal ministry, our sharing of spiritual journeys, our new Second Saturday program, and our increasing participation in the BYM Women's Retreat all contribute to making the Meeting a place of spiritual growth and restoration that prepares us to be our best selves in the rest of the world. Our Meetings for Business have evolved, with more time for silence and consideration of the Queries, a practice that takes time but leaves us ready for deeper consideration of the decisions we must make. Our First Day School program recognizes and respects our children and our duty to them. More than a year of patient work by our Religious Education and House and Grounds committees led to the installation of a small cabin on our grounds for use as an auxiliary classroom for our Young Friends class, and

the students have claimed the space as their own. We cherish the maturation of Friends as the children of a few years ago become the teachers and caregivers and spiritual leaders of our meeting. And while we are grateful to the teachers who dedicate the time and study to lead our children, the teachers also express gratitude for the blessing that it is to teach.

We are proud of our Quaker history in the struggle for justice—in ending slavery, in opposing war, in promoting suffrage. We are affected by the suffering of the persecuted and are not immune to the righteous rage that such injustice can engender. It makes us struggle to be more intentionally Quaker, to live up to the high ideals and patient practice of our spiritual forebears. We want to stand with our Muslim colleagues, and our immigrant friends, our LGBT families and our poor neighbors. In our response, we endeavor not to be pushed by the flood but drawn by the light, led by hope and love and kindness not propelled by angry slogans, fear and hate. We desire to allow the calmness and centeredness of our Meeting for Worship to spread into the world, not have the anger and outrage of the world blight our bright Light Within.

In part, it is our duty to our children that makes imperative the struggle for social justice. The drive to social action arises directly from our recognition of the spiritual nature of our being.

We hear today many calls to resist, to protest, or to fight, but this is not the Quaker way. In the same way that we created a space for our children that they can grow into and claim as their own, we want our work in the world to create a space for our fellow seekers to grow into and claim as their own. Since we recognize in all the Inner Light, so also we see all as our fellow seekers. We need to speak up for those oppressed and less able to speak, and also for those whose experience of the Inner Light is shadowed by fear or greed or past hurt.

Putting our faith into action is both ambitious and difficult. While we find inspiration and joy from the company of those for whom we have great admiration, we find great challenge

in dealing with those for whom we don't have as much admiration. We crave the solidarity of our community, but recognize that we must also work with government and politics and our social institutions. The pressure of time threatens the balance of our lives as it challenges us to live a simple life, to marry our soul and our roles, to live, in the words of Parker Palmer, an undivided life.

--Approved in Meeting For Business 4-9-17

Greening the Meetinghouse Committee – 2016 Clerk's Report

The *ad hoc* Greening the Meetinghouse committee consists of anyone who shows up for meetings, which were held four times in 2015. Most of our focus in 2016 was on the outside property. We recommended that we stop using pesticides outdoors, and thus the Meeting cancelled its contracts with the pest control company and with the lawn service. We implemented three small planting projects, including installing native shrubs and a coral honeysuckle vine along the south wall of the building; adding native hydrangeas in pots next to the new shed; and organizing the embankment plantings to make them tidier-looking.

We talked to two companies about an underground rain cube system to capture storm water from the parking lot and the north side of the building. Ken Fraine from Erosion and Drainage Solutions gave us an estimate of \$8000 for three tanks. Mike Walters of First Impression Hardscapes recommended a more elaborate system with French drains but never got back to us with an estimate despite repeated requests. Enthusiasm for this project was dampened by the price and by the fact that it would be invisible once completed. A rain garden would make a better educational tool; we received an estimate from Ed Colohan for \$6000-\$8000. The committee organized an Earth Day event that included samples of environmentally friendly cleaning solutions with instructions for how to make them at home; anti-ant kits; safe substitutes for Round-Up; native plant guides and info about why we should promote native plants; fundana sales to benefit the Friends Wilderness Center; and a demonstration brick compost ring.

In September, we hosted an interfaith forum to promote home habitat. Representatives from seven faith communities attended a twenty minute showing of the movie *Hometown Habitat* followed by a discussion of how faith communities can spread the concept of stewardship of the earth by using their own properties to support wildlife and by holding educational forums for themselves and their neighbors.

2016 participants in the committee included Don Chamlee, Pricilla Chamlee, Keith Curtis, Louisa Davis, Margaret Fisher, Andrew LaRoy, Debbie McCormick, Paul Murphy, Margaret Rogers, Karen Williams.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Fisher

Family Emergency?

Herndon Friends are participating in Sanctuary DMV, an organization of faith communities in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, working to protect migrants and refugees in our area from discriminatory treatment by federal programs.

These people are put at risk by the demagoguery and scapegoating that blames "immigrants" for income inequality, poor job prospects, poor economic performance, and crime. Even refugees from war and persecution are described as criminal and terrorists. Instead of a rational, constitutional, humane immigration and refugee system, we are offered religious bans, clandestine raids and impractical walls to placate the populace. Sanctuary DMV hopes to assist those who are targeted by offering housing, legal assistance, and other services. Katherine Cole has received training for "accompaniment"—being available to go with other volunteers when a person has to attend an ICE check in or other court date—during which sometimes people are detained without being able to contact their families or an attorney. The volunteer can help coordinate that. Sanctuary DMV also organizes "rapid response teams" to go to migrant's homes when there is an ICE raid, to witness and document what goes on. Friends who want to help can seek training at sanctuarydmv.org.

Brief Reports

Practicing Peace In Times of War

“Someone once gave me a poem with a line in it that offers a good definition of peace: “Softening what is rigid in our hearts.” We can talk about ending war and we can march for ending war, we can do everything in our power, but war is never going to end as long as our hearts are hardened against each other.

--Pema Chödrön

Margaret Rogers reported that 180 people attended the Peace Awards Reception held 3/12/17 at the Sherwood Community Center. Margaret Fisher officiated at the ceremony honoring 22 Fairfax County High School students for their efforts. Details about each student's project is available at the Connection newspaper website

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/mar/16/committed-peacemaking/>

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