

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

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BFM Newsletter June 2017 Version for Web

Query for June: Stewardship

How do we cherish and protect the beauty and balance of the natural world? How do we demonstrate our belief that our lives, talents, and resources are gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given? How do we as individuals and as a Meeting support one another in nurturing those gifts and in our search for a simpler life?

June 2017 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 on the first First day of each month, when Meeting for Business is held at 9:00 a.m. We have a mid-week Meeting for Worship at BFM on Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m., and a worship group in Boyds the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

2 to 4		BFM at Camp Catocin, stay a few hours or a few days!
2 to 7		Pendle Hill: Continuing Revolution
3	10:00 a.m.	Adelphi Strawberry Festival, Adelphi Friends Meeting
4 Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
	12:00 noon	Potluck at Camp Catocin
	12:30 p.m.	Peace Teams in Kenya: Transforming Communities
5 Mon	7:00 p.m.	First Monday: Help Reverse Global Warming

	9 to 11		Pendle Hill: Arts & Spirituality Workshop: Photography
10	Sat	3:00 p.m.	BFM Book Group at the Bethesda Library
		3:00 p.m.	Quaker Participation in the Gay Pride Parade, FMW
11	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Sharing Our Journeys to Quaker Faith & Practice
		12:30 p.m.	No Potluck at BFM
		12:30 p.m.	Quaker Participation in the Gay Pride Festival
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light Session at Jane Coe's House
12	Mon	8:00 p.m.	Committee Meeting: Adult Religious Education Committee
13	Tues	8:30 p.m.	Summer Newsletter Deadline
17	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Mtg Day, Gunpowder Frds Mtg, Sparks MD
18	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care and Ministry & Worship
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Religious Ed., A&O, & Stewardship & Fin.
25	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light at the Nielsen-Joneses' House
26	Mon	5:00 p.m.	BYM Annual Sessions Early Reg. Deadline (25% off)
30	Fri	6:30 p.m.	Silent Retreat for Friends at Dayspring

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for June is for a contingency fund for a refugee family the Meeting has agreed to sponsor through Lutheran Social Services. The money will be held in a special account until we are assigned a family, probably in five or six months. We have committed to furnishing an apartment and providing other amenities which might require money, so we want to be ready when the time comes.

In April, we raised \$5,258 for Ramallah Friends School scholarships in the Social Concerns Box. A more detailed report is below.

Personal Notes

Congratulations to the Graduates!

Our very best wishes to the current graduates of all ages and to those who helped and supported them in their endeavors. Here are the ones we have heard about so far. Please let us know of any we have missed. We are especially interested in hearing from all those graduating from high school this year.

Congratulations and best wishes to all those involved in these major transitions.

Events

Report on Spring Fling

With our little window of welcome sunshine, Spring Fling 2017, brought out the best in all of us, as together we enjoyed each others' company and honored Ramallah Friends School by again generating enough money to help tremendously with the school's scholarship program. Much loving work and tremendous support of the community made the whole event a great success. Many thanks to everyone involved.

As of May 15, Spring Fling and the Social Concerns Box totaled **\$14,571.53:**

Plant Sale: \$575

Silent Auction: \$4,887

White Camel Sale: \$886.43

Middle Eastern Buffet: \$1,975

Sale of T-shirts, Olive oil and "Samoud" (book about Ramallah): \$990

Social Concerns Box \$5,258

Joyce Ajlouny, head of Ramallah Friends School, writes: "I can't thank you enough for your diligence and superb organizing. The end result is a testimonial of the BFM's commitment and passion for this important work. Kindly extend my sincere gratitude on behalf of the RFS community, especially the students who will benefit from these scholarships, to all those who organized and participated."

2nd to 4th: BFM Camp Catoctin Weekend

Our time at Camp Catoctin this year will be the first weekend in June. Come for a wonderful, nature-filled Saturday. Come at any time, for any part of the day. Arrive for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and stay through dinner and evening s'mores! There will be plenty of relaxation, water play, and fellowship. Simple meals will be provided; please bring something to add to a soup and sandwich lunch and a spaghetti dinner. Bathroom construction may still be under way, so we might just have jiffy johns and the lodge bathroom. There are cabins and plenty of space for anyone who would like to sleep over on Friday or Saturday night.

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 places for tents as well. This is an unstructured weekend so come prepared to enjoy the outdoors with your children 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/day/person. Catoctin Quaker Camp is at 12611 Tower Road, Thurmont MD 21788. See:

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

2nd to 7th: Pendle Hill: Continuing Revolution

Registration is open for Continuing Revolution, June 2 to 7. Young Adult Friends and seekers (ages 18-35) are invited to Pendle Hill's annual intensive six-day conference, Continuing Revolution, designed to strengthen a networked generation of awakened and effective spiritually grounded change agents. This year, we will be focusing on the peace testimony with an attention to justice. For details see [Pendle Hill](#) and [Friends Journal](#).

3rd: Adelphi Friends Meeting Strawberry Festival

On Saturday, June 3, Adelphi Friends Meeting will hold its [2017 Strawberry Festival](#) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 2303 Metzert Road in Adelphi MD (between Riggs Road and Adelphi Road). The festival is a long-standing community event and day of fun for the whole family. The festival has a live-entertainment stage and outdoor grilled-food tent, an indoor cafe and sale of quarts and flats of just-picked strawberries from Oak Grove Farm in southern Pennsylvania. There is a large rummage sale, with additional areas for silent auction, clothing, plants, and a full room of used books. The children's area has a bounce house, train rides, face painting, and games. Come for the fun and

leave with great bargain purchases of clothes, electronics, books, and more. The Strawberry Festival is a rain or shine event.

4th: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, June 4 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. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. On the agenda this month are reports from Spring Fling and William Penn House. The ad hoc Nominating Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee will be appointed. Child care up to age 12 is provided.

4th: Peace Teams in Kenya: Transforming Communities

On Sunday, June 4, at the rise of Meeting in the Meeting Room, Getry Agizah, the coordinator of the Friends Church Peace Teams' Transforming Communities for Social Change project in Western Kenya, will share what is being done to help ensure that the national elections in August will be peaceful and there will not be a repeat of the extensive violence and dislocation that marred the 2003 election. Getry is a Kenyan Quaker whose ministry is peacebuilding.

5th: First Monday: Help Reverse Global Warming

On Monday, June 5, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Bethesda Library, there will be a film and panel discussion on reversing global warming. Looking for hope and actions to help reverse global warming? Come to learn how farmers, engaged humans and nature are regenerating soils and revitalizing ecosystems to help cool the planet. Your choices can help, too. Bethesda Friends Meeting and Biodiversity for a Livable Climate will present five short films followed by a panel discussion with a carbon farmer, a policy expert, and a soil/ecosystem scientist. Light refreshments will be available.

9th to 11th: Pendle Hill Arts & Spirituality Workshop

On the weekend of June 9 to 11, join John Holliger for a [photography retreat](#) for anyone who wants to connect his/her love of photography with their spirituality of turning toward the Light. Participants will experience photographing in the light of the day and night: the soft pastels of first light (5:30 to 7:30 a.m.); the muted mid-morning clouds or contrasting light/shadows of a sunny mid-morning (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.); the golden dusk (7:30 to 9:00 p.m.); and the full moon in indigo shining on the earth. Gentle group feedback sessions will be a foundation for the weekend's work.

10th/11th: Capital Pride Parade & Festival

There will be a Quaker booth at the events. We are invited to help out at the booth. You can learn more about the events here: <http://www.capitalpride.org/celebration-2017/>

10th: BFM Book Group

The Quaker Book Group meets monthly, normally on the second Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at Bethesda Public Library (not at Meeting). We will be in one of the two study group rooms in the rear of the Library. Newcomers are always welcome (even if you have not read the book!). 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.

11th: Sharing Our Journeys to Quaker Faith & Practice

On Sunday, June 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room (basement of the SAM Building) the Adult Religious Education Committee invites you to a session on sharing our journeys to Quaker faith and practice. In the spirit of getting to know one another more deeply, we invite both newcomers and more seasoned F(f)riends to get together to share what brought us to Quaker faith and practice (and if we have been Quakers since childhood, what keeps us here?) We see this as an opportunity for relative newcomers to get to know more seasoned F(f)riends, and vice versa, as well as a time for all of us to reflect on the meaning of Quaker faith and practice in our lives.

11th: No Potluck at BFM in June

The Sidwell Friends Lower School kitchen will be closed and unavailable to us for the summer, beginning June 4, so there will be no potluck at BFM in June. For those who really enjoy potluck, consider the potluck mid-day meals at Camp Catoctin on Saturday, June 3, and/or Sunday, June 4. Sunday potluck luncheon follows 10:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship. (See the announcement above about our Camp Catoctin weekend.) As has been the tradition, there will be no potluck at BFM in July or August.

11th/25th: Experiment with Light

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 on Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., on Sunday, June 11, and on Sunday, June 25. Please come if you can!

17th: BYM Interim Meeting

Get to know Yearly Meeting committees and Friends from other Meetings! Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Interim Business Meeting. Gunpowder Friends Meeting in Sparks MD is hosting the Sixth Month Interim Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. In the afternoon, Meeting for Business is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at the rise of Meeting. Overnight hospitality is offered both Friday and Saturday nights by local Friends. For details: 301-774-7663, www.bym-rsf.org

June 30th to July 2nd: Silent Retreat for Friends at Dayspring

True silence is to the spirit what sleep is to the body: nourishment and refreshment. (William Penn, 1699) Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Dayspring Silent Retreat from the evening of Friday, June 30 to Sunday afternoon, July 2. We will keep the silence from Friday evening through worship on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice. The Dayspring Retreat Center is located at 11301 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown MD 20876. You can arrive any time between 3:30 and 7:00 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7:00 p.m.) The cost of the retreat is \$220. The registration deadline is June 23.

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Into the Future

July 2nd to 8th: Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

The FGC Gathering this year will be at the Niagara University, Niagara Falls NY. The theme this year is "Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves." 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 3. 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

July 9th to 12th: Stoking the Fire

Are you spiritually aflame, or a banked coal ready to be stirred into life? Join Friends as they stoke our spiritual fires and stretch ourselves through communal worship, learning, and fellowship. Together those gathered will open themselves to Christ's presence and power and allow the Spirit to work within them. [Stoking the Fire is Friends United Meeting's program for spiritual revival](#) among North American Friends. This year's theme is "Claiming Spiritual Power for Transformative Action." The plenary leader will be Jan Wood, of Northwest Yearly Meeting. The dates are July 9 to 12, in Wichita KS (immediately preceding the FUM Triennial).

July 31st to August 6th: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session

Baltimore Yearly Meeting will gather from July 31 to August 6 this year at Hood College in Frederick MD. The theme is “Growing Towards Justice - Acting on Faith.” Beyond the horrific headlines and news from the streets of our cities and rural areas, we must look carefully and recognize the many roots of this crisis. What are the causes? What actions can we take together to help change lives - as a people of faith, concerned citizens, organizers, advocates, and volunteers? How can we use our lives and power to take away the occasion of violence, the waste of young lives, the injustice that plagues our communities? There will be a plenary on Tuesday evening on Ending the School to Prison Pipeline; on Wednesday there will be an intergenerational workshop on nonviolence; and on Friday, Shan Cretin, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. One big change in yearly meeting is that all children from birth through 8th grade can attend at no cost - for free! You can learn more about workshops and interest groups in the Spring Interchange which will be coming out very soon or at: www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

Please note that the deadline for early registration, with a 25% discount on costs is Monday, June 26. Bethesda Friends Meeting has \$50 certificates available to help you attend the Annual Sessions. For details, consult the Friendly Ear at the rise of Meeting, or the clerks of Pastoral Care.

August 25th to 27th: Gathering of Friends of African Descent

The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent will gather August 25-27 at Chestnut Hill Meeting, 20 East Mermaid Lane, Philadelphia, PA. For much more information, see: <http://www.fofad.org/>

Committee Notes

Hospitality

Because our Friendly Eights Committee was laid down last fall, we have no committee taking responsibility for hospitality at the rise of Meeting in June. Please volunteer to help out by contacting Wally Bird at birdwm@att.net There is no potluck in June, which makes it a little easier in terms of providing hospitality.

Religious Education & Child Care

During the summer months, there will be supervised play on the playground for elementary school aged children. If the weather is not conducive to being outside, the supervised play will be in the Groome Building. Volunteers are needed to help the Summer Provider as a Friendly Adult Presence. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Library.

Child Care will continue during the summer for children who are 6 months through pre-K (until they move to First Day School). Can you help as a volunteer to assist the paid provider? Please sign up at: http://www.bethesdafriends.org/volunteer_for_child_care.aspx

Pastoral Care

Experiencing serious illness or death of a loved one? Notify the co-clerks of the Pastoral Care Committee. They will try to activate help for you.

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Meeting Notes

Pendle Hill Pamphlet

[Pendle Hill Pamphlet #322](#) is called *Nonviolence and Community: Reflections on the Alternatives to Violence Project* by Newton Garver and Eric Reitan. Nonviolence requires a spirit that comes from within which no curriculum can create or implant. The authors describe how the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) organizes experiences to draw forth that spirit and how doing so builds supportive community.

Peace Notes

The mission of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is “to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States.” Earlier this year, the ACLU launched People Power, a grassroots member-mobilization project to give individuals the tools to advocate for the civil liberties of everyone in their community. Head to <https://peoplepower.org> to find local groups working toward developing “Freedom Cities” by meeting with local government officials and stakeholders and engaging in community building and outreach efforts. The Freedom Cities initiative is a concrete way to work toward [AFSC’s #SanctuaryEverywhere vision](#)

Thinking About Race

From The New York Times, March 12, 2017, “Stop Beating Black Children,” by Stacey Patton, Assistant Professor of multimedia journalism at Morgan State University and author of *Spare the Kids: Why Whipping Children Won’t Save Black America*.

“Black children are also more at risk of being assaulted, seriously injured, or killed by a parent than by a police officer, a neighborhood watchman, or an irritated racist who hates rap music. We have to stop hurting our children to protect them. It is not working. And worse, it erodes our children’s humanity and co-signs the slave master’s logic that you have to hit a black body to make it comply... The violence that black children experience from trigger-happy cops, in the streets of cities like Baltimore and Chicago, in schools, and at home is all inter-connected. It is all strange and bitter fruit from the same tree. I am asking that black parents stop assisting in the devaluation of our children... Instead, we must make black children the antidote to centuries of racism.”