

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

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A Guide to What's Inside!

[Calendar](#)

[Query: Integrity](#)

[The Social Concerns Box](#)

[Religious Ed. for Children](#)

[Events](#)

[Into the Future](#)

[Committee Notes](#)

[Fellowship & Hospitality](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

BFM newsletter April 2018 Version for web

April 2018 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is held at 11:00 a.m. every First Day. The meeting room is also available at 9:30 a.m. for those desiring a smaller, quieter Meeting for Worship, except when Meeting for Business is held at 9:00 a.m. The meeting room is available for worship at BFM on Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m. There is a worship group in Boyds the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

1	Sun	11:00 a.m.	No First Day School: Supervised Play
2	Mon	7:00 p.m.	First Monday: Climate Change & Food/Clothing Choices
4	Wed	9:00 a.m.	A.C.T. to End Racism Rally, National Mall
6	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Pendle Hill Weekend Workshop: Spirit-Led Activism
		7:00 p.m.	BYM Young Friends Conf., the Clearing, Richmond VA
8	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity
		12:30 p.m.	No Potluck at Bethesda but yes in Boyds MD
		12:30 p.m.	<i>The Origin of Others</i> Book Discussion, Meeting Room
		6:00 p.m.	Pendle Hill Week-Long Workshop: Gospels & Community
9	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Adult Religious Education Committee
11 to 16			Buy Silent Auction Items Early: Buy It Now Sale
13	Fri	8:30 p.m.	Deadline for the May Newsletter
14	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center: Finding & Telling Your Stories
		1:30 p.m.	BFM Book Group in the BFM Library
15	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care, Ministry & Worship
		9:30 a.m.	Com. Day: Stewardship & F., Outreach & C., and Rel. Ed.
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Visit from Ramallah Student
		12:30 p.m.	FCNL Priorities Discussion, Meeting Room
		12:30 p.m.	Spring Fling Organizing Group Meeting, Teachers' Lounge
		6:00 p.m.	Pendle Hill Week-Long Workshop: Our Life is Love
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
18	Wed	7:30 p.m.	Ad Hoc Committee on Digitization, Teachers' Lounge
21	Sat	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Drop-off of Items for Spring Fling, Groome Bldg.
		7:00 p.m.	William Penn House: Saying No to War

22	Sun	11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Service: Spring Fling
		12:30 p.m.	Spring Fling for Ramallah: Food, Fun, & Contribution
29	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Making Solar Ovens
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light

Details are available on our web site: www.bethesdafriends.org

Query for April: Integrity

How do we seek truth by which to live? How do we know it when we find it? In what ways does my life speak of my beliefs and values? In what ways is my life out of harmony with the truth as I know it? Why?

Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for April is for scholarships to the Ramallah Friends School in the West Bank (Palestine). RFS, founded by American Quakers in 1869, is a co-ed K through 12 school that provides a first-class, peace-oriented education to children of all faiths. Most of the money for two scholarships will be raised at Spring Fling on April 22 (see details below). Or contribute to the social concerns box. It is an opportunity for us to help build peace in the Middle East.

The February Social Concerns Box for hunger relief programs in Montgomery County received \$428.

Religious Education for Children

Families are encouraged to bring their children to the first fifteen minutes of worship at 11:00 a.m., in the Meeting Room. After that, these are the following highlights.

- On Sunday, April 1, there will be no First Day School, but there will be supervision on the playground for children up to age 12.
- On Sunday, April 8, multi-age activity.
- On Sunday, April 15, our First Day School students will have a chance to hear from a Ramallah Friends School student studying this year at Sidwell Friends School. She is in the 10th grade and is living with a host family whose two children are current Sidwell Friends School students. During First Day School time, she has been asked to share information about her interests, family and friends, life in Ramallah, Ramallah Friends School, and her experience in the US and at Sidwell Friends. All are welcome.
- On Sunday, April 22, the children will prepare hummus for the Spring Fling celebration which happens at the rise of Meeting.
- On Sunday, April 29, multi-age group: solar oven project

Events

2nd: Reversing Global Warming with Our Food & Clothing Choices

Help reverse global warming with your food and clothing choices. There will be a film and panel discussion on Monday, April 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:40 p.m.) It will be at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Service Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda MD 20814, between Old Georgetown Road and Woodmont Avenue, near the Bethesda Metro Station. There is parking beneath the building, take the elevator to the patio level. Come to learn how you can help

farmers and ranchers work with nature to regenerate soils and revitalize ecosystems to help cool the planet. There will be five very short films followed by a panel discussion with a carbon farmer, a policy expert, and a soil/ecosystem expert. The event is sponsored by BFM's Environmental Sustainability Group.

4th: A.C.T. to End Racism Rally

From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the National Council of Churches, the National African American Clergy Network, and other faith communities are hosting a rally and call to commitment to awaken to the truth that racism is ever-present, deeply entrenched, and profoundly damaging to our communities. It is a call to confront injustice and racism and to transform the hearts and minds and behaviors of people and institutions. This is on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The rally will be on the National Mall. You can learn more at: <http://www.rally2endracism.org/>

6th to 8th: Pendle Hill Workshop: Sustainable Spirit-Led Activism

At the Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center in Wallingford PA, Quaker psychologist and teacher Daniel Snyder returns to Pendle Hill to lead Sustainable Spirit-Led Activism, which will draw on the richness of the Quaker tradition, insights from depth psychology, and a spirituality of nonviolence to explore practices that will sustain us as we engage the powers of oppression, injustice, and violence. For details, see <http://www.pendlehill.org> or 800-742-3150. BFM has funds to help with the costs.

6th to 8th: Young Friends Conference

Calling all high schoolers! From Friday through Sunday, April 6 to 8, there will be a Young Friends Conference sponsored by BYM at the Clearing, near Richmond VA. The conference will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and will include a workshop, time for some exercise outside, a service project, worship sharing, Meeting for Business, community-building activities, free time, meal preparation, and lunch, dinner, and First Day breakfast. The conference will conclude at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. For more details, contact 301-774-7663 or [youthprograms\(at\)bym-rsf.org](mailto:youthprograms(at)bym-rsf.org)

8th: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, April 8 at 9:00 a.m. Bethesda F(f)riends will consider various business items. 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. On the agenda this month are these reports: the Spiritual State of the Meeting (final), the preliminary budget, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Interim Meeting. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. Child care up to age 12 is provided. Please join us if you can.

8th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? There is a Meeting for Worship in Boyds MD at 11:00 a.m., the second Sunday of the month. Worship is followed by a potluck lunch.

8th: No Potluck at BFM

Because of the wonderful food being served at Spring Fling on Sunday, April 22, there will be no potluck at BFM on Sunday, April 8. (We need to have kitchen staff for the later event.)

8th: *The Origin of Others* Book Discussion

Toni Morrison's new book, called *The Origin of Others* is about how we see others and are seen as others, some of the historical implications in this country, and resources we have for what she calls "benign access to each other." Please come if you can to the discussion of the book on Sunday, April 8, at the rise of Meeting, in the Meeting Room. You may wish to bring a bag lunch. The session is sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee.

8th to 12th: Pendle Hill Week-long Workshop: The Gospels and Community

Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center, in Wallingford PA, is hosting a workshop called Matthew, Mark, Luke and Us: Gospels and Community. Doug Gwyn and Francisco Burgos team up to illuminate the life and teachings of Jesus as related in the Synoptic Gospels, inviting us to respond to Jesus's perennial question: "Who do you say that I am?" For details, see www.pendlehill.org or 800-742-3150. Please remember that BFM has funds to help with the costs.

11th to 16th: Purchase Silent Auction Items Early from the On-Line Buy It Now Sale

One of the major ways we raise scholarship money for Ramallah Friends School on the West Bank (Palestine) is through our Spring Fling Silent Auction, which includes a wide variety of interesting services, delicious food offerings, and unique material items. Before the actual day of Spring Fling on April 22, some items from the Silent Auction are selected for a special opportunity called "Buy- it-Now." This gives you advance notice of some special offerings, and the chance to bid on them before the day of Spring Fling. The list of possibilities will be sent out by e-mail the second week of April.

14th: Friends Wilderness Center Program: Finding and Telling Stories

On Saturday, April 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Friends Wilderness Center will be hosting a program on Finding and Telling Your Stories. Sharing stories can be a deeply spiritual experience. Our ancestors' earliest attempts to preserve our history and explain our interactions with nature came through oral storytelling. Each of us carries stories that when told with candor, clarity and feeling can be empowering to both the teller and the listener through reinforcing our common bonds of humanity and shared experience through the sharing of stories. Lisa will guide participants through the creation and sharing of personal stories, by helping them explore the elements and structure of stories, and the power of language to express them. With the forest and pond around the Niles Cabin both bursting with the energy of new life, a fine lunch and fellowship of fellow storytellers, this will be a wonderful way to usher in spring. Feel free to hike the trails following the program. A \$10 donation is requested to participate but any amount (less or more) will be appreciated. Please RSVP and when doing so indicate whether you would like to have a home-cooked lunch (for an additional \$10).

Friends Wilderness Center is just 1.5 hours from Bethesda on a 1,400-acre tract of land which backs up to the Appalachian Trail in West Virginia. For more information, see www.friendswilderness.org Note: If this will be your first time visiting FWC, please be sure to read the introductory material on Directions Page on this website to avoid getting lost or arriving later than intended.

14th: Quaker Book Group

The Quaker Book Group has been meeting monthly, normally on the second Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at Bethesda Public Library (not at Meeting). Because the library is undergoing renovations, the

meeting place is in the BFM Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome (even if you have not read the book!). Since the time and date can change on short notice, join the Book Group List Serve. By joining the list serve, you can participate in the online discussions, read the post-meeting summary, and help choose the next book. For details: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bfm-book-group>

15th: FCNL Priorities

FCNL wants our input. The Friends Committee on National Legislation is seeking input from Friends Meetings across the county about where Quakers feel it should focus its staff time and resources in the next Congress to be elected in November. On April 15, following worship, Liz Hofmeister, a member of the FCNL Finance Committee, will lead a discussion in the meeting room on FCNL's current legislative priorities and what we would like to see it do in the following two years. Please plan to attend.

15th to 19th: Pendle Hill Workshop: Our Life is Love

The Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center in Wallingford PA is hosting a week-long work-shop from Sunday, April 15, to Thursday, April 19. Marcelle Martin, author of *Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*, offers an opportunity to open more fully to God in nurturing faithfulness, where participants will learn practices for sensing the movement of the Spirit, clarifying discernment, responding with faith, and encouraging faithful action. For details, see www.pendlehill.org or 800-742- 3150. Please remember that BFM has funds to help with the costs.

15th/29th: 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.

There will be two sessions in April, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings, April 15 and April 29.

21st/22nd: Spring Fling for Ramallah Friends School

Spring Fling is BFM's celebration of our community and the season. It's also our Meeting's biggest fund raiser. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund for Ramallah Friends School in Palestine. Founded in 1869, its mission is to provide "educational excellence based upon the Quaker values of equality, simplicity, and peace." The school is a real beacon of hope in a troubled land, and they are immensely grateful for our support.

Spring Fling, which engages scores of us, is built around four main activities, all of which welcome volunteers, donations, and customers. The activities are:

- Middle Eastern Buffet.
- "White Camel" Rummage Sale. Note: any child attending Spring Fling receives a \$5 gift certificate to the White Camel Sale. Donations of items for sale should be brought to BFM on Saturday, April 21, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. so we have a chance to price them.
- Silent Auction of donated goods and services include a wide array of items, from bicycles, to some time at your vacation home, to restaurant gift certificates, to gardening consultations and babysitting. Be imaginative, and think about what you have in your home and no longer need, and what your talents and gifts are that could be helpful to others!
- Perennial Plant Sale.
- Ramallah Friends tee-shirts and Palestinian olive oil will be sold as well.

If you are willing to work but don't have a strong preference where, you could check with various coordinators to see where the need is greatest. If you can't make this date or simply want to make a donation, Ramallah Friends is the Social Concerns Box beneficiary for April: http://www.bethesdafriends.org/spring_fling.aspx

21st: WPH: Saying No to War

On Saturday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m., William Penn House invites us to join them for a one-man performance and discussion of "This Evil Thing," the shocking and inspiring story of the "Richmond 16," a group of men who said no to war. Michael Mears portrays a gallery of characters from conscientious objectors to army generals, from prime ministers to world-famous mathematicians. This highly original piece of storytelling uses verbatim testimonies, a multi-layered sound landscape, and vivid visual imagery. William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. Please RSVP to 202-543-5560, info@williampennhouse.org, or : <https://www.facebook.com/events/2000659940197990/>

29th: Coordinating Gathering

Representatives of most BFM committees meet during the week before Meeting for Business to discuss the upcoming agenda. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend. There will be one at 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room on Sunday, April 29.

Into the Future

May 4th/6th: Spiritual Formation Retreat

Do you yearn for spiritual deepening? Are you longing for growth in a community of seekers who support one another on their individual journeys? Have you felt a nudge to greater intentionality in your spiritual practice? If so, the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Retreat is for you.

It will be from Friday, May 4, to Sunday, May 6, at the Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center at 16869 Taylors Landing Road, in Sharpsburg MD. The retreat is open to all regardless of prior or planned participation in an existing spiritual formation program. The retreat is a time to explore and deepen one's practice of living and worshipping in spiritual community.

Please consider joining them. Funds are available, via the Friendly Ear or the Pastoral Care Committee, for BFM F(f)riends who may wish help with the expenses. The cost is \$260. For details: <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/spiritform.html>

May 12th: Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day

Because of the March for Our Lives on Saturday, March 24, the Networking Day was shifted to Saturday, May 12. F(f)riends from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting's 52 meetings will be gathering at 9:30 a.m. at the Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville MD for a networking day on Peace & Social Justice Concerns. This is an opportunity to share interests and concerns. We also will offer four, practical 90-minute workshops, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, each led by Friends with experience in these areas. In the morning, the two workshops are 1) How Friends can speak to polarization and racism in our communities; or 2) Strategies for addressing homelessness, reentry and poverty (shelters, "open tables," and more). In the afternoon, the two workshops will be on 1) Immigrants, refugees and sanctuary in our midst (update - new resources); or 2) Issues and outreach: peace festivals, death-with-dignity, animal rights, LGBT, and healthcare.

Workshop sessions will begin at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. During breakfast/arrival time, Friends will be encouraged to mingle and share information about specific programs/ activities of our own Monthly Meetings.

Coffee, bagels, and pastries will be provided at 9:30; lunch (wraps, salad, chips, drinks) will be provided at noon. Vegetarian/vegan treats may be included both times. Donations are welcome, but not required, to assist with our Networking Day costs (\$14 per person).

June 1st to 3rd: BFM Camp Catoctin Weekend

Our weekend at Camp Catoctin this year will be from Friday, June 1 at 4:00 p.m. through Sunday, June 3 at 3:00 p.m. Come for part of a day or the whole weekend—or whatever works for you! There will be plenty of opportunity for relaxation, water play, and fellowship. Simple meals will be provided (sandwich fixings and lentil sloppy joes for lunch, spaghetti and salad for dinner), and on Saturday evening we'll make s'mores by the fireplace. Feel free to bring additional food for yourselves or to share, if you like.

Catoctin Quaker Camp has 385 acres of beautiful wooded hills and a grassy meadow with a small lake for canoeing and a lovely rocky stream. An old stone lodge attached to a large camp kitchen and dining room provides a cozy place to gather. There are four cabins with electricity and 12 screened houses with bunks. There are places for tents as well. A new highlight is the recently renovated bathhouse! This is an unstructured weekend for all ages, so come prepared to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Library. Friends are asked to contribute as they are able toward our rental and food expenses. The suggested contribution is \$20/adult. Catoctin Quaker Camp is at 12611 Tower Road, Thurmont MD 21788. More information is available at:

<http://bymcamps.org/camp-rentals/calendar-of-catoctin/>

July 1st to 7th: Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

The FGC Gathering this year will be at the University of Toledo, in Toledo OH. The theme is “The Power of Truth.” The Gathering is a chance to be together with over 1,200 Friends. There are many opportunities to address spirit, mind, and body. Look up the program for this year at www.fgcGathering.org You can enjoy lots of activities: singing, dancing, good food, and good conversation. You really ought to go to a Gathering at least once. Early registration for the Gathering opens April 2. There are both half-gathering and part-time attender options for adults. Financial aid is available.

By way of background, Friends General Conference nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers. The work of FGC can be summarized into three areas of endeavor:

- Help meetings deepen Quaker worship and practice
- Support a loving Quaker community
- Support Quaker outreach

FGC is a volunteer-led association of regional Quaker organizations, primarily in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1900, FGC has grown from a voluntary organization of seven yearly meetings, created to hold a “general conference” every other year, to an association of fourteen yearly meetings, supplemented with regional groups and individual meetings. FGC continues to sponsor an annual Gathering of Friends. FGC seeks to use resources effectively with a concern for simplicity and openness. It is funded through the support of Quaker meetings, individuals, and foundations. FGC is a 501(c)3 organization. For details, see: www.fgcquaker.org

Committee Notes

Fellowship & Hospitality

We thank Fellowship & Hospitality for providing refreshments at the rise of Meeting and for assisting with the preparation and serving of Spring Fling lunch in April. The committee oversees hospitality after Meetings for Worship, and potlucks on the second Sunday of most months, although direct responsibility rotates monthly among all committees. F&H also provides hospitality for special occasions, such as memorial meetings.

Pastoral Care

Looking for a way to get to know more people in the meeting? Can you drive? Join our roster of occasional drivers who help people in the meeting who need a lift to medical appointments, to meeting, or to other activities they can't get to without a ride. We'll let you know when the need arises, and you can decide then if it's something you can handle. It's a low- obligation, fun way to offer a helping hand and meet people you might not spend time with otherwise.

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

Students around the country have taken a lead in the movement to end gun violence. On March 14 there was a nationwide school walkout organized by EMPOWER, the youth branch of the Women's March. March 24 was the March for Our Lives, "created by, inspired by, and led by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass school shootings that has become all too familiar." To learn more or donate, go to [www. marchforourlives.com](http://www.marchforourlives.com). The next student solidarity action will take place on April 20, which is the anniversary of the Columbine shooting. Friends are encouraged to follow the lead of the students as they organize for change.