

Bethesda Friends Meeting December 2018 Newsletter

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Query for December: Meetings for Business

Are our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business held in the spirit of worship, seeking the guidance of God? In what ways do we each take our right share of responsibility in the service of the Meeting?

December 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 the 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., and a worship group meets in Boyds the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

2	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Christmas Celebration Rehearsal
		12:15 p.m.	Holiday Book Sale, Literature Table
		12:30 p.m.	ARE Committee Meeting, Teachers' Lounge
5	Wed	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Celebration Orchestra Rehearsal, Groome Bldg.
8	Sat	9:00 a.m.	BFM Service Day: A Wider Circle
		1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
9	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Outreach & Communications, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Christmas Celebration Rehearsal
		12:15 p.m.	Holiday Book Sale, Literature Table
		1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
13	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Celebration Orchestra Rehearsal, SAM Music Rm.
		8:30 p.m.	January Newsletter Deadline
14	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Celebrate & Renew: AFSC DC Human Rights 10th Anniversary

16	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care
		9:30 a.m.	Christmas Celeb. Orch. Rehearsal, Groome Bldg. Basement
		10:00 a.m.	FDS: Christmas Celebration Dress Rehearsal
		12:00 noon	Christmas Celebration & Holiday Book Sale, Groome Bldg.
19	Wed	8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Meeting for Worship

Details are available on our web site: www.bethesdafriends.org

The Social Concerns Box

A Wider Circle is the recipient for the Social Concerns Box in December. It is a local non-profit organization that assists individuals and families moving out of shelters to more stable living situations. A Wider Circle also offers intensive courses on job skills, financial planning, stress management, nutrition, and parenting. Its mission is to end poverty. Anyone in need of help can find it there. In 2017, A Wider Circle furnished the homes for nearly 4,500 families with donated items (furniture, home goods) and delivered more than 400 educational programs. After A Wider Circle receives or picks up your donated item, it only takes about 24 to 48 hours for it to find a new home. More than 15,000 volunteers came to serve at A Wider Circle in 2017, including members of BFM three times that year. For more details: www.awidercircle.org

On a rainy Sunday, October 14, 16 children and BFM adults walked through the Edgemoor community to raise funds for Interfaith Works, which helps families leave shelters for pleasant apartments and offers support over a two-year period, enabling them to become self-sufficient. The walkathon raised \$601 that will be added to the \$275 from the October social concerns box on the credenza and the \$1,000 allocated in the BFM budget for a total of \$1,876. The total will be matched by the Cafritz Fund.

Religious Education for Children

Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to join their families in Meeting for Worship from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m..

The program for December is as follows:

Dec. 2: Christmas Play Rehearsal; class for those not in the play.

Dec. 9: Christmas Play Rehearsal; class for those not in the play.

Dec. 16: Christmas Celebration. Those in the pageant should come for dress rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. There will be class for those not in the play, beginning at 11:15 a.m.

Dec. 23 & 30: There will be supervised play under the care of the Child Care staff and volunteers.

For information about Quaker summer camps, see: <http://quakersdc.org/node/912>

Events

2nd: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. Bethesda Friends Meeting 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 for Meeting for Business this month are reports from Nominating (final), Outreach & Communications, and Fellowship & Hospitality. All who come

to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. Childcare to age 12 is provided. Please join us if you can.

2nd/9th/16th: Holiday Book Sale

The BFM book table staff will hold a special holiday sale in the meeting library at the rise of the 11:00 a.m. meeting for worship on Sunday, December 2 and 9, and at the Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 16. We will offer a variety of specially selected new titles for both children and adults that we hope will delight the eye and engage the imagination. Please stop by the table if you can. You may find a holiday gift for a friend, a family member, or even yourself.

Palestinian olive oil will also be on sale in the Meetinghouse on the same days. A bottle of olive oil makes a great gift and supports Palestinian farmers.

Also on sale are Ramallah Friends School tee shirts and sweatshirts. Cost: \$20 for T-shirts, \$40 for hoodies. All proceeds go to Ramallah Friends School.

5th/12th/26th: Mid-week Worship

On Wednesday evenings, at 7:30 p.m., the Meeting Room is available for worship. All are welcome! This is an opportunity for some to come for whom Sundays are just too busy. Others may appreciate the additional time for communal worship. Please come when the Spirit moves you. Child care is not available. Please note that the meeting on Wednesday, December 19, will begin at 8:00, not 7:30 p.m., and will be the very special Candlelight Meeting for Worship (see under the 19th, below).

5th/13th/16th: Christmas Pageant Orchestra

Orchestra rehearsals are:

- Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Thursday, December 13, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Music Room, SAM Building).
- Sunday, December 16, 9:30 a.m. (Groome Building basement); then 11:00 a.m. “dress rehearsal” (Groome Building multipurpose room); and noon performance.

8th: BFM Service Day: A Wider Circle

On Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., please join BFM’s Peace & Social Justice Committee in our sixth annual volunteer day during A Wider Circle’s December Holiday Giving Program, called Hope for the Holidays. A Wider Circle (AWC) is a non-profit organization that assists individuals and families transitioning out of shelters to more stable living situations by providing “basic need items” such as furniture. During the month of December, AWC seeks to make the holidays a time of joy for these families by providing new holiday gifts to them. This year will be a little different than past years in that we will not be assigned to the “North Pole” area (due to volunteers already assigned to that area) but will be helping with the important work in the other areas of the warehouse.

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 are welcome! Students are especially welcome to help and can get SSL (student service learning) hours for volunteering here. We are planning to volunteer from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A Wider Circle is at 9159-C Brookville Road, about half way between Silver Spring and Bethesda, near

Grubb Road and East-West Highway. See www.awidercircle.org for details about the organization. This is a great opportunity to get to know others at BFM while helping out a great cause!

If you are unable to join us but would like to contribute, please consider donating money to the December Social Concerns Box. Or you can take new toys and other items to AWC's North Pole (the earlier in the month, the better). Needed items (new) for the Holiday Program are games, books, dolls; hats, gloves, and scarves; body lotion, soaps; and gift cards. You can learn more at: <http://awidercircle.org/holidays/>

8th: Quaker Book Group Meeting

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!). We read a mix of books by Quakers, books about Quakerism, and books that speak to Quaker values and concerns. The group is managed through an online mailing list to share announcements, summaries, and thoughts about the readings. The scheduled selection for December is Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*.

9th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? We are invited to the Up-County Meeting for Worship 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.

9th: Experiment With Light Session

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 a session on Sunday evening, December 9, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

14th: Celebrate & Renew Human Rights in DC

We are invited to join the American Friends Service Committee's DC Peace & Economic Justice Program and One DC in the celebration and renewal of Washington DC's 10th Anniversary as a Human Rights City on Friday, December 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the One DC Black Workers & Wellness Center (BWWC), 2500 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, in Washington DC. The event is free and open to the public and will include food, entertainment, and speeches by AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny, One DC's Maurice Cook, and DC Councilmember Mary Cheh.

16th: BFM's Christmas Celebration

This year's Christmas Celebration, which is a continuation of Meeting for Worship, will be held on Sunday, December 16 at approximately 12:00 noon. At the appropriate time, F(f)riends will be led from the Meeting room into the Groome Building. Our orchestra will accompany carols and play

festive music. All are welcome. Because there will be an unusually large number of people coming, your contributions of refreshments and goodies will be greatly appreciated.

19th: Candlelight Meeting for Worship

Please mark your calendars for our annual Candlelight Meeting for Worship at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 19. For more than 25 years, Friends have come to appreciate, in the midst of non-stop holiday activity and anxiety, this peaceful hour together. People of all ages are most welcome. Please invite friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us. This is a refreshing way to celebrate the season, so please join us.

Into the Future

Planning Ahead

For those who are already planning for the new year, Meetings for Business in the first half of 2019 will be: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2. Coordinating gatherings will usually be at the rise of Meeting on the Sundays before Meeting for Business, (January 27, February 24, March 31, April 28 (by e-mail because of Spring Fling), and May 19).

Committee meeting times are determined by what suits most members of the committee, and a regular time for meeting can be determined at the first meeting of the committee. Although meeting times may change, at this point Pastoral Care and Ministry & Worship meet 9:00 a.m. on the third Sunday; Outreach & Communications, Religious Education, and Stewardship & Finance all meet at 9:30 a.m. on that day; Adult Religious Education meets at the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month; and Peace & Social Justice meets the fourth Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

At this time of transition of committee membership, it is very important for committee clerks to reach out to newly nominated members and invite them to the next committee meeting. It is also very important to designate the new clerks for each committee on or before January 13, so that this information can be included in the new directory and the February newsletter. For those uncertain about taking on the responsibility of being a clerk, fear not! We have a BFM resource guide for clerks that will answer all your questions, as well as past clerks who will be happy to give guidance to you when you may need it. It is on pages 47 to 52 of the 2018 directory. There are funds available for scholarships to Pendle Hill, which often offers excellent workshops on clerking and Quaker leadership. For details on scholarships: contact the Friendly Ear at the rise of Meeting.

January 7th: Mobilizing Friends for Bold Action

As a member of Chestnut Hill Meeting in Philadelphia, Eileen Flanagan knows many of us feel great despair at the state of the world, and a deep longing to work together for a more just, sustainable, and loving future. We sense these times are calling us to do more than letter-writing and silent vigils. Eileen has designed her course for communities like ours to learn effective ways to make the change our faith calls us to.

Eileen learned a tremendous amount as clerk of Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), which successfully pressured PNC Bank to stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining. She now feels led to share those lessons, so Friends in your community can:

- Choose an issue where you can actually make a difference.
- Identify the people who you want to pressure and where they are vulnerable.
- Develop creative tactics to make your actions effective, press-worthy, and often fun.

- Build your impact over time, so the people you're trying to pressure have to take you seriously.

The course begins January 7. To register or learn more, go to:
<http://eileenflanagan.com/teaching/>

January 25th to 27th: BYM Women's Retreat

The 2019 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat will be held the weekend of January 25 through January 27 at the Pearlstone Conference Center in Reisterstown MD. The theme is Women's Treasure: Honoring our Time and Talents. Registration is now open through this link: <https://womensretreat.bym-rsf.net/> For the best rate, register by December 21. Registration ends January 7.

Committee Notes

Fellowship & Hospitality

We thank Fellowship & Hospitality for providing refreshments at the rise of Meeting in December. The committee oversees hospitality after Meetings for Worship and potlucks, although direct responsibility rotates among all committees. F&H provides hospitality for special occasions, such as memorial meetings.

Ministry & Worship

What Do We Do When It Snows? In general, there will be Meeting for Worship if the Sidwell Friends Lower School is open. To find out, check: www.sidwell.edu If the meetinghouse is open, whoever comes will hold Meeting for Worship. Those without computers can call some-one else who does have one, or the school security office: 202-537-8197.

Nominating

The proposed roster of officers and committee members for 2019 is given below. The proposed roster will be presented for approval at Meeting for Business on December 2.

Current committee clerks are encouraged to welcome new committee members and inform them of the time and place of the first committee meeting of 2019. At that meeting, the agenda should include orientation of new members and selection of the clerk (or co-clerks) for the new year. Please submit the names of the new clerks no later than mid-January. For information on choosing a clerk and other committee functions, please see the Committee Resource Guide beginning on page 47 of the 2018 Directory.

Stewardship & Finance

End of Year Giving. In this season of sharing and giving thanks, let us all remember Bethesda Friends Meeting with our tax deductible contributions. Our community and work depend on our combined financial support. You can slip your check in the collection box outside the meeting room or

mail it to 4413 Chalfont Place, Bethesda MD 20816. If you prefer online credit card transactions, go to our website at: www.bethesdafriends.org

If you are 70 1/2 years or older, you can make a contribution directly from your IRA to BFM. This amount won't be included in your taxable income for the year. Contact your financial advisor for more information.

Or consider setting up automatic transfers from your bank or as payroll deductions. Automatic contributions have the advantages of being convenient for the giver and giving BFM a degree of income predictability.

Meeting Notes

Please Support the BYM Camping Program

Baltimore Yearly Meeting, of which BFM is one of 52 Meetings, is asking that Friends support the Yearly Meeting's camping program as they consider their year-end giving. The cost of sending one young person to camp for a week is \$925. A gift can be made for this amount on the YM's website at: www.bym-rsf.org/giving/give-to-bym-camps.html Monthly auto-give donations for camper or other BYM programs also can be made through the website. The camping program brought 576 youth to its four camps this past summer. The program has worked intensively over the last several years to create a diverse and inclusive experience for campers. This year, 28% of the campers were youth of color as were 15% of staff. While 30% of campers were Quakers, others were Buddhists, other Christians, Jews, Muslims, and atheists. All the monthly meetings helped 63 campers attend by contributing a total of \$45,213.

Quaker Motto Calendars

Quaker Motto Calendars will soon be available on our hall table. They have been produced by the Scattergood family since 1884. Please take one and enjoy it. About 30,000 are distributed each year.

Peace Notes

In the aftermath of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting, it is important for all of us to consider how we can be voices that stand up to antisemitism. For ideas about how to confront antisemitism, consider visiting the Holocaust Museum's website at: <https://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism>