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February 2022 Calendar

Sunday Meeting for Worship is held at 11:00 a.m. in a hybrid format. Most friends participate via Zoom. Some friends participate in person at Bethesda Friends Meeting. (See guidelines under events.) Unless otherwise indicated, all of the other following events are virtual.

1	Tues	7:00 p.m.	Religions of the Axial Age (every Tuesday)
2	Wed	7:00 p.m.	Nonviolence Book Discussion
		8:00 p.m.	Mid-Week Worship (check-in by e-mail, every Wednesday)
5	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat
		1:00 p.m.	Indigenous Friends of Turtle Island Session on
Decolonizing			
		4:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee
6	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business
		10:50 a.m.	First Day School Resumes!
		1:00 p.m.	Committee Day: Library Committee
10	Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Committee Day: Child Care Committee
12	Sat	1:00 p.m.	Black Quaker Project Film Festival Part One
		1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group
13	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Committee Day: Religious Education
		9:30 a.m.	Reflections on the Spiritual State of the Meeting
		12:30 p.m.	Spiritual Coffeehouse
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light (via phone/e-mail, Zoom sharing)
		8:30 p.m.	March Newsletter Deadline
16	Wed	7:00 p.m.	Nonviolence Book Discussion
		7:30 p.m.	Digitization Committee
18	Fri	7:00 p.m.	BYM Young Friends Conference, Stony Run Frds. Mtg
		7:30 p.m.	Washington Friends Conf. on Religion & Psych.
19	Sat	1:30 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Program Gathering
20	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care
		9:15 a.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship, Stewardship
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach & Communications
		12:30 p.m.	Reflections on the Spiritual State of the Meeting

26	Sat	7:00 p.m.	O&C Virtual Game Night (date and time TBD)
27	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee
		1:00 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light (via phone/e-mail, Zoom sharing)

For details, see www.bethesdafriends.org

Query for February: Caring for One Another and Listening

How can we most effectively foster a loving and understanding attitude in our community? What helps me to listen deeply and with an open heart to others? When is it hardest for me to be ready to listen? How do we share in the diverse joys and transitions in each other's lives? In challenging or stressful times, how open am I to seeking support from the Meeting community?

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for February is for the Torture Abolition & Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). TASSC was founded by and for torture survivors to end the practice of torture wherever it occurs (in some 150 countries) and to work with survivors through a trauma-informed and strength-based perspective, focusing on resilience and each survivor's own strengths as they move toward a brighter future. TASSC provided comprehensive services to 279 survivors from 21 different countries, 9,120 hours of pro bono service from local professionals, advocated for human rights in 65 Congressional meetings, provided 100 employment counseling sessions, and 12 career development workshops. COVID has impacted their ability to be a drop-in center. In more normal times, they provide a "second home" for survivors in a warm and caring environment where survivors can begin to heal, enjoy coffee, eat lunch, speak with staff, attend events and workshops, or use computers and borrow books from the library. For details, see www.tassc.org

To donate to the Social Concerns Box, please go to: www.bethesdafriends.org Clearly designate that your contribution is for the Social Concerns Box. If you prefer, you may send your check, made payable to Bethesda Friends Meeting, to Assistant Treasurer, Bethesda Friends Meeting, 3050 Military Road, NW, Apartment 834, Washington DC 20015.

In December, Bread for the City received \$200 via the Social Concerns Box.

Religious Education for Children

The Religious Education Committee is looking forward to the first indoor First Day School (FDS) class of the new year on Sunday, February 6, beginning at 11:00 a.m. for fully vaccinated children, ages 5 and up. Please note the new start time and safety requirement that parents sign in their children before class. Parents will also be asked to complete a short registration form. (The registration form will be available in hard copy or on the BFM website at:

<https://www.bethesdafriends.org/Religious-Education-K-8.>) FDS teachers will greet children and parents beginning at 10:50 a.m. inside the meeting house, in front of the meeting room door. At 11:00 a.m., FDS teachers will walk to a classroom in Sidwell Friends Lower School Manor House. When FDS class ends at 12:05 p.m., the children will be escorted by their teachers back to the meetinghouse to join their families.

Summer Camping Program. Enrollment for the BYM camping programs (at Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure) began on January 15. The camps are residential for children

ages 9 to 17. Anyone may apply on-line (please do!). Spaces are available first-come, first-served, so please register as soon as you can if you need a particular session. To register, go to: www.bymcamps.org

Why consider a sleep-away Quaker camp for your children (9 years and older)? For most children, at first, Quakerism and Meeting for Worship are seen as a “grownup” religion and experience. At camp, however, children experience the Inner Light in a natural setting, in outdoor silent worship, and in community with their peers and well-trained, talented counselors, many of whom were once campers themselves. Campers detach from electronics and social media to have fun playing and participating in camp activities; they gain the confidence that comes from learning practical life skills through daily camp chores; they make lasting friendships with children from other parts of the area or country. The Quaker camp setting and program afford opportunities for experiential, multi-sensory learning that weekly FDS and traditional school cannot provide. All Quaker camps are open to children whether they come to BFM or not, so please share this information with others who might be interested.

For details about the camps, visit www.bymcamps.org or contact Brian Massey (301-774-7663). For an extended list of Quaker camps, see: <http://quakersdc.org/node/912>

Our Meeting would like to support our children going to camp to the extent of \$500 each, on a first-come first-served basis. When you apply, please contact Pastoral Care. Parents may also contribute by volunteering at one of the camps during the summer.

Events

Spiritual State of the Meeting Month

February is Spiritual State of the Meeting month. Each year, the Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W) prepares an assessment of the Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) to be considered by the monthly meeting. The draft is presented to Meeting for Business on March 6. M&W invites input from everyone in the BFM community on how you are feeling about your participation in the meeting and how the meeting might better support your spiritual needs. Please be on the lookout for information about queries used to shape the discussions, and pathways to provide your thoughts. There will be sessions to collect input at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 13, and at the rise of meeting on Sunday, February 20. M&W looks forward to hearing from you.

1st/8th/15th/22nd: Religions of the Axial Age

In February, the Comparative Religions class will be studying Jainism and then move to East Asia and begin Confucianism. Using the Great Courses series, Religions of the Axial Age, we meet once a week by Zoom on Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m., for a half-hour lecture with an additional half-hour discussion. A group of 8 to 10 has been meeting, and we greatly enjoy the fellowship as much as the lessons. You are welcome to join anytime.

2nd/9th/16th/23rd: Mid-Week Worship

Over-zoomed? Join BFM Friends’ “low tech” email mid-week worship on Wednesdays from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. Each of us worships in our homes without video or audio. While some simply join in spirit, those wishing to touch base with the others receive emails at the start and end of worship. At rise of meeting, email participants are invited to worship-share via reply-all with the evening's email group.

2nd/16th/March 2nd: Nonviolence Book Discussion

Baltimore Peacebuilders (associated with Homewood Friends Meeting in Baltimore) is sponsoring a four-part discussion of the book *Healing Resistance: A Radically Different Response to Harm*, by Kazu Haga on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. The first discussion was on January 26, but the remaining ones are on February 2 and 16 and on March 2. You can register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO2vpzIoHNZ-hgj7-jeUzOwvegDiv5PU>

You can buy the book here:

<https://www.parallax.org/product/healing-resistance/>

5th: BYM Women's Retreat

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat is an annual event for Quakers in this area. This year it will be online via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 5. Its purpose is to provide refreshment and spiritual insight to BYM women so that they may grow in the Spirit. In recent years, more than 100 women have attended each year. To learn more and to register: <https://womensretreat.bym-rsf.net/>

5th: Indigenous Friends of Turtle Island Zoom Meeting

On Saturday, February 5, at 1:00 p.m., all Quakers who are direct descendants of indigenous peoples of 'North America' are invited to gather with tom kunesh (Lakota/mixt) to discuss the term 'decolonizing' and to see if we can come to some agreement on its meaning and goals among indigenous Friends. Pre-registration is required. If you are indigenous, a Friend, and interested, please fill out the interest form at:

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2Pv0woFfyu_5_wVurCae2MLtwDuHLMrBaX9QbEiuPg8PD9w/viewform) Questions can be directed to tom kunesh, tom@kunesh.net

6th: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, February 6, at 9:00 a.m., Bethesda F(f)riends will consider various business items via Zoom. How the Spirit will lead us in discernment of issues both large and small is part of the mystery that is the Religious Society of Friends. There will be reports from Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Recorder (re membership changes in the last year), a community report, and an ad hoc Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee Report. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship.

6th/13th/20th/27th: Meeting for Worship

Bethesda Friends worship together each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Friends can participate remotely via Zoom, or meet in person at the Meeting House.

[Friends Participating in Worship via Zoom.](#)

[Friends Participating in Worship at the Meeting House.](#) The following COVID rules apply to all of those attending in person:

- You must be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- You must wear a mask. Tight fitting masks such as N95 or KN95 are recommended.
- You must maintain social distancing.

- You must self-screen based on COVID symptoms or exposure. You may not attend in-person Meeting for Worship if you have a fever, have COVID symptoms, have tested positive for COVID, or have been exposed in the past 10 days to an individual testing positive for, or displaying symptoms of, COVID.
- You must sign in on a simple sign-in sheet.
- You must notify BFM promptly if you have a positive test after attending in person. BFM will provide notice to others who attended the same meeting of the COVID case (but will not identify the person testing positive).

During these times of high COVID transmission, while the Meetinghouse remains open, anyone attending should carefully consider the additional risks of gathering in-person.

12th: Black Quaker Project Film Festival

On Saturday, February 12, at 1:00 p.m., the Black Quaker Project is sponsoring a screening of “I Am A Woman - Leap of Faith: Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge” (2012). This is to honor Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (b. 1952), the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva Director, former South African Deputy Minister of Health, and former South African Deputy Minister of Defense. It will be followed by a discussion between the honoree and AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny.

This is a film festival that endeavors to educate all about the importance of Quakers of Color who for too long have remained within the margins of the Society of Friends and the wider world.

The five film sessions will take place every other Saturday on Zoom at 1:00 p.m. from February 12 until Paul Robeson’s birthday on April 9. Each session will include a film centered on a Quaker of Color with an introduction from a guest expert and a follow up discussion facilitated by Black Quaker Project Director Dr. Harold D. (Hal) Weaver.

On February 26, it will be “Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story” (2019)

On March 12, “Alaska on Line: Red Boucher Interviews Mahala Ashley Dickerson”

On March 26, “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin” (2003)

On April 9, “Paul Robeson and His Quaker Ancestors” (1989)

For details and to register:

<https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/black-quaker-lives-matter-film-festival>

12th: Quaker Book Group

The Quaker Book Group meets monthly via Zoom on the second Saturday, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. In February, it meets on February 12 to discuss Suzanne Simard’s *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, by a forest ecologist addressing the new frontiers of plant communication and intelligence. Newcomers are always welcome, even if you have not read the book. We read a mix of books by Quakers, books about Quakerism, and books that speak to Quaker values and concerns. The group is invited to share announcements, summaries, and thoughts about the readings through an online mailing list.

13th: Virtual Spiritual Coffeehouse

On Sunday, February 13, at rise of meeting we will continue with the Zoom session and create space for the spirit to speak to the community at a Virtual Spiritual Coffeehouse. During this time all are invited to share writings, poems, artwork, music, photography, and anything else (your own or that of others) that speaks to your spirit. Offerings are encouraged but not required.

13th/27th: Experiment with Light Sessions

How do we quiet our brains enough to hear the still, small voice within us? How might we deepen our experience of meeting for worship? Experiment with Light is a meditative and centering practice based upon Rex Ambler's book *Light to Live By*, which describes early Quaker meditative habits and translates them into a highly accessible process of clearness and understanding. Starting at 7:30 p.m., you can follow the prompts at home and write or draw responses you have experienced during those prompts. Here is the link to the prompts:

<https://experiment-with-light.org.uk/meditations/> We usually use the meditation on the individual in modern language, full length, 37 minute version. Then around 8:30 p.m., if you would like to worship-share from your meditation experience and want to join in a Zoom gathering, please use the links below (remember to "unmute" your device). We anticipate that part of the gathering could go until 9:15 p.m.

18th to 20th: BYM Young Friends Conference

On the weekend of February 18 to 20, there will be a Young Friends Conference for high school-aged Quakes (probably virtual, though possibly at Stony Run Friends Meeting). Plans are still being worked out, but you can get a sense of the event from here:

https://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yutes/yutes.html

To register for the conference:

<http://yf.bym-rsf.net/> or contact Sunshine Klein (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org, 301-774-7663).

18th to 20th: Washington Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology

The Washington Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology invites us to a virtual conference on Dante's *Divine Comedy: Journey from Despair to Joy*. The *Divine Comedy* is a poem of interiority. Our time will be homage to the invisible world and the journey of consciousness beginning with Dante's exile to complex issues of our own daily lives. The conference will be virtual and feature as the plenary speaker Anne Pickup, a Jungian Analyst in the Washington DC area. The overview of Dante's vast work will be through the Jungian lens, using Helen Luke's book *Dark Wood to White Rose*. There are some new interest groups and some exciting tried and true favorites, augmenting and supporting the plenary sessions.

Please register via the website:

www.fcrp-quaker.org The cost of the conference is \$40. Hit the WFCRP button and go through the drop down menu. When you decide to register, visit the registration page (again on the WFCRP drop down menu) and follow directions. If you decide to pay via a credit card on the website, go back to the home page, hit contribute and pay \$40.

26th: BFM Virtual Game Night

Please join us for a virtual game night (by Zoom) on Saturday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. All ages are welcome for an hour of fun and games. This is sponsored by the Outreach & Communications Committee.

27th: Coordinating Gathering

Representatives of most BFM committees meet during the week before Meeting for Business to discuss the upcoming agenda and to share our reflections on the spiritual state of our community, specific tasks, and Quaker processes. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend. There will be one at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 27.

Committee Notes

Youth Safety

Bethesda Friends Meeting is encouraging everyone in our community, whether they expect to work directly with young Friends or not, to get trained in child safety. This is to ensure that our entire community is familiar with the standards of appropriate conduct and understands both how to behave individually around our young Friends and when to report suspicious activity. BFM has partnered with Protect My Ministry (<https://www.protectmyministry.com/>), a company that works primarily with small religious organizations. They provide on-line child-abuse- awareness training consisting of a 25-minute video followed by a quiz. There is also a pdf that can be downloaded for reference. Once you watch the video and pass the quiz (70% or higher), you will receive a certificate via email. There is no cost to you for this training.

The Steps to Youth Safety Training:

1. Send an email to:
youthsafety@bethesdafriends.org, with the subject “youth safety training.” In the body of the email please write your first and last name as well as your email.
2. You will receive an email from message@protectingourkids.com with a link to the video training.
3. Once the training is successfully completed you will receive a certificate.
4. Please send a link or copy of the certificate to youthsafety@bethesdafriends.org to be kept on a secure database.

If you have any questions send a note to Susan Maniatis at susan.maniatis@gmail.com

An alternative is the Montgomery County Youth Safety Training, at:
<https://training.reportabusemd.com/login> You will be sent a certification of completion and submit it to youthsafety@bethesdafriends.org

Thank you to our community for recognizing the importance of this issue and doing what you can to keep our young Friends safe and growing in the Light.

Peace & Social Justice

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) asks us to write about the Yemen War Powers Resolution. Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority over when our country goes to war, and it must insist that taxpayer dollars are not spent to destroy others. A new War Powers Resolution to end U.S. support for the war in Yemen is a first step. The United States is complicit in the Saudi-led coalition’s war and blockade in Yemen, which has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. After seven years of war, roughly 16 million Yemenis are at risk of famine, and over two million children under the age of five are severely malnourished. Act now: Urge your members of Congress to introduce and pass a Yemen War Powers Resolution. Please go to this link to contact your legislators to ask them to pass this resolution on behalf of war-torn Yemenis. https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/37146/?utm_campaign=contacts&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ak&utm_term=21325.209196.8Zkd43

Meeting Notes

Thinking About Race

“White Friends Confronting Racism meet every Friday at noon and is an important part of my week,” writes Bette Hoover from Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. “We worship together and support and inspire each other in our work among Friends on becoming an antiracist faith community. It is so important to do this work in a brave space with others. For the Zoom link, please contact Linnea at:

ministryonracismassistant@fgcquaker.org

Virtual Worship Sharing for Friends of Color. In addition to offering weekly unprogrammed worship during this time of the global COVID-19 pandemic, FGC's Ministry on Racism has agreed to hold spaces for worship sharing among Friends of Color. These weekly Worship Sharing spaces will be held on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for 90 minute sessions. The space is in the care of a rotating team of volunteers. If you identify as a Person of Color and would like to join the weekly worship sharing, please register here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4816651>

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee

Be part of the conversation! Becoming an anti-racist faith community means opening up the work of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to include more different voices.

Perspective means a lot. The BYM Nominating Committee members would like to hear your views no matter who you are, but especially if you identify as a Person of Color.

Are you a camper or former camper? Someone who attends a local meeting, Annual Session or Interim Meeting? Someone who is curious about what our committees do? Maybe you are wondering where your gifts, interests, and skills might fit in. The committees appointed by Nominating Committee shape the work of the Yearly Meeting, and there is a space on one of them for you.

Should we talk? Replying to this message won't create an obligation for you to join a committee, but it will provide a way to share information and start a dialogue.

Peace Notes

Urge Congress to Close Guantánamo. The Episcopal Public Policy Network urges all people of faith to ask Congress to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. January 11, 2022 marks 20 years since the United States sent the first detainees to Guantánamo Bay. Since then, 780 men and boys have been detained at Guantánamo; today just 39 detainees remain. Many of the detainees were subjected to torture and harsh interrogation techniques, and few have been charged. Military commissions are ongoing, but they have not been able to secure justice for the detainees or for the families of the victims of terrorism.

The detention facility at Guantánamo undermines the rule of law, disregards human rights, and tarnishes the reputation of the U.S. It is expensive, with costs estimated to be \$13 million per detainee annually. We ask that you write to your members of Congress using the message our colleagues at the National Religious Campaign Against Torture have drafted. (See: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/?vvsrc=%2fca%2f90579%2frespond>)