

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

P. O. Box 30152, Bethesda, Maryland 20824

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BFM newsletter May 2018 Version for web

May 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. 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.

4	Fri		BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat, Sharpsburg MD
		7:00 p.m.	BYM Jr Young Fds Conference at Opequon Quaker Camp
		7:00 p.m.	Paving the Way for Re-Entry after Prison, Takoma Park
6	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.	Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share
		5:00 p.m.	IFC Dinner Dialogues at the Sikh Gurdwara
9	Wed	7:30 p.m.	Helping Refugees Group
12	Sat	9:30 a.m.	BYM Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day
		1:30 p.m.	BFM Book Group in the BFM Library
		5:00 p.m.	Children's Voice for the Children of Yemen
13	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Are We A Blessed/Beloved Community?
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
		8:30 p.m.	June Newsletter Deadline
14	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Second Mondays: The Moral Injury of Our Longest Wars
		7:30 p.m.	Committee Meeting: Adult Religious Education
19	Sat	9:00 a.m.	BFM Service Day: A Wider Circle

20	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach, Rel. Ed., & Stewardship
		11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Multi-Age Activity
		12:30 p.m.	Environmental Sustainability Group, Meeting Room
25	Fri	4:00 p.m.	An Afternoon with Richard Rohr & Tilden Edwards
		7:00 p.m.	BYM Young Friends Conference, Hopewell Frds Meeting
27	Sun	6:00 p.m.	Frds Conf. on Religion & Psychology, Pendle Hill PA
		9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Supervised Play
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light

Query for May: Outreach

As the way opens, how do I share Friends' principles with others? In what ways do I make everyone, including newcomers, feel welcome in meetings for worship? How can I find ways to encourage a sense of community within the Meeting?

Social Concerns Box

The May Social Concerns box is for the **Literacy Council of Montgomery County**, an adult literacy organization that has been serving Montgomery County for 52 years. The Literacy Council teaches functional literacy skills to 1,500 adults through one-on-one tutoring and classroom instruction. Each year, over 700 trained volunteer tutors provide basic literacy and ESL instruction to approximately 900 adult learners, and 600 additional learners participate in intensive ESL classes. There are typically over 100 adults on the waiting list for services. Contributions help support LCMC's free and low-cost programs, and enable program expansion so that more Montgomery County residents can improve their English literacy and, thus, their lives. For details: 301-610- 0030 or www.literacycouncilmcmd.org

In March, we raised \$720 to sponsor two women in Women for Women International programs, in addition to the one sponsorship in the BFM budget.

Do You Have a Graduate in Your Family?

Do you have a graduate in your family? Each year at this time we like to celebrate the graduates from high school and college and those receiving advanced degrees. Please let us know.

For those graduating from high school, BFM would like to give them a student subscription to the *Friends Journal* for the next four years.

Events

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>

4th to 6th: Junior Young Friends Weekend

The next Junior Young Friends (6th to 8th grade) conference will be May 4 to 6 at Opequon Quaker Camp. JYFs should arrive on Friday evening, and leave at 12 noon on Sunday. JYFs are encouraged to bring a sleeping bag, cushion, pillow, clothes (including a bathing suit), flashlight, toiletries, and games, music, or sports equipment. Personal electronics are discouraged.

Pre-registration is required one week in advance of the conference or until the 35-person maximum is met. After that, JYFs will be placed on a waiting list and registered as space permits. For details, Jossie Dowling (301-774-7663, youthprograms(at)bym-rsf.org)

4th: Paving the Way for Re-Entry after Prison

On Friday, May 4, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (310 Tulip Avenue), Susan Burton, the executive director of A New Way of Life, will speak about her book *Becoming Ms. Burton From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women*. She will be joined by Lorig Charkoudian, founder of re-entry mediation. The event is sponsored by Community Mediation Maryland.

6th: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, May 6 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 final budget for the next year, and reports from Pastoral Care and the Library Committee. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. Child care up to age 12 is provided.

6th: Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share

Please join us for potluck at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, May 6. (This is a week earlier than usual because we do not have access to the kitchen on Mother's Day.) Potluck is a good way to make connections with people you don't know so well (newcomers and others), so bring a dish to share and be ready to make some new friends. We gather in the Groome Building multi-purpose room for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share with others adds greatly to the occasion. There will also be FCNL postcards and a theme for us to write to members of Congress.

6th: Interfaith Listening Session & Dinner Dialogue

On Sunday evening, May 6, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, of which BFM is a member congregation, is sponsoring an interfaith learning session and dinner dialogue. The purpose of these sessions is to give participants a chance to learn about various religious traditions through the experiences of ordinary people. The event will be at the Sikh Gurdwara,

3801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The host religious community will provide a vegetarian meal. The cost is \$12/person or \$10/person with valid student ID. [Register here.](#) And please let our BFM clerks know if you would like to be a liaison to the IFC.

9th: Helping Refugees Group

The Helping Refugees Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9.

12th: Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day

On Saturday, May 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Yearly Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Committee has planned a networking day for people in Quaker monthly meetings to meet and exchange ideas and resources. The keynote will be an interactive “Debate into Dialogue” program, which will give Friends practice in a technique to resolve controversies within our own Meetings and in our communities. Friends will then be invited to choose between two or four one-hour workshops on addressing climate/environmental issues or making a difference in criminal justice; and helping refugees and immigrants or working for economic and racial justice. The event will be at the Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville MD. Please register ASAP at peace@bym-rsf.org

12th: Quaker Book Group

The Quaker Book Group meets monthly, 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 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>

12th: Children’s Voice for the Children of Yemen

The Fund for the Future of our Children, Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, and the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics are sponsoring a concert for the children of Yemen: Children’s Voice for Peace for the Children of Yemen on Saturday, May 12, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Davis Performing Arts Center, Gonda Theatre, 37th and O Streets, NW. Through music, dance, and spoken word, children and youth will light a candle of peace, hope, and reconciliation for the children of Yemen. Proceeds will go to Doctors Without Borders (MSF). You can register on Eventbrite. For details: avideh@futureofchildren.net.

13th: ARE: Are We a Blessed/Beloved Community?

On Sunday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room, we will have for worship sharing to reflect on the ways in which we are and are not yet a blessed/beloved community. The specific questions are: “What drew me to Friends?”; “What keeps me among Friends today?” All are invited to share their answers in a worshipful fashion as part of our continuing response to changes in our Meeting and the world.

13th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? Lucille Harrigan and Lowell Christy would welcome our attendance at the Up-County Meeting for Worship at Lucille Harrigan's home at Breezy Hollow Farm (19701 Bucklodge Road, Route 117) in Boyds MD at 11:00 a.m., the second Sunday of the month. Worship is followed by a potluck lunch, so please RSVP to:

Lucille Harrigan (rharrigan11(at)gmail.com) or
 Lowell Christy (lowell.christyphd(at)gmail.com)

13th/27th: 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 on 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 May, on Sundays, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. May 13 and May 27.

14th: Second Mondays: The Moral Injury of Our Longest Wars

The Peace & Social Justice Committee is resuming sponsorship of Monday events in nearby public space. The programs were in abeyance because of on-going renovations at the Bethesda Library. The library has now reopened but not for these events yet, so on Monday, May 14, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Service Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, David Wood will speak and answer questions about his book, *What Have We Done: The Moral injury of Our Longest Wars*. Most Americans are now familiar with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In this groundbreaking new book, journalist David Wood examines the far more pervasive, yet less understood, experience of those we send to war: moral injury. Moral injury is the violation of our fundamental values of right and wrong that so often occurs in the impossible moral dilemmas of modern conflict. Featuring portraits of combat veterans, leading mental health researchers, and the young Americans deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, *What Have We Done* offers an unflinching look at war and those who volunteer for it: the thrill and pride in service and, too often, the scars of moral injury.

19th: BFM Service Day at A Wider Circle

The Peace & Social Justice Committee invites your participation in a community service volunteer day at A Wider Circle in Silver Spring, on Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A Wider Circle is a non-profit organization that assists people transitioning out of shelters to more stable living situations. Please join us to assist clients in selecting needed household items, to help organize furniture, household items, and children's toys and furniture in the warehouse, or to assist with administrative tasks. Individuals and families (children must be at least 5 years old to volunteer) are welcome! A Wider Circle is located at 9159-C Brookeville Road, Silver Spring. To learn more, see www.awidercircle.org

20th: An Afternoon with Richard Rohr and Tilden Edwards

On Sunday, May 20, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Richard Rohr and Tilden Edwards will celebrate Shalem's 45 years of contemplative ministry. It will be at Bethesda United Methodist Church, 8300 Old Georgetown Road, at Huntington Parkway, near Suburban Hospital. This is a fundraiser for

Shalem, so a suggested donation for the afternoon is \$75. For details, contact monica@shalem.org or 301-897-7334. Here is the link: <https://shalem.org/programs/specialevents/rohr-tilden/>

25th to 27th: Young Friends Conference

Calling all high schoolers! From Friday through Sunday, May 25 to 27, there will be a Young Friends Conference sponsored by BYM. The location will be Hopewell Friends Meeting, 604 Hopewell Road in Clearbrook VA 22624. 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 details, contact youthprograms@bym-rsf.org or 301-774-7663.

25th to 28th: Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology

Please feel welcome to attend the Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology, at Pendle Hill, in Wallingford PA, from Friday, May 25, 6:00 p.m., through lunch on Monday, May 28. FCRP is dedicated to individual spiritual exploration with a focus on in-depth psychology, specifically Jungian psychology. The conference is open to all; you need not be a Quaker, a Jungian, or a psychologist.

There are three plenary speakers in this 76th year of the conference: Bessel van der Kolk, Joe Weldon, and Noel Wight. The theme of the conference is Trauma: The Brain, the Body, and Compassionate Witness. There will also be many small group sessions. Please register as soon as possible: <http://fcrp.quaker.org> There may be a late fee. More details are on the BFM library bulletin board.

27th: 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, May 27.

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Into the Future

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

June 15th to 17th: 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 15 to Sunday afternoon, June 17. 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 8.

Committee Notes

Adult Religious Education

We thank the Adult Religious Education Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of Meeting in May. ARE's mission is to foster spiritual growth and development in the Meeting. It arranges programs for both newcomers and seasoned Friends on Quaker faith and practice, Quaker history and testimonies, Bible study, prayer and meditation, and shared reflections on our spiritual experience.

Stewardship & Finance

It's that time of year when we ask for your financial support of the Meeting and the charitable efforts the Meeting supports.

In the fall and spring each year, BFM asks everyone in the BFM community for financial support. The Meeting depends on individual financial contributions for its income. Therefore, your giving is an important affirmation of solidarity with our Friends community. Contributions, no matter what size, are greatly appreciated. Please make a contribution to the Meeting that is generous in relation to your means. When deciding how much to give, consider the value of our Meeting to you, to your family, and to the lives of others touched by the Meeting.

Our budget not only supports our own Meeting, it also unites us with our local community, with Quaker organizations more generally, and with the wider world. In addition to covering the Meeting's direct expenses and our support for Baltimore Yearly Meeting, approximately 35 percent of our funds go to other charitable causes, including the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

There are five ways to make your financial contribution:

1. Write a check payable to Bethesda Friends Meeting, and mail it to our Assistant Treasurer, 4413 Chalfont Place, Bethesda MD 20816.
2. Credit card via PayPal (no PayPal account required). At www.bethesdafriends.org, click on "Support the Meeting" on the right side of the screen, and then follow the prompts.

3. The contribution box (for BFM) in the Meeting House can be used for cash or checks.

4. Automatic transfers from your checking account. First, decide transfer frequency (monthly or quarterly), the amount of each transfer, and the date for each transfer.

For Friends who would like to review the investments made by Friends Fiduciary Corporation, see www.friendsfiduciary.org BFM funds are invested in the Consolidated Fund. For those interested in information about sustainable and responsible investing, a good source of information is the US Sustainable Investment Forum (www.ussif.org)

Fellowship & Hospitality

The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers to provide refreshments at the rise of meeting during the month of June. We would ideally like to have two volunteers for each first day to bring snacks. Different committees are responsible for hospitality during other months of the year, but in June, we rely on volunteers. If you can help, please contact the clerk of Fellowship & Hospitality.

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

One of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final initiatives 50 years ago was the Poor People's Campaign, a movement that bridged racial divides in its call for economic justice. Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis have rekindled the campaign. The American Friends Service Committee is among its endorsers. The campaign's website states, "The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality." The movement is currently building toward 40 days of nonviolent moral direct action from May 13 (Mother's Day) to June 21. To learn more and join the movement, go to: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>

Change Group

Please consider being part of a Change Group providing leadership for Bethesda Friends Meeting to lower barriers to Friends and seekers of varying ethnicities, skin color, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, abilities, stages of life, and socially constructed racial identities. When we have enough people to get started, we will meet regularly and consistently. We will assess and discern behaviors and systems within the Meeting that may contribute to racial and other bias and/or inequity, as well as strengths and resources that can help us move forward. We will recommend concrete steps and actions to the Meeting and help carry them out. We will share information about our experiences and progress with other Meetings so that we may all learn and connect. To quote Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

Quaker Lunks

Quaker Lunks, BFM's finest human beef, will help you remove trash from your home to your curb, or manhandle items too bulky or heavy to move by yourself. This free service provides two lunks for up to two hours. It requires a preliminary inspection to size up the job. Quaker Lunks will not

normally take jobs longer than two hours or jobs that require hauling beyond your curb. The service is available year-round. Donations to BFM earmarked "Ramallah Friends School-Lunks" are welcome but not expected.