

# BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

*Religious Society of Friends*

P. O. Box 30152, Bethesda, Maryland 20824

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**A Guide to What's Inside!**

Query and Social Concerns

*Bethesda Friends Meeting Newsletter, version for web March 2018*

*Volume 51, Number 3*

Jane Meleney Coe, Editor

## March 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 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.

4	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Let Your Life Speak
		12:30 p.m.	Environmental Sustainability Group
		12:30 p.m.	Adult Religious Education Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		12:30 p.m.	Spring Fling ad hoc group, Teachers Lounge Annex
		7:30 p.m.	The Origin of Others Book Discussion, Jane Coe's House
9 to 11			Pendle Hill: From Mourning to Renewed Witness
10	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center: Poetry in the Cabin
		1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
11	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Responding to the Challenges of Our Times
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment w/ Light at Jane Coe's House
11 to 15			Pendle Hill Workshop: Examine the Prophets
13	Tues	8:30 p.m.	April Newsletter Deadline
17	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Meeting, Charlottesville Friends Mtg, VA
17 to 20			Frds. Com. on Nat'l. Legislation's Spring Lobby Weekend
18	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach & C., Rel. Ed., & Stew. & Fin.
		11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Multi-Age Cooking for the Men's Shelter
		7:30 p.m.	The Origin of Others Book Discussion, Jane Coe's House
21	Wed	7:30 p.m.	Ad hoc Committee on Digitization, Teachers' Lounge
22	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Helping Refugees Group, Meeting Room
24	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conference, Frederick
		2:00 p.m.	Memorial Meeting for Benj Thomas, SFS Upper School

25	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: Margaret Fell & the Growth of Quakerism, Music R.
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light at the Nielsen-Joneses' House

### Query for March: Social Concerns

How have I expressed my faith in action? How are my actions grounded in my faith? To what extent is my sense of justice based in love? In what ways do I endeavor to respond to my own pain and suffering, that of others, and in the wider world? How do we teach our children, and show through our way of living, that love of God includes our affirming the humanity and dignity of everyone and seeking that of God within every person? How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

#### The Social Concerns Box

Donations to the Social Concerns Box in March will go to **Women for Women International**. The Peace & Social Justice Committee has agreed to support three women with notes of encouragement, a monthly stipend, and training as they move from being survivors of conflict to active citizens engaged in rebuilding their lives and communities. The program includes financial assistance, leadership training, technical skills, access to capital and small business development, and the opportunity to gain support from other sponsored sisters in her community. We are sponsoring two women from Rwanda and one from Nigeria, at a cost of \$360 per woman per year. Please be generous with your contributions, and please visit the note-writing table at the entrance to Meeting during March. For more information: Jane Meleney Coe ([bethesda@igc.org](mailto:bethesda@igc.org)) or [www.womenforwomen.org](http://www.womenforwomen.org)

**In December, A Wider Circle received \$569 via the Social Concerns Box, and in January, TASSC (Torture Abolition & Survivors Support Coalition) received \$624 via the Social Concerns Box.**

#### Personal Notes

##### Welcome to Our New Co-Clerk

In January of this year, Lee Ingram became co-clerk of Bethesda Friends Meeting. We warmly welcome her to her new role and wish her well.

##### Welcome to Alexis Beveridge Lazda

We warmly welcome Alexis Beveridge Lazda to full membership in Bethesda Friends Meeting. Alexis has been a junior member since 1997, when her father Roy Beveridge transferred his membership from Langley Hill Friends Meeting. She was 10 years old.

##### Welcome to Claire Beveridge

We warmly welcome Claire Beveridge as a full member of Bethesda Friends Meeting. Claire has been a junior member since 1997. She is the daughter of Nicoline and Roy Beveridge.

## Religious Education for Children

In terms of the program for March, children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to join their families in Meeting for Worship from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. each Sunday.

Upcoming highlights in March include:

4th: Multi-age: To mark Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, Let Your Life Speak interview with Esther Delapaine on her work for civil rights.

11th: Worship and classes and singing.

18th: Multi-age Activity: Bethesda Men's Shelter Meal Preparation. Children and adults will cook an entree for the Bethesda Homeless Shelter supper from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parent volunteers are welcome. If you want to come, contact Aigul Moldabek (aigul\_m(at)hotmail.com) or Jing Han (hanjlst(at)gmail.com) Showing up without notice is also okay.

25th: Worship and classes.

For details about the First Day School, contact Amy Lear White, adlwdc(at)aol.com

## Events

### 4th: Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business will take place on Sunday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m. Meeting for Business is open to all who attend BFM. It is an opportunity to meet worshipfully and for business in a special way. We will hear the draft of our Spiritual State of the Meeting report and reports on FCNL, membership (from our Recorder), and our Meeting community. There will be an update from our Treasurer. Please come! Your participation is welcome. Child Care is provided. For details: Lee Ingram (leeingram4(at)gmail.com) or Ralph Steinhardt (rstein(at)law.gwu.edu)

### 4th/18th: The Origin of Others Book Discussion

Jane Meleney Coe is very excited about a new book by Toni Morrison, her Norton lectures

3 at Harvard, called *The Origin of Others*. It 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 any of three discussions of the book. The first two, on Sunday evenings, March 4 and 18, will be at 7:30 p.m. at her house, 6703 Pawtucket Road in Bethesda, near where Wilson Lane crosses River Road, for dessert, mulled cider, and discussion. RSVP is helpful, but not necessary: (bethesda\_fm(at)igc.org) The third will be on Sunday, April 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room, sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee.

### 9th to 11th: Pendle Hill Weekend Workshop: From Mourning to Renewed Witness

Pendle Hill, in Wallingford PA, is sponsoring a weekend workshop from Friday to Sunday, March 9 to 11 on "From Mourning to Renewed Witness." In our own challenging times, Doug Gwyn and Brian Drayton lead a weekend workshop exploring how Friends throughout history have mourned the injustices of the world and, led by Spirit, have transformed the melancholy of grief into fresh, resilient witness. For details, see [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or 800-566-4507. Please remember that BFM has funds to help with the costs. For details, contact Alex Bell (alexbell55((at))gmail.com)

### 10th: Friends Wilderness Center: Poems in the Cabin

On Saturday, March 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friends Wilderness Center (FWC) Board member, Hayden Mathews, and published poet, Tom Donlon will be co-facilitating a program that will explore how poems enrich our lives with their power to enlighten, challenge, and expand us. Drawing from poems that resonate strongly with them and poems that participants bring that are their

particular favorites, the group will weave a warm 4 mid-winter blanket of words to warm the soul. Absolutely NO prior experience in reading or writing poetry is necessary; only a desire to explore our inner reaches using the magic carpet of poetry. A \$10 donation is suggested to participate but any amount (less or more) will be appreciated. Please RSVP to Sheila Bach (snbach(at)earthlink.net) 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: [www.friendswilderness.org](http://www.friendswilderness.org)

### **10th: 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, please confirm with Leslie Sussan (leslie.sussan(at)verizon.net, 301-962-6125) before coming or 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>

The group has already selected its next four books: David Wood, *What Have We Done: The Moral Injury of Our Longest War* (for March 10); Gary Wills, *What the Qur'an Meant: And Why It Matters* (for April 14?); David Boulton (ed), *Godless for God's Sake: Nontheism in Contemporary Quakerism* (for May 12?); and Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth* (for June 9?). Sometimes the group discusses a book for more than one session. So check with Leslie about which book will be discussed in which month.

### **11th: Responding to the Challenges of Our Times**

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites us to a worship-sharing session to explore responding to the challenges of the present political and cultural environment. What have our experiences been? How we might be guided by the Spirit? Please join us on Sunday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room, basement of the SAM Building. For details, Stephanie Koenig (301-593-3843, [stephaniekoenig\(at\)verizon.net](mailto:stephaniekoenig(at)verizon.net))

### **11th: Up-County Worship Group**

Live up-County? BFM is experimenting with a new worship group to meet on the second Sunday of each month in Boyds, Maryland. Initially, at least, it will be held at Lucille Harri-gan's home at Breezy Hollow Farm in Boyds. The first meeting was on Sunday, January 8, at 11:00 a.m. and went very well with between five and ten people. It was decided to meet monthly on the second Sunday of the month, including a potluck lunch. For that reason, if you plan to attend, please e-mail Lucille (rharrigan11(at)gmail.com)

### **11th: Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share**

Please join us for potluck at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, March 11. We gather in the Groome Building multipurpose room for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share with others adds greatly to the occasion.

Members of the Outreach & Communications Committee are hosting a table for people who are newer to Meeting and may not know so many people but would like to know more. For details, contact Travis Gallagher (dtravisgallagher(at)gmail.com) The Peace & Social Justice Committee is hosting a letter-writing table for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). For details on

that, contact Lauren Brownlee  
(lbrownlee(at)gmail.com)

### **11th/25th: 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 Sunday evening sessions in March, on March 11 and 25, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The first will be at the home of Jane Meleney Coe. On March 25, come to 1238 Ingraham Street, NW, near the Carter Barron theater (the home of Ruth and Peter Nielsen-Jones). Please come if you can! For details: bethesda(fm)@igc.org

### **11th to 15th: Pendle Hill Week-long Course: Examine the Prophets**

Pendle Hill, in Wallingford PA, is hosting a week-long course on the prophets, ancient and modern, called The Prophetic Faith from Moses to Martin. The facilitators are Doug Gyn and John Meyer. We will seek to understand the spiritual formation that undergirds the prophets' radical social witness. This clarity can aid us in finding our own prophetic voices amid a militarized, exploitative, unequal, and immoral society. For details, see [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or 800-566-4507. Please remember that BFM has funds to help with the costs. For details, contact Alex Bell (alexbell55(at)gmail.com).

### **17th to 20th: FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend**

From March 17 to 20, the Friends Committee on National Legislation will host a Spring Lobby Weekend, drawing approximately 450 young adults to Washington to be trained to lobby Congress on a just and fair immigration system. For more information, see:

5 <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/spring-lobby-weekend-739>

### **17th: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting**

The BYM Interim Meeting will be hosted by Charlottesville Friends Meeting on Saturday, March 17. Attendance offers a chance to get to know Friends from across the Yearly Meeting and be part of the decision making at the afternoon session. Visiting Charlottesville in mid-March is a lovely chance to experience spring early as the season there is always several weeks more advanced than in the DC area. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. If you want to carpool, please contact Alex Bell (alexbell55(at)gmail.com) For other details, see [www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org)

### **24th: BYM Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day**

On Saturday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m., Friends from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting's 52 meetings will be gathering at the Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville MD for a networking day on Peace and 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, LGBT, animal rights, and healthcare. Please register before March 19 by sending an e-mail to [pccaroom\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pccaroom(at)gmail.com) with a) participant name(s), b) e-mail(s), c) monthly

meeting for each participant, and d) which two workshops you prefer to attend.

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 (estimated to be \$14 per person).

### **24th/25th: Junior Young Friends Conference**

The third conference for 6th to 8th graders will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25 at Frederick Friends Meeting. The conference goes from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday to noon on Sunday, and costs \$40. The phone number during all events is 301-5000- BYM. JYFs should bring a change of clothes, toiletries, sleeping bag, pad, and anything they think will help them make new friends (a game, musical instrument, or sports equipment). Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is one week before the conference. Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend. For details, contact Jossie Dowling (youthprograms(at)bym-rsf.org) Future dates are May 4 to 6 at Opequon Quaker Camp and at Annual Meeting, July 31 to August 5 in Frederick MD (at Hood College).

### **24th: Memorial Meeting to Celebrate the Life of Benj Thomas**

On Saturday, March 24, at 2:00 p.m. at the Smith Meeting Room on the Upper School campus of Sidwell Friends, there will be a Memorial Meeting for worship for Benj Thomas. He was a long-time member and former clerk of Bethesda Friends Meeting, and beloved teacher and mentor of many students at Sidwell Friends

6 School and Thornton Friends School. The address is 3825 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

### **25th: ARE: Margaret Fell & the Growth of the Early Quaker Movement**

Margaret Fell played a major role in shaping the early Friends' movement. From the time of her conviction in 1652, she not only welcomed those traveling in the ministry to Swarthmoor Hall, but carried on an extensive correspondence, helping knit together the expanding Quaker movement. She developed the guidelines for a Quaker way of marriage, defended the role of women ministers, and helped create the institution of the women's meeting. Repeatedly imprisoned herself, she used her position as a member of the aristocracy to appeal to the king as an equal, seeking relief and protection for Quakers suffering from persecution. Come learn more about this remarkable woman and the faith that inspired her. Deborah Haines, of Alexandria Friends Meeting, whose presentations have been enthusiastically received, will lead this discussion of Margaret Fell's life on Sunday, March 25, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room across the courtyard from the Meeting. For details, Ron Wetteroth (240-314-0278, rwetteroth(at)gmail.com)

### **25th: 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, March 26. For details: Lee Ingram (leeingram4(at)gmail.com) or Ralph Steinhardt (rstein(at)law.gwu.edu).

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## Into the Future

### **April 11th to 16th: Purchase Silent Auction items early from the on-line Buy It Now Sale**

Our Silent Auction (part of Spring Fling – see below) includes a wide variety of interesting services, delicious food offerings, and unique material items. Each year, 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. If you have an item or service or talent to offer for the Silent Auction, please contact Stephanie Koenig (stephaniekoenig(at)verizon.net) or Lydia Adelfio (adelfiol(at)gmail.com)

### **April 15th: FCNL Priorities**

FCNL Wants Our Input. The Friends Committee on National Legislation is seeking input from Friends meetings and churches 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.

### **April 22rd: 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.

7 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. Contact Tina Warnick (warnick123(at)yahoo.com) France Pruitt (francepruitt(at)gmail.com, 301-493-4982), or Wally Bird (birdwm(at)att.net) to volunteer to help.

- “White Camel” Rummage Sale. Please contact Ruth Nielsen-Jones (202-722-1390, ruthmnj(at)verizon.net) or Jane Meleney Coe (bethesdafrm(at)igc.com) for details. 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! Please contact Stephanie Koenig (stephaniekoenig(at)verizon.net) or Lydia Adelfio (adelfiol(at)gmail.com) for details.

- Perennial Plant Sale. Call Liz Hofmeister for details (lhofmesiter45(at)gmail.com).

- 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. See:

[http://www.bethesdafriends.org/spring\\_fling.aspx](http://www.bethesdafriends.org/spring_fling.aspx)

## Committee Notes

### Religious Education

We thank the Religious Education Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of Meeting and at potluck in the month of March. The committee organizes the First Day School religious education for children in the Meeting, including recruiting teachers and getting appropriate educational materials. It also organizes the Christmas pageant each year. It usually meets on the third Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Teachers' Lounge Annex.

### Meeting Notes

#### Peace Notes

By Fall 2017 over 600,000 Rohingya citizens had fled Myanmar because of the violence they faced in their own country. Although the crisis has not been as consistently in the news in recent months, the situation remains dire. The US Holocaust Memorial Museum released a statement on the mass atrocities being perpetrated (<https://www.ushmm.org/information/press/press-releases/museum-statement-on-the-violence-against-burmas-rohingya-population>) and published a report entitled "'They Tried to Kill Us All,' Atrocity Crimes against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State, Myanmar," which includes next steps for the international community's response (<https://www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide/cases/burma/introduction/the-plight-of-the-rohingya>). Please reach out to your congressional representatives to let them know that this is an issue about which you are concerned and want to see them take action. For additional actions individuals can take, please see [8 \[you-can-help-rohingyas\\\_us\\\_59f0a90ee4b0abb85a8f27f8\]\(https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-you-can-help-rohingyas\_us\_59f0a90ee4b0abb85a8f27f8\)](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

### Thinking About Race

“It does no service to the cause of racial equality for white people to content themselves with judging themselves to be nonracist. Few people outside the Klan or skinhead movements own up to all-out racism these days. White people must take the extra step – they must become anti-racist.” Clarence Page, 1996

### BFM 2018 Directory

New BFM directories were mailed out in early February. Additional copies are available on the hall table and the literature table. The directory includes important dates, a schedule of reports to Meeting for Business, which committee serves hospitality, committee memberships, and addresses of Friends Meetings, organizations, and publications. Two additions in the back are: 1) a listing by first names which may help avoid confusion about which Dan or Marion or Jane one is trying to reach; and 2) the resource guide for committees, which describes how to reserve a room for a meeting, how to get announcements in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter, etc.