

# BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

*Religious Society of Friends*

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*BFM Newsletter October 2017, Web Version*

## Query for October: Personal Spiritual Life: Learning

How can we most effectively foster a spirit of seeking the Light? What helps us to be open to new understanding, support, and guidance? What encourages us to share our spiritual insights with others and to willingly receive from them in turn? How does Meeting nurture our spiritual growth and transformation? What efforts are we making to become better acquainted with the sources of our spiritual heritage and the contributions of other religions and philosophies?

## October 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 the 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.

1	Sun	9:00 a.m.	World Quaker Day
		11:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		12:30 p.m.	First Day School: Worship & Celebrate World Quaker Day
		12:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		12:30 p.m.	Environmental Sustainability Group, Meeting Room
		6:30 p.m.	WPH Potluck & Dialogue: Peter Toscano, storyteller
6	Fri	3:30 p.m.	Fall Silent Retreat, Dayspring, Germantown MD
8	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Quaker Testimonies
		12:15 p.m.	Potluck (Please Bring a Dish to Share)
		1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library
		3:00 p.m.	A White Historian Explores Black Voting Rights, DC
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light
9	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Committee Meeting: Adult Religious Education
11	Wed	7:30 p.m.	A White Historian Explores Black Voting Rights, Tak. Pk.
13	Fri	8:30 p.m.	Deadline for November Newsletter

14	Sat	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	BYM Interim Meeting, Homewood Meeting, Baltimore Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
15	Sun	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care & Ministry & Worship ARE: Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Room Committee Day: Nominating, A&O, RE, & S&F First Day School: Worship & Walkathon for the Homeless Book Talk: Hospital Warrior, Meeting Room
20 to 22			Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp, MD
22	Sun	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge ARE: Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Room Nominating Committee, Teachers Lounge Annex First Day School: Worship & Quaker Leaders SFS Asks That BFM Be Off Campus by 1:00 p.m. Experiment With Light
29	Sun	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	ARE: Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Room Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge First Day School: Worship & Quaker Leaders: Wm. Penn Coordinating Gathering

### The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for October is for the Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provides affordable housing and social services to homeless families in Montgomery County as they transition from homelessness to independence. On any given day in Montgomery County, 1,100 people are homeless. Between 2005 and 2015 childhood poverty increased from 4% to almost 10%. BFM has been one of the member organizations for more than 25 years. Our youth will host a mini-walkathon on Sunday, October 15. For details, call Esther Delaplaine at 301-913-0090.

In the Social Concerns Box for August, we collected a total of \$301 for Jubilee Jobs.

### Religious Education for Young People

Families are encouraged to bring their children to Meeting for Worship from 11 to 11:15 a.m. Teachers meet children outside the Meeting Room at 11:15 a.m. Classes are held in the Lower School Groome Building, entrance door on first level, next to the playground. On the first and third Sundays of the month, teachers lead multi age activities for children in K-8th grades. On the second and fourth Sundays, teachers lead classes for K-2 and 3-8th grades. FDS ends at 12:20 p.m., when children join families in the Meeting Room or in the library for hospitality. Parents are welcome. For more information, contact Amy Lear White, adlwdc(at)aol.com

The plans for October are as follows:

**October 1:** Multi-age group activity, K-8th grades, Celebrate World Quaker Day! We'll take a group photo to post on Friend's World Committee for Consultation website. For details, see: <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

**October 8:** Classes for K-2, 3-8th grade, Quaker Testimonies, part 3; Prepare for Walka-thon scheduled for October 15.

**October 15:** Multi-age group activity, Annual BFM Walkathon to support people who are homeless; Families are welcome to join the children and teachers at 11:15 a.m. for a neighborhood walk followed by cider and snacks.

**October 22:** Classes for K-2, 3-8th grade, Quaker Leaders: George Fox, Margaret Fell

**October 29:** Classes for K-2, 3-8th grade, Quaker Leaders: William Penn

For the religious education program for middle and high schoolers for people at Quaker Meetings in this area (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), see: [http://yf.bym-rsf.net/?page\\_id=23](http://yf.bym-rsf.net/?page_id=23)

### Events

#### 1st: World Quaker Day

Sunday, October 1, marks [World Quaker Day](#), the day when we Friends celebrate world-wide our different ways of worship, traditions, and practices. This year's theme is Gathering in Worship Around the World. To learn more and to share how you worship, please visit the [Friends World Committee for](#)

## [Consultation.](#)

### **1st: Meeting for Business**

On Sunday, October 1, 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. Meeting for Business will include reports from our Treasurer, Peace & Social Justice, and Friends Non-Profit Housing, and an update from Religious Education. To enable parents of young children to attend Meeting for Business, child care is available for children through age 12 (or sixth grade). Please come if you can. To add something to the agenda, contact Susan Kaul ([susan.kaul\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:susan.kaul(AT)gmail.com), 301-335- 2529) or Ralph Steinhardt ([rstein\(AT\)law.gwu.edu](mailto:rstein(AT)law.gwu.edu), 301-928-8562).

### **1st: Environmental Sustainability Group**

The Environmental Sustainability Group will hold its first fall meeting on October 1, at 12:30 in the meeting room. We will take this time to plan the rescheduling of a presentation that has been carried over from the spring, and inquire into other program events we might offer during the fall and winter (film screenings and workshops and other possible events of local environmental interest/involvement). All are welcome. For more details, Joe Hiatt (202-686-9298, [hiattjm\(AT\)hotmail.com](mailto:hiattjm(AT)hotmail.com))

### **1st: William Penn House Potluck & Dialogue**

F(f)riends are invited to a potluck and Quaker dialogue at William Penn House on Sunday, October 1, at 6:30 p.m. Peter Toscano will display his artful, playful, outrageously funny, and deeply moving storytelling craft. A shapeshifter, he transforms right before your eyes into a whole cast of comic characters who explore the serious worlds of gender, sexuality, privilege, religion, and environmental justice. Bring a dish to share; family members and friends are always welcome. WPH is at 515 East Capitol Street, SE. For more details: [www.WilliamPennHouse.org](http://www.WilliamPennHouse.org), 202-543-5560.

### **4th/11th/18th/25th: Mid-Week Meetings for Worship**

On Wednesday evenings, at 7:30 p.m., there is a mid-week Meeting for Worship. All are welcome! For details: Peirce Hammond (301-897- 0925, [peirceah.03.01\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:peirceah.03.01(at)gmail.com))

### **6th to 9th: Silent Retreat for Friends**

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Join members of Annapolis Friends Meeting for a Silent Retreat. This retreat has never been full, so please join us. We will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in meadows and woods, reading, walking, resting, praying, finding our own rhythms, and listening for the "still, small voice" at Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, MD. The cost of the retreat is \$300. Although the deadline for registrations has passed, there may still be space. Please register ASAP. For more information, contact facilitator Jean Christianson (410-544-1912, [jschristianson\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:jschristianson(AT)gmail.com)) If Dayspring is new to you, check their web site ([www.dayspringretreat.org](http://www.dayspringretreat.org)) to get a sense of it. There is also a YouTube piece online created at an October Baltimore Yearly Meeting retreat.

### **8th: Potluck**

Please join us for potluck in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, October 8. It is an opportunity for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share adds greatly to the occasion.

### **8th: Up-County Worship Group**

Live up-County? You are welcome to attend 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/11th: A White Historian Explores Black Voting Rights**

Susan Strasser, a retired history professor at the University of Delaware, has presented her

perspectives as a White Historian Confronting American Slavery and Looking at Lynching to several audiences in the area. The response has been enthusiastic. Her next topic is on African American Voting Rights. She will be giving two talks in the Washington DC area in October, one on Sunday, October 8, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Byron and Rick Reinhard; the other on Wednesday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Avenue. For details: susan(AT)susanstrasser.net

### **8th & 22nd: 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. All are welcome to attend. First-time participants find the process quite easy to follow and, often richly rewarding.

This is an invitation to two such sessions, on Sunday evenings, October 8 and 22, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

### **14th: BYM Interim Meeting**

BFM is part of a larger grouping of 52 Quaker congregations in Maryland, DC, Virginia, and parts of Pennsylvania called Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Three times a year people from the Meetings gather for fellowship, committee meetings, and a general business meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Friends from other Meetings. You can be a part of important decision making. Homewood Friends Meeting, 3107 North Charles Street in Baltimore, MD, is hosting the Tenth Month Interim Meeting on Saturday, October 14. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Business Meeting in the afternoon will be followed by dinner at the rise of Meeting. Check <http://www.bym-rsf.org> for more information.

### **14th: BFM 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 will be undergoing renovations in coming months, the meeting place will be 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>

### **15th/22nd/29th: Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice**

Are you a newcomer to Bethesda Friends Meeting? Or perhaps you've been with us a while, but have some questions about Quaker faith and practice. Or you may be a long-time Friend, wishing to refresh and deepen your understanding of Quakerism, and share your thoughts with other seekers. The [Adult Religious Education Committee](#) will be offering a 6-week session this fall, which we are calling "Exploring Quaker Faith and Practice." These classes will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room of the SAM Building, across the patio from the Meetinghouse, in the basement. The dates will be: October 15, 22, 29; November 12 and 19; and December 10. For those interested, we suggest buying or borrowing the book, *Letters to a Fellow Seeker*, by Steve Chase. We will be reading this during the 6-week series. The class topics are as follows:

October 15: Introductions to one another, and to the early Quakers and their inspiration;

October 22: The Inner Light;

October 29: Meeting for Worship;

November 12: Quaker Christianity and Universalism;

November 19: Quaker Testimonies and Living our Faith;

December 10: Quaker Process and Decision-Making/Meeting for Business.

### **15th: Book Talk: Hospital Warrior: How to Get the Best Care for Your Loved One**

The Pastoral Care Committee is sponsoring a talk by the author, Bonnie Friedman, on Sunday,

October 15, at the rise of Meeting. She will help us become strong advocates on behalf of those we care about: ready to take charge, act with confidence, and move mountains. She has lived through it 14 times over 24 years, fighting for her husband's well-being. Now she's sharing her hard-won wisdom on taking care of yourself during a stressful time, communicating effectively with doctors and nurses, being an integral member of the care team, making the most of what the hospital has to offer, knowing what to do if things go wrong, and preparing for discharge and next steps. Please come if you can. There will be additional finger foods and drink at the event. Copies of her book are available at the book table and will be available at the talk.

### **20th to 22nd: [BYM Fall Family Camp Catoctin Weekend](#)**

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting camps offer us all (individuals as well as families) a chance to come and enjoy the beautiful camps at a special time of year for a day or for the weekend. A program coordinator will plan camp-type activities for Saturday and Sunday morning, as well as Saturday afternoon and evening. These may include things like playing in the creek, a crafts project, or hiking. There will also be plenty of work projects to do! These offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to participate in meaningful and satisfying work. In addition, participants will enjoy meals together, time to explore, and an evening campfire. You may come for the day or spend the night on Saturday. Camp will also be open on Friday night, but there will be no dinner served on Friday. Other meals are provided. To pay for some of the supplies and staff, participants are asked to contribute \$25 to \$50 per person, according to your ability to pay. For details: David Hunter, Camp Property Manager (davidhunter(at)bym-rsf.org, 301-774-7663)

### **22nd: SFS Open House for Admissions**

We are asked to be off the campus of the Lower School by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, because of the large Lower School Open House for Admissions which starts at 2:00 p.m. that day. The Admissions Office needs to start setting up at noon. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **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 on Sunday, October 29, at the rise of Meeting.

## **Into the Future**

### **Christmas Pageant Orchestra**

If you play a musical instrument, consider playing in the Meeting's Christmas Celebration Orchestra and letting Ross Capon know of your interest, preferably by Tuesday, November 15. All ages are welcome to participate. Orchestra rehearsals are:

- Sunday, November 19, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. (Music Room, in the basement of the SAM Building, across the courtyard from the meeting-house).
- Saturday, December 2, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Sunday, December 18, from 9:30 a.m. (Groome Building basement); then 11:00 a.m. "dress rehearsal" (Groome Building multipurpose room); noon performance.

## **Committee Notes**

### **Ministry & Worship**

Hospitality. We wish to thank the Ministry & Worship Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of meeting and potluck this month and for being clerks of our Meetings for Worship. The committee is concerned primarily with nurturing the Meeting for Worship (including Meetings for Worship for the Conduct of Business), and with the larger spiritual state of the Meeting. Members of this committee bring closure to Meetings for Worship and make the announcements. The committee is responsible for special meetings such as weddings and memorial meetings. It drafts an annual report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting.

It meets on the third First Day morning at 9:00 a.m. for its committee work.

## **Nominating**

We are again entering our nominating season, the time of year when the Nominating Committee makes recommendations to fill the openings on the Meeting's committees and among the Meeting's officer and organizational liaison positions.

It is very helpful for the Nominating Committee to learn about the interests of all who participate in BFM so that we can place individuals in roles that are a good fit.

For people who have not been involved in committee work before, we strongly encourage you to join a committee. We have found that working with others on committees is one of the most rewarding ways of deepening our relationships within the Meeting community and putting our Quaker principles into practice. BFM committees are always eager to have new faces, new ideas, and new energy.

During September and October, the Nominating Committee will identify nominees to begin serving in January 2018. Nominations are presented at the November Meeting for Business and approved in December. Committee members typically serve for two two-year terms.

To learn more, please see the list of committees with descriptions of their activities and responsibilities on pages 2 to 10 in the 2017 BFM Directory or go to:

[http://www.bethesdafriends.org/officers\\_committees.aspx](http://www.bethesdafriends.org/officers_committees.aspx)

## **Pastoral Care**

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

## **Advancement & Outreach**

Friends Journal subscriptions are being sent to five people of college age who have said they would enjoy receiving copies.

## **Child Care**

The Child Care Committee is happy to announce that we have a new child care provider. She will work as a team with our long-time child care provider. You can expect one of them to be in the child care room each Sunday along with a BFM volunteer.

If you can help us as a child care volunteer, please sign up at:

[http://www.bethesdafriends.org/volunteer\\_for\\_child\\_care.aspx](http://www.bethesdafriends.org/volunteer_for_child_care.aspx)

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Peace Notes**

Minute by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as to consideration of U.S. renewed military action against North Korea

Background: In recent days, U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham stated to national media (NBC's Today Show), "There is a military option to destroy North Korea's (missile) program and North Korea itself. ...If there's going to be a war to stop them, it will be over there. If thousands die, they're going to die over there, they're not going to die here and (President Donald Trump) told me that to my face."

Vice President Pence has stated that "all options are on the table." U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley is reported by CNN to have announced, "The time for talk is over."

Nonetheless, there is a broad international consensus that economic pressure has had a major impact on North Korea and should be continued; its primary remaining trading partner, China, recently agreed to increase its economic actions.

Minute: Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) urges U.S. leaders to resist any temptation to a military strike against North Korea.

The use of military force on the Korean peninsula would cause massive loss of life and other horrific consequences to Koreans and other nations' people including our own. Over 100,000 Americans reside in South Korea, including thousands of civilians. Such a war, especially nuclear war, also would do terrible, long-term damage to the world's ecosystem. As with the war in Iraq, an attack on North Korea would have

unintended consequences.

Only continued patience, diplomacy, and nonmilitary interactions hold the promise for true peace-building and a better future for the Korean peninsula. Our nation must reject the false promises of war and threats of war.

The BYM region of Quakers includes more than 52 worshipping communities in four states (Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia with attendance of more than 7,000. Quakers have supported peaceful resolution of conflicts for more than 350 years, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize and participating in establishment of the United Nations and other practical, ongoing conflict resolution organizations. Consistent with Friends' historic Peace Testimony, we "utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever."

Proposed Action: With the adoption of the Minute, our BYM Clerk will transmit this to media and leaders of other faith groups. BYM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee will transmit the minute to the White House and the U.S. State Department and post it online. We also will suggest that BYM Monthly Meetings and other Quaker organizations transmit it to and meet with their respective Senators and Congressional representatives with requests to join the opposition to such military action. Finally, we will urge Friends, other individuals, and groups to send similar messages in their own words and to sign petitions opposed to a renewed Korean War as provided by Friends Committee on National Legislation and other groups.