

Bethesda Friends Meeting Newsletter for June 2019

A Guide to What's Inside!

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June 2019 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is held at 11:00 a.m. every First Day. The meeting room is also available for worship at 9:30 a.m., 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.

1 to 2			BFM at Camp Catoctin, stay a few hours or a few days!
1		10:00 a.m.	Adelphi Strawberry Festival, Adelphi Friends Meeting
		10:00 a.m.	Theatre Action Group at FMW
2	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		12:00 noon	Potluck at Camp Catoctin
7 to 10			FUM: Stoking the Fire Conference, Richmond IN
8	Sat	9:30 a.m.	Couples Enrichment Workshop, BFM
		1:30 p.m.	BFM Book Group in the BFM Library
		3:00 p.m.	Capital Pride Parade, meet at FMW
9	Sun	12:00 noon	Quaker Participation in the Capital Pride Festival
		1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light Session
10	Mon	7:00 p.m.	BFM at the Bethesda Library: Drawdown
13	Thurs	8:30 p.m.	Summer Newsletter Deadline
14	Fri	7:00 p.m.	Silent Retreat for Friends at Dayspring, Germantown MD
15	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Mtg Day, Friends Meeting of Washington
16	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care
		9:15 a.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Religious Ed., O&C, & Steward & Fin.
23	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
24	Mon	5:00 p.m.	BYM Annual Sessions Early Reg. Deadline (25% off)
30	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Spiritual Journey: Music Room
30 to July 6			Friends General Conference, Grinnell College, Iowa

For details, please check the BFM website: www.bethesdafriends.org

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Query for June: Stewardship

How do we cherish and protect the beauty and balance of the natural world? How do we demonstrate our belief that our lives, talents, and resources are gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given? How do we as individuals and as a Meeting support one another in nurturing those gifts and in our search for a simpler life?

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for June is for Jubilee Jobs, which since 1981, has placed nearly 25,000 people into marketplace employment. Work for sustenance, dignity, and hope describes the common goals Jubilee Jobs shares with those in need, including those who are homeless, in recovery, exoffenders, public welfare recipients, and recent immigrants. It provides continuing support for up to two years. See www.jubileejobs.org to learn more and to volunteer.

In April, we raised \$5,350 for Ramallah Friends School scholarships in the Social Concerns Box. A more detailed report is below.

Everyone in the BFM community is welcome to suggest organizations for the BFM Peace & Social Justice Committee to consider for BFM's monthly Social Concerns Box. The Social Concerns Box offers a way to highlight an organization in our monthly newsletter and weekly bulletin, and provides an opportunity for individuals in the Meeting to donate money to support the organization. The main requirement for an organization to be chosen is that, in addition to being wellmanaged and of social benefit, someone from BFM must serve as the liaison between the organization and BFM. Please submit requests with a blurb about the organization to P&SJ clerk.

Stewardship Alert

The Stewardship & Finance Committee reports that we are still approximately \$30,000 away from our contributions goal for FY2018-19. Unless we raise this amount by June 30, we will not meet our operating and philanthropic budget.

S&F is concerned that financial support for the Meeting has declined significantly this year. Contributions, which have run below budget all year, account for 97% of the Meeting's revenue. Current political and economic variables may be factors in this downturn, but the Meeting's financial commitments remain unchanged. Please make a donation as soon and as generously as possible. You can deposit your check in the contribution box at the meetinghouse or mail it to:

BFM Asst. Treasurer, 4413 Chalfont Place, Bethesda, MD 20816

You can also give online at:

www.bethesdafriends.org or send an electronic payment through your own bank.

Many thanks in advance for responding to this concern for the financial state of the Meeting.

Religious Education for Children

The summer schedule is in full swing until September. This means that children will be with their families in Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes, from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m., followed by playground or indoor adult supervision for K-6th graders with child care providers and (usually) a

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BFM volunteer. Youth in 7th-12th grades are invited to stay in Meeting for Worship, join the younger children, or read quietly in the library.

Events

Report on Spring Fling

If Spring Fling were an orchestra, the music was produced by a multiplicity of players. Thanks abundantly to Spring Fling team leaders, committee clerks, and the kitchen manager and coordinator.

Donors of another sort contributed \$14,290.35, according to the Assistant Treasurer's tally as of May 11. The figure, which does not include expenses, will rise with additional proceeds from the Silent Auction and other late contributions. Attendance totaled 145. Lunch-buying guests totaled 105 adults, three teens and 25 children. A dozen more guests, mainly late-arrivers, declined lunch.

Here's a break-out of receipts:

Silent Auction	4,985.00
White Camel	605.35
Luncheon	2,369.00
Plants	481.00
Oil & T-shirts	500.00
Soc. Conc. Box	<u>5,350.00</u>
Total:	\$14,290.30

1st & 2nd: BFM Camp Catoctin Weekend

Our weekend at Camp Catoctin this year is from Friday, May 31 at 4:00 p.m. through Sunday, June 2 at 3:00 p.m. Come for part of a day or the whole weekend—or whatever works for you! There will be many opportunities for relaxation, water play, and fellowship. The weekend meals this year will be potluck, so bring something to share for the meals you will attend. S'mores on Saturday evening will be provided; we'll enjoy them by the fireplace in the lodge.

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. This is an unstructured weekend for all ages, so come prepared to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. There is 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/>

1st: Adelphi Friends Meeting Strawberry Festival

On Saturday, June 1, Adelphi Friends Meeting will hold its 2019 Strawberry Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 2303 Metzert Road in Adelphi MD (between Riggs Road and Adelphi Road). The festival is a long-standing community event and day of fun for the whole family. The festival has a live-entertainment stage and outdoor grilled-food tent, an indoor cafe, and sale of quarts and flats of just-picked strawberries from Oak Grove Farm in southern Pennsylvania. There is a large rummage sale, with additional areas for silent auction, clothing, plants, and a full room of used books.

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The children's area has a bounce house, train rides, face painting, and games. Come for the fun and leave with great bargain purchases of clothes, electronics, books, and more. The Strawberry Festival is a rain or shine event. To learn more: www.adelphifriends.org/strawberry

2nd: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, June 2 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. On the agenda this month are reports from the Pastoral Care Committee, Spring Fling, and William Penn House. The ad hoc Nominating Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee will be appointed. Child care up to age 12 is provided.

7th to 10th: Stoking the Fire Conference

The Stoking the Fire Conference will be from June 7 to 10. The conference will be held at Friends United Meeting and Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond IN. It will be "Stirring Up the Embers" and it's based, in part, on a Thomas Kelly quote. Please consider participating in stirring up the embers of our faith...both individually and as Quakers. For details: www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/stoking-the-fire-2019

8th: Friends Couples Enrichment Workshop

On Saturday, June 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., there will be a Friends Couples Enrichment Workshop led by Joan and Rich Liversidge at BFM. Join other committed couples in this practice of supporting and nurturing your relationship's health and growth to deepen understanding of ourselves and each other and finding joy in connection. Bring your own lunch. The cost is \$25 per couple.

8th: 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!). 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>

8th/9th: Capital Pride Parade & Festival

BFM is again joining other Quaker Meetings in the area in supporting outreach at the Capital Pride Parade and Festival on June 8 and 9. Folks are encouraged to participate. Friends from area Meetings will meet at Friends Meeting of Washington (2111 Florida Avenue NW) at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday June 8, to march as a group in the afternoon parade (4:30 to 7:30 p.m.). Walk in the parade with other Friends, the more the merrier. Banner and signs will be provided. For details, see: <https://www.capitalpride.org/events/parade-2019/>

On Sunday, June 9, from 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m., the Capital Pride Festival will take place at Pennsylvania Avenue and 3rd Street, NW, (Metro: Green Line: Archives/Navy Memorial) Sign up for a two-hour block. For details, see: <https://www.capitalpride.org/events/festival-2019/>

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9th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? Our attendance at 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 is always welcome. Worship is followed by a potluck lunch.

9th/23rd: 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.

There will be two sessions on Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., on Sunday, June 9, and on Sunday, June 23. Please come if you can!

10th: BFM at the Bethesda Library: Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown

BFM will sponsor a workshop on Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown, on Monday, June 10, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Connie Morella Library on Arlington Road, in Bethesda. Project Drawdown is a coalition of more than 200 researchers and other experts from 22 countries led by author, environmentalist, and entrepreneur, Paul Hawken. Over the course of five years of rigorous scientific research, they identified and modeled the 100 most substantive, already existing solutions for addressing global warming and revealed astounding news: that it is possible not just to slow global warming, but to actually reverse it by 2050. Come learn about it.

14th to 16th: Silent Retreat for Friends

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 14 to Sunday afternoon, June 16. 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 \$225. The registration deadline is June 7.

15th: BYM Interim Meeting

Get to know Yearly Meeting committees and Friends from other Meetings! Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Interim Business Meeting. Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue, NW, is hosting the Sixth Month Interim Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15. Lunch will be provided. In the afternoon, Meeting for Business is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at the rise of Meeting. For details: 301-774-7663, www.bym-rsf.org

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30th: ARE: Spiritual Journey

On Sunday, June 30, 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room, we are invited to hear reflections on a spiritual journey. Come hear about the influences on and sources of one person's spiritual unfolding, and what have been the fruits of that spiritual journey.

June 30th to July 6th: Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

The FGC Gathering this year will be at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. The theme is "Peace in our Hearts, Justice in the World." The Gathering is a chance to be together with over 1,200 Friends. There are many opportunities to address spirit, mind, and body. Look up the program for this year at www.FGCGathering.org You can enjoy lots of activities: singing, dancing, good food, and good conversation. You really ought to go to a Gathering at least once. There are both half-gathering and part-time attender options for adults. Financial aid is available. Due to a generous donation, there are no program fees for children and high school students and more scholarships for families.

By way of background, Friends General Conference nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers. The work of FGC can be summarized into three areas of endeavor:

- Help meetings deepen Quaker worship and practice
- Support a loving Quaker community
- Support Quaker outreach

FGC is a volunteer-led association of regional Quaker organizations, primarily in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1900, FGC has grown from a voluntary organization of seven yearly meetings, created to hold a "general conference" every other year, to an association of fourteen yearly meetings, supplemented with regional groups and individual meetings. FGC continues to sponsor an annual Gathering of Friends. FGC seeks to use resources effectively with a concern for simplicity and openness. It is funded through the support of Quaker meetings, individuals, and foundations. FGC is a 501(c)3 organization. For details, see: www.fgcquaker.org

Into the Future

July 29th to August 4th: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session

Friends from across the region will gather from July 29 to August 5 at Hood College in Frederick MD to consider "Quaker Tools for the Journey." The session opens with a one-day retreat Monday during which attendees will hear from Marcelle Martin, author of the widely acclaimed "Our Life of Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey." A member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, an environmental consultant, and most recently a palliative care nurse will be the Tuesday evening plenary speaker. The Wednesday afternoon plenary program will feature a discussion by Young Adult Friends on some tools that Friends can use when confronting racism in their daily lives. The program is planned for ages 10 and up with a parallel program for K to 3rd/4th graders. A wide range of workshops and interest groups will also carry out various aspects of this year's theme or give us a chance to experience listening for new ideas and making connections. All children from birth through 8th grade can attend at no cost. Up to three individuals from BFM who have never attended or want to participate after a long absence can receive a voucher from BFM good for attending for up to two days at no cost. Please note that the deadline for early registration, with a 25% discount on costs is Monday,

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June 24. For details, consult the Friendly Ear at the rise of Meeting. You can learn more about workshops and interest groups in the Spring Interchange arriving in early May or at: www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

Committee Notes

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.

The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee is following in the footsteps of our predecessors in attempting to “go green” with the supplies for coffee hour, potluck, and Spring Fling. Going forward, we have compostable plates and juice cups made of wheat stock and sugar cane fiber and paper coffee cups. However, we have to go through a large supply of plastic forks, knives and spoons before ordering those items in compostable materials. We are asking that future donations of supplies for F&H be compostable. We will no longer accept plastics. Thanks to everyone who joins this effort.

Pastoral Care

We have a brand new version of our marriage brochure laying out the process from the initial request through the wedding day itself. Copies are on the hall table. Take a look next time you are at Meeting.

Extra copies of “Five Wishes” and the IONA resource guide for seniors, which details lots of options to be considered as one finds the need for additional support: how to find help at home; how to have a successful retirement; how to help Mom and Dad; how to manage; when to move; where to live. The copies are in the BFM library. Please pick one up.

Child Care

Calling for child care volunteers. Can you help out once in a while as a volunteer in the BFM child care room on Sundays at 11:00? If so, we need you! Please use the form on the BFM website to add your name to the “Email request list” (which is sent out monthly as a call for volunteers). Or you can get the website form at http://www.bethesdafriends.org/volunteer_for_child_care.aspx

Peace & Social Justice

Thanks to the volunteers who helped at A Wider Circle on Saturday, May 4. Volunteer Coordinator Holly expressed special appreciation, and it was inspirational to hear founder Mark Bergel talk to everyone at the end of the morning. Our next AWC work day will be in the Fall, date TBD.

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

Interested in being a change-maker? If you have a few minutes, check out the Yes! Magazine article “5 Ways Small Actions Have Huge Power”

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(<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/mental-health/5-ways-small-actions-have-huge-power-20180910>). If you have more time, check out George Lakey's newest book, *How We Win*. Both are inspirational and remind us of just how much agency we have!

Thinking About Race

From I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness, Austin Channing Brown, 2018, p. 116-7.

The moment Black Americans achieved freedom from enslavement, America could have put to death the idea of Black inferiority. But whiteness was not prepared to sober up from the drunkenness of power over another people group. Whiteness was not ready to give up the ability to control, humiliate, or do violence to any Black body in the vicinity – all without consequence.

Ultimately, the reason we have not yet told the truth about this history of Black and white America is that telling an ordered history of this nation would mean finally naming American's commitment to violent, abusive, exploitative, immoral white supremacy, which seeks the absolute control of Black bodies. It would mean doing something about it.

How long will it be before we finally choose to connect all the dots? How long before we confess the history of racism embedded in our systems of housing, education, health, criminal justice, and more? How long before we dig to the root?

Because it is the truth that will set us free.