

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

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A Guide to What's Inside!

[Calendar](#)

[Query: Fostering Community](#)

[The Social Concerns Box, p. 2](#)

[Events, pp. 2 - 5](#)

[Into the Future, pp. 5 - 6](#)

[Committee Notes, pp. 6 - 7](#)

[Advancement & Outreach](#)

[Religious Education](#)

[Nominating](#)

[Friendly Eights](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Meeting Notes, pp. 7 - 9](#)

[Pendle Hill Opportunities p 7](#)

BFM Newsletter September 2016 Version for Web

Query for September: Fostering Community

What helps our Meeting build trust of one another? How do we get to know one another in community? How do we make time in our lives for our faith community? How does conflict enrich the life of our community? How do we provide for spiritual refreshment at all stages of the spiritual journey?

September 2016 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is at 11:00 a.m. every First Day. It is also held at 9:30 a.m. every First Day (except when Meeting for Business is held at 9:00 a.m.)

2	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Program Fall Retreat, WV
4	Sun	9:45 a.m.	Friendly Eights Committee, Science Room, SAM Bldg.
		12:30 p.m.	Environmental Sustainability Group, Meeting Room
		12:30 p.m.	Adult Religious Education Committee, Teachers' Lounge
8	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Ad hoc Com on Discerning Our Future
10	Sat	9:00 a.m.	BFM Service Day at A Wider Circle
		10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center Program: Qi Gong
		3:00 p.m.	BFM Book Group at the Bethesda Library, Arlington Road
11	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School, Opening Day Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Potluck & Friendly Eights Tables; Nominating Committee
		1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library

		6:30 p.m.	WPH Potluck: Reflections on Human Rights Seminars
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light
12	Mon	8:00 p.m.	Stewardship & Finance Committee
13	Tues	8:30 p.m.	October Newsletter Deadline
17	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Pastoral Care Workshop, Friends Meeting of Washington
18	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Information Session Re BFM's Future, Groome Bldg.
		9:30 a.m.	Advancement & Outreach Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Religious Education Committee, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		9:30 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Groome Bldg (Back Stage)
		10:00 a.m.	Sharing Quaker Faith & Practice with an Interfaith Group
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School, Multi-age Group
		12:15 p.m.	Sharing Quaker Faith & Practice with an Interfaith Group
		12:15 p.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care & Ministry & Worship
		1:00 p.m.	A White Historian Confronts American Slavery, FMW
23	Fri	7:00 p.m.	Young Friends Conference, Charlottesville VA
25	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School, Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room
		12:30 p.m.	Chesapeake Quarter Quarterly Meeting, Sandy Spring
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light

The Social Concerns Box

The September Social Concerns Box is for the Mary Jane Simpson Scholarship Fund, which each year awards college scholarships to DC public school seniors with high potential, who are coping with difficult backgrounds and have very low incomes. This fund is managed jointly by Bethesda Friends Meeting, Friends Meeting of Washington, and Langley Hill Friends Meeting. BFM plays a vital role in mobilizing funding, selecting the awardees, and making decisions about the program's policies and practices. Since the scholarship fund first began, it has awarded 116 scholarships to graduates from 27 DC Public schools. The amount of each scholarship is now \$6,500, and each year the program supports about 20 students through their four years of college. Please be generous.

In the June Social Concerns box, **\$299.46 was donated to Jubilee Jobs.**

Events

2nd to 4th: Spiritual Formation Program Fall Retreat

The BYM Spiritual Formation Program's Fall Retreat will happen from Friday, September 2, to Sunday, September 4, at the Priestfield Pastoral Retreat Center in Kearneysville WV. Open to all regardless of prior or planned participation in an existing Spiritual Formation program, the retreat is a time to explore and deepen our practice of living and worshipping in spiritual community. For details, [click here.](#)

4th: Environmental Sustainability Group

The Environmental Sustainability Group will next gather on Sunday, September 4, at 12:30 p.m., in the Meeting Room. We have met each month throughout the summer, developing the content of the ESG material to be posted on the BFM website. The coming session will include final

consideration of that content, now that all members are back in town, and discussion of our activity for the coming months.

8th: Ad hoc Committee on Discerning Our Future

On Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m., the ad hoc Committee on Discerning Our Future will meet in Bethesda. The meeting is open to everyone.

10th: BFM Service Day at A Wider Circle

The Peace & Social Justice Committee is planning a community service volunteer day for BFM participants at A Wider Circle in Silver Spring, on Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A Wider Circle is a non-profit organization that assists individuals and families transitioning out of shelters to more stable living situations. Please join us to help assist clients in selecting needed household items, to help organize furniture/household items in the warehouse, or to assist with administrative tasks. Individuals and families (children should be at least 5 years old to volunteer) are welcome! A Wider Circle is located at 9159-C Brookeville Road, Silver Spring. See www.awidercircle.org

10th: Friends Wilderness Center Event

On Saturday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a class in Qi Gong which is open to all who might be interested in movement and meditation. It will be in the Niles Cabin.

The center is less than two hours from Washington on a 1,400-acre tract of land which backs up to the Appalachian Trail in West Virginia.

A \$10 donation for programs is suggested. This helps maintain the property and facilities. For details: www.friendswilderness.org It is very helpful to make reservations

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!). Since the time and date can change on short notice due to the Library's scheduling practices, please confirm with Leslie Sussan before coming or join the Book Group List Serve.

11th: Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business in September will be on September 11, at 9:00 a.m. All participants in BFM are welcome, and even encouraged, to attend. Meeting for Business will include reports from the Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering, Adult Religious Education, and William Penn House.

11th: First Day School Begins!

First Day School will start on Sunday, September 11. Children will be with their families in Meeting for Worship at 11:00 a.m. and leave at 11:15 a.m. to join their classes.

FDS classes for grades K-3, 4-6, middle school, and high school will start on Sunday, September 11, and continue on Sunday, September 25. On Sunday, September 19, there will be a multiage activity.

11th: Potluck

Please join us for potluck in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, September 11. It is an opportunity for feast and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.

11th: William Penn House Potluck & Dialogue

F(f)riends are invited to a potluck and Quaker dialogue at William Penn House on Sunday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. Bob Schultz will talk about the Human Rights Seminars for university students he first organized more than 30 years ago. We will also meet this year's students and hear about their research projects. Bring a dish to share; family members and friends are always welcome. WPH is at 515 East Capitol Street, SE. For details: www.WilliamPennHouse.org or 202-543-5560.

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. 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 Sunday evening sessions, September 11 and 26, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

17th: Pastoral Care Workshop

On Saturday, September 17, Jenn Fredette will be giving a workshop to Friends on setting boundaries. Jenn has a Masters of Pastoral Counseling from Marymount University and a Masters of Divinity from Wake Forest University. We expect her to help us learn better pastoral care practices. The workshop runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; lunch will be served. The fee is TBD. We will meet in Quaker House at 2121 Decatur Place NW, next door to Friends Meeting of Washington. On the street parking is free. The Dupont Circle Metro stop is three blocks away. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Debby Churchman at admin@quakersdc.org

18th: Information Meeting on Discerning Our Future

The ad hoc Committee on Opportunities for Our Future will hold the last of the information sessions on Sunday, September 18, at 9:15 a.m., in the Groome Building multi-purpose room. Then, in keeping with the schedule set out last October, clerks are calling a Meeting for Worship with a concern for business to discern corporately how we are led to respond to the challenge that faces us. Please join other Bethesda Friends in the Meeting Room at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, to search for God's guidance to us at this juncture. We have the room reserved until 4:00 p.m. that Saturday, and, if we need more time, the next meeting will be on October 8.

18th: Welcoming Interfaith Visitors

On Sunday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m., in the Music Room, the ARE committee will be meeting with Zamin Danty and an interfaith group he has organized which is interested in themes of moderation, tolerance, and peace-making. Their group would like to talk to interested BFM folks about Quaker faith and practice, and then attend a Meeting for Worship. They would also like some time after Meeting for Worship to talk about what they experienced. For those who would like to know more about Zamin Danty and those who may be coming, [see their website](#).

18th: A White Historian Confronts American Slavery

Susan Strasser, a retired history professor at the University of Delaware, has presented her perspectives as a White Historian Confronting American Slavery to several audiences in the area. The response has been enthusiastic. We have an opportunity to hear her at Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue, NW, near the Dupont Circle Metro, at 1:00 p.m., on Sunday, September 18.

23rd to 25th: Young Friends Conference

On the weekend of September 23 to 25, there will be a Young Friends Conference for high-school-aged Quakers at Charlottesville Friends Meeting, 1104 Forest Street, Charlottesville VA 22903. [For details click here.](#) Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is two weeks before the conference (September 9). Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend.

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 on Sunday, September 25, at the rise of Meeting.

25th: Chesapeake Quarter Meeting

Chesapeake Quarter Meeting is a group of Monthly Meetings in Maryland, which meets on the last First Day of September, and the first First Day of March and June. It currently includes meetings in the Baltimore, Sandy Spring, Annapolis, and Patuxent areas (to name only a few)—a very wide geographical area—rotating among them. Bethesda Friends, along with Friends from Adelphi and Deer Creek, have been invited to attend the September Meeting (at the rise of SSMM) at Friends House Retirement Community, 17340 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring MD, 20860, to assess whether we might find it enriching to join the Quarter to hear about what is happening in other Meetings. It is often helpful to talk with others about situations we face. Additionally, the Quarter Meeting pays attention to issues in the Maryland legislature that relate to areas of concern, such as justice reform and environmental issues.

[Return to Top](#)

Into the Future

1st/8th: Called Meetings re BFM's Future

In keeping with the schedule set out last October, clerks Susan Kaul and Ralph Steinhardt are calling a Meeting for Worship with a concern for business to discern corporately how we are led to respond to the fact that Sidwell Friends plans to sell its Lower School Campus. Where will we gather after that happens? Please join other Bethesda Friends in the Meeting Room at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, to search for God's guidance to us at this juncture. We have the room reserved until 4:00 p.m. that Saturday, and, if we need more time, the next Saturday, October 8.

October 2nd: World Quaker Day

On Sunday, October 2, Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) is inviting every Quaker Meeting to celebrate [World Quaker Day](#). How can BFM remember the many Quakers worshipping around the world? Please reach out to Quakers in other meetings, especially those outside the US to send greetings and best wishes.

Exploring Quakerism

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites you a six-session class on Exploring Quakerism, starting this fall. Many newcomers, as well as those who have been attending for quite a while, have questions about Quaker faith and practice. This series, called “Exploring Quakerism,” is meant to answer many of these questions, and give us an opportunity to share with one another our questions, concerns, and hopes, as we participate in BFM.

Some of the questions we will be addressing are:

- Why do Quakers worship in the way we do?
- What do Quakers expect or hope for in Meeting for Worship?
- Are there rules about how to behave in Meeting for Worship?
- How do people know whether it is right to speak in Meeting for Worship?
- What do Quakers mean when they say, “There is that of God in everyone?”
- What does it mean when Quakers say they believe in continuing revelation?
- What do Quakers believe about God?
- About Jesus? About the Bible?
- What do Quakers believe when they say they are holding someone in the Light?
- What are the Quaker testimonies?
- How do they differ from a prescribed creed or set of beliefs?
- How do the monthly queries fit in?

Please let us know if you have other questions you would like addressed. There are three possible times to meet: Sundays at 9:30 a.m., Sundays at 12:30 p.m. (with brown bag lunch), and Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

October 7th to 10th: 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, and the deadline for registrations is September 30. If Dayspring is new to you, check their web site (www.dayspringretreat.org) to get a sense of it. There is also a YouTube piece online created at an October BYM retreat.

October 8th: William Penn House 50th Anniversary Celebration

Join William Penn House for fun, food, and fellowship to celebrate its 50 years of service and activism in Washington, DC. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with hands-on work projects supporting Quaker Workcamps’ urban gardening program—helping promote food justice in DC neighborhoods. In the tradition of Quaker workcamps, we will honor the light in others, build community, and make love visible. Then enjoy a BBQ lunch back at William Penn House, complete with a visit from William Penn himself! Tour the house and learn about its history of service and activism during the afternoon Open House. Families, individuals, and groups of all ages are welcome. This event is free, but registration is required. [Please register by September 26.](#)

November 10th to 13th: FCNL Annual Meeting

Save the dates for the Friends Committee on National Legislation's Annual Meeting from Thursday, November 10, to Sunday, November 13. You can register now at: www.fcnl.org/annualmeeting

The first day's focus will be on lobbying Congress to build a pathway to peace. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with Friends from around the country who care passionately about the issues of the day. The location will be at the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW. The Lobby Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 10.

Committee Notes

Advancement & Outreach

We thank Advancement & Outreach for providing refreshments at the rise of Meeting in September. The committee welcomes newcomers and visitors, helps them connect with Meeting community activities, and furthers community-building activities. It manages BFM publications, the Listserv, and web site. It hosts Getting to Know One Another gatherings and Experiment with Light. It coordinates the plant sale. The A&O Committee meets on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m., in the Teachers' Lounge.

Religious Education

For information on the First Day School program this year, see the description under First Day School Begins (on September 11).

Nominating

Fall is nominating season—your chance to serve Bethesda Friends Meeting.

Would you like to deepen your connection to Bethesda Friends Meeting and strengthen our community at the same time? One way to do so is to join a committee.

BFM, like many Society of Friends congregations, has no paid administrators or clergy. Instead, those who value and are nourished by Meeting serve on committees as stewards of BFM.

Most committees are open to all and are eager for new faces, new ideas, and new energy. So, if you are not yet on a committee, please consider joining one! During September and October, our Nominating Committee seeks people willing to serve beginning in January 2017. It presents nominations at the November Meeting for Business, with approval in December. A term is two years long, and typically individuals serve for two terms (four years).

If you would like to learn more, you can find a list of committees, with descriptions of their responsibilities, on pages 3 to 10 in the 2016 BFM Directory. (Extra copies of the directory are available at the Book Table in the Library; or see committee information on our website: www.bethesdafriends.org) In addition, feel free to contact members of the Nominating Committee, whose names are listed in the Directory, by phone, e-mail, or at the rise of Meeting.

If you have served a two-year term, please let the Nominating Committee know if you wish to join a different committee. If you have served for four years, please tell us what other committees you might consider.

When we all pitch in, we enrich our BFM community!

Friendly Eights Fellowship Dinners

Throughout September, after Meeting for Worship, the Friendly Eights Committee will be encouraging us to sign up for potluck dinners for families (October 29 and December 3) and for adults (October 16 and November 20). You can also sign up on our website www.bethesdafriends.org. The committee is currently considering a re-structuring of the program, so we are not signing up for the rest of the year at this time. Friendly Eights dinners are potlucks for either adults only or families with children. The adult groups meet on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. To better accommodate children, the family groups meet at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. We try to group those who sign up so that they will share a dinner with as many different people as possible. This is a great way to get to know others in the BFM community.

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.

[Return to Top](#)

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

As BFM discerns how to support the work of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee, F/friends may be inspired by the closing remarks by Dyresha Harris, BYM Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator, at Annual Session, copied below:

As I've reflected on why I was guided here to do this work in this place in this moment, I've realized that this faith is a force. It is a force in the outer world. Not a force like an army that divides or dominates, but as force that unites and moves forward like a great wave of Light. Not exceptionalism, but has a unique truth to offer. Deep belief of that of God (Light) in everyone. It is significant that the Society of Friends be engaged in these issues at this moment. Significant that meetings in this regional area be engaged in this issue at this time. It is a force in our inner world. Clearly our faith calls us to do this work of justice, equity, and honoring the Light in all and the spirit does not call us to paths where it will not guide us. No matter how big the challenges we face in this work, none of them, not bigotry nor apathy, not ignorance nor misunderstanding, not fear nor self-doubt is bigger than the Light we have within us when it shines together. The universe has whispered change to us. I'm inviting each of you to come shine it forward.

Pendle Hill Opportunities

To meet the needs of our busy and far-ranging friends, and to complement its on-campus programs, Pendle Hill is launching Quaker Studies Online. The fall and winter offerings are:

A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation, September 5-November 20, 2016. Douglas Gwyn leads this course to explore the centrality of sustainability to Quaker faith and practice. This course is an opportunity to reframe Quaker faith and practice within the horizon of the global concern for sustainability, the horizon that has redefined our lives for the 21st century. This reorientation allows us to reclaim the Quaker tradition with fresh understanding and renewed purpose.

Exploring the Quaker Way, January to April 2017. Steve Chase and Marcelle Martin lead this course to help participants: 1) deepen their understanding of the Quaker movement; 2) better understand the spiritual journey common among early and current Quakers; 3) reflect on their own spiritual journeys within this spiritual tradition; and 4) become more familiar with several key elements of building vibrant and caring Quaker meetings. It is designed for people who want to

explore these themes through personal reflection, focused study, and deep dialog within a lively learning community gently guided by seasoned Quaker educators.

Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness is an extended Online/On-Campus Interfaith Program in Grassroots Organizing and Nonviolent Action. The next session is from September 2016 to May 2017. It includes five on-campus residencies.

[You can apply today!](#)

For details: Steve Chase at [schase\(at\)pendlehill\(dot\)org](mailto:schase@pendlehill.org) or 610-566-4507, ext. 123.

[Visioning and Creating a Moral Economy](#): A conference for inspiration, education, networking, and action from December 1 to 4. In an era of corporate globalization, Wall Street financial melt-downs, widening inequality, money-dominated elections, criminalization of poverty, global climate disruption, and the building threat of global resource wars, it is no longer sufficient for social justice activists to leave the core of the extraction/domination political economy unanalyzed and unchanged. Indeed, the very health of the natural world and the globe's human societies now depend on how societies decide to organize and conduct their economic and political lives together. For details: John Meyer at 610-566-4507 ext. 129

Ned Stowe: New Baltimore Yearly Meeting General Secretary

Please welcome Edward (Ned) W. Stowe III as the new General Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, who began in that position on July 11. Ned is a member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, where he served as clerk of the Trustees Committee from 2009 until this past April, and previously on its Membership and Spiritual Care Committee, Religious Education Committee (clerk), and Peace Committee. He has also served Sandy Spring Friends School as a Trustee and as clerk of the Finance Committee.

Ned's employment history includes being a Senior Policy Associate for the Environmental and Energy Study Institute in Washington, DC; Senior Legislative Secretary for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL); Research Associate at the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study; and Research Associate at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Through his employment and volunteer activities, Ned has gained considerable experience and achieved success in building teams and coalitions, supervising personnel, raising funds, managing finances, and working with volunteers. Ned holds a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign; a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in geology from Knox College, in Galesburg IL.

Please welcome Ned as the new General Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Quaker Speak Videos

In 2016, Jon Watts of Friends Journal will produce five new videos on the topics below. The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative will develop a set of materials and instructions to assist Friends to use each video in religious education programs for adults and children. The topics are “Listening in Tongues,” “Quaker Action on Climate Change,” “Where are all the Quakers?,” “Ten Reasons I’m a Quaker,” and “I think I’m a Quaker. What do I do now?” You can see them at www.QuakerSpeak.com

[Return to Top](#)