

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

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April 2016

Query for April: Integrity

How do we seek truth by which to live? How do we know it when we find it? In what ways does my life speak of my beliefs and values? In what ways is my life out of harmony with the truth as I know it? Why?

April 2016 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. every First Day (except for the first First Day of each month, when Meeting for Business is held at 9:00 a.m.).

1	Fri	7:30 p.m.	BYM Young Friends (High School) Conf., Richmond VA
2	Sat	9:30 a.m.	BYM Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day, Sandy Sp.
		2:00 p.m.	Memorial Meeting to Celebrate the Life of Michael Horne
3	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		11:00 a.m.	Qkr Values & Leadership: Worship & Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Brainstorming Our Response to Climate Change
		12:30 p.m.	BFM Black Lives Matter Demonstration, Arlington Road
5/6		9:00 a.m.	Undoing Racism Workshop, N Street Village
8 to 10			Pendle Hill Workshop on Our Life is Love
9	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center: Poetry with Janey Harrison

		3:00 p.m.	BFM Book Group at the Bethesda Library
10	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Grow Our Meetings, Music Room
		11:00 a.m.	Qkr Values & Leadership: Worship & Service: Ramallah
		12:30 p.m.	Learn More About Ramallah Friends School
		12:30 p.m.	BFM Black Lives Matter Demonstration, Arlington Road
		1:30 p.m.	Friends House Open House, Sandy Spring
		3:00 p.m.	A White Historian Reads Black History, NW DC
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
11	Mon	8:00 p.m.	Committee Night for M&W and S&F
13	Wed	7:00 p.m.	Honoring Those Known Only to God, Philadelphia
		8:30 p.m.	Deadline for the May Newsletter
14/17	Thurs/Sun		White Privilege Conference, Philadelphia
17	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Advancement & Outreach Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Religious Education Committee, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		10:30 a.m.	Perennial Plant Sale
		11:00 a.m.	Qkr Values & Leadership: Worship & Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room
		12:30 p.m.	Adult Religious Education Committee, Teachers' L. Annex
		12:30 p.m.	Pastoral Care Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		12:30 p.m.	BFM Black Lives Matter Demonstration, Arlington Road
		6:30 p.m.	Friendly Eights: Adults
23	Sat	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Drop-off of Items for Spring Fling, Groome Bldg.
		10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center: Wildflower Hike, WV
24	Sun	11:00 a.m.	Qkr Values & Leadership: Worship & Service: Sp. Fling
		12:30 p.m.	Spring Fling for Ramallah: Food, Fun, & Contribution
		12:30 p.m.	BFM Black Lives Matter Demonstration, Arlington Road
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
25	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee
26	Tues	8:00 p.m.	BFM Concert & Lecture
30	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Friendly Eights: Families

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

Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for April is for scholarships to the Ramallah Friends Schools in the West Bank. Most of the money for two scholarships will be raised at Spring Fling on April 26 (see details below). Or contribute to the social concerns box. It is an opportunity for us to help build peace in the Middle East.

In January, the total contributed to the social concerns box for providing Smart Cards to returning citizens was \$1,740.50 (thanks to major support from Cedar Lane Unitarian).

Religious Education for Children

3rd: First Day School: Quaker Values & Leadership Classes. 11:00 a.m. Children attend Meeting for Worship with family for the first 15 minutes. For questions about First Day School, Lauren Brownlee

10th: First Day School: Quaker Values & Leadership Let Your Life Speak Service Activity: 11:00 a.m. Children attend Meeting for Worship with family for the first 15 minutes. The theme for this session will be a conversation with Ramallah Friends School student Shahd Sawalhi. For questions, contact Frank Greve.

17th: First Day School: Quaker Values & Leadership Classes. 11:00 a.m. Children attend Meeting for Worship with family for the first 15 minutes. For questions, contact Lauren Brownlee

24th: First Day School: Quaker Values & Leadership Let Your Life Speak Service Activity: 11:00 a.m. Children attend Meeting for Worship with family for the first 15 minutes. The theme for this session will be food preparation for Spring Fling. For details, Ellen Harter.

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Events

1st to 3rd: BYM Young Friends Conference

On the weekend of April 1 to 3, there will be a Young Friends Conference for high school-aged Quakers at **The Clearing (Midlothian, VA)**. Young Friends should arrive after 7:00 p.m. on Friday. For details: youthprograms(at)bym-rsf(dot)org

Future dates of YF conferences are: May 27 to 29 (Memorial Day weekend) and August 1 to 7.

2nd: Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day

On Saturday, April 2, 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. Colman McCarthy will give the keynote address and then there will be four workshops (on climate change, mass incarceration, immigration, and starting service programs). The event will be at the Sandy Spring Friends School, 16923 Norwood Road, in Sandy Spring.

2nd: Memorial Service for Martha Horne's Husband

A Celebration of Life service for Martha's husband, Michael S. Horne, will be held on Saturday, April 2, at 2:00 p.m. at BFM. A map will be provided for the reception in the nearby Bannockburn area after the service. For details: Ron Akins or Peter Nielsen-Jones.

3rd: Meeting for Business

Please come if you can, at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 3, to Meeting for Business in the meeting room. Your participation is welcome. It is an opportunity to meet worshipfully and for business in a special way. On the agenda this month are these reports: the Spiritual State of the Meeting, budget considerations, and a report from BYM's Interim Meeting. A detailed agenda will be e-mailed before April 3. Please note that childcare is provided for children up through age 11.

3rd: Brainstorming Friends' Response to Climate Change

In recent weeks, we've heard from two forum speakers about the urgency of protecting the earth's living things for future generations. In March, Bethesda Meeting endorsed the Shared Quaker Statement on Climate Change, joining scores of other Friends organizations around the world. Now we are led to ask: How should Friends respond to the threat of global climate change, including the impact of our individual carbon footprints? Please join BFM's Environmental Sustainability Group as we consider actions Friends can take to preserve God's creation in the face of climate change. Grab a snack at coffee hour, and bring your ideas to the Meeting Room at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 3. For further details, contact Joe Hiatt or Rick Morgan.

3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th: Black Lives Matter Demonstrations

The Peace & Social Justice Committee has decided, with the Meeting's endorsement, to organize weekly demonstrations in support of Black Lives Matter during the month of April and possibly into May. Our intention is to hand out Black Lives Matter buttons and fliers to passersby as they come and go between the Bethesda Public Library and the Farmers' Market at the Bethesda Elementary School. We will spread out along Arlington Road between the rise of Meeting and about 1:30 p.m. We welcome the participation of any and all members of the Bethesda Friends Meeting community and friends and colleagues.

Why are we doing this? Because too many of us for too long have had blind spots preventing our seeing or acknowledging the structural racism in our society, which leads to people of color's disproportionate experience of mass incarceration, harsher punishments in school, voting restrictions, and even death. We may even think this only happens elsewhere. No, it happens in Maryland and in Montgomery County. We need to open our eyes wider and encourage others to do the same. You may wonder, as many others have, why not "All Lives Matter"? It is because when Black lives matter, all lives will matter. Our society will be more inclusive and whole. For details: Jane Meleney Coe, Debbie Friese, Alex Bell, and Lauren Brownlee.

5th/6th: Undoing Racism

A powerful tool for Undoing Racism is the workshop with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, which will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 5 and 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at N Street Village, 1333 N Street, NW. The training is perfect for those who are just learning about structural injustice and how it shows up in social services. It also serves as a useful tool for people who work together to gain a shared language for pushing forward transformative work within your organization. Participants will explore how systemic social injustice creates the issues organizations work to address, and how it impedes organizations' effectiveness. They will begin to build ideas about how to work toward social justice directly and collaboratively. [To register click here.](#) For further details: David Etheridge, Alex Bell and Leslie Sussan participated in the workshop last year and encourage our participation this year.

8th to 10th: Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey

Pendle Hill, the Quaker retreat center in Wallingford PA near Philadelphia, is sponsoring a weekend workshop led by Quaker educator and author Marcelle Martin exploring the 10 essential elements in Quaker spiritual formation as observed among Quakers from earliest times to the present and featured in Marcelle's new book of the same title. Some scholarship funds are available. Pendle Hill is at 338 Plush Mill Road in Wallingford PA. For more information, <http://www.pendlehill.org>

9th/23rd: Friends Wilderness Center Events

On Saturday, April 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friends Wilderness Center will be hosting a poetry workshop. Published poet and local radio personality, Janet Harrison, will lead this workshop using a variety of simple, effective, and thoroughly entertaining techniques to allow you and your inner Muses to create personal poetry. Using her own poems to illustrate points and approaches, Janet will guide you on a delightful experiential journey through which all participants will amaze themselves (and others if you wish to share your creations) with their latent powers of expression. Absolutely no prior experience in writing poetry is needed, and this program is perfect for those seeking to slay the ancient dragon of fear conjured by less-than-validating High School poetry encounters. Life is so much better, richer, brighter, more magical, and thus more bearable when you avail yourself of the gifts of poetry. Please RSVP to Sheila Bach and when doing so indicate whether you would like to have a home-cooked lunch (a \$10 cost).

On Saturday, April 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., come on a spring wildflower hike at the Friends Wilderness Center. Board member and wildflower enthusiast, Nancy James, will be leading you on a relaxed hike around the ponds by the Niles Cabin and the nearby trails to observe and appreciate the bounty of forest wildflowers (also known as ‘the Spring ephemerals’ since they bloom and disappear before the trees leaf out). This will be less of a rigorous genus/species type of botanical hike and more of an appreciation of the sheer beauty of wild flowers and a collaborative process to identify the ones we come across. Don’t worry if you can’t tell a daisy from a daffodil or an aster from an arbutus; come along and join the fun as we enjoy the small, dainty, and beautiful faces of spring as they seek out the sun. Please RSVP to Sheila Bach and when doing so indicate whether you would like to have a home-cooked lunch (a \$10 cost).

FWC is just 1.5 hours from Bethesda on a 1,400-acre tract of land which backs up to the Appalachian Trail in West Virginia. Going there provides a wonderful opportunity for hiking, camping, and communing with nature, in addition to special programs such as this one. For more details, please contact Sheila Bach. To avoid delay in arriving, please consult the website (<http://www.friendswilderness.org>)

9th: 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. By joining the list serve, you can participate in the online discussions, read the post-meeting summary, and help choose the next book. [More info here.](#)

10th: ARE: Growing Our Meeting Deeper & Wider

In October, Lauren Brownlee, Jane Meleney Coe, and Peirce Hammond attended the Yearly Meeting’s “Grow Our Meetings” workshop on behalf of the Meeting. The goal of the “Grow Our Meetings” workshop was to offer practical, hands-on tools for us to take back to our meetings, with a focus on building health and vitality. We explored the themes of growing our spirits (inreach), growing our presence in the community (outreach), and welcoming and integrating newcomers. At the upcoming workshop here at BFM on Sunday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room, we will share some of the tools we got from the session. All are welcome, with special encouragement to those who are on Pastoral

Care, Ministry & Worship, Adult Religious Education, and Advancement & Outreach Committees. Please come if you can!

10th: Learn more about Ramallah Friends School

On Sunday, April 10, at 12:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Joyce Ajlouny, Head of Ramallah Friends School (RFS), and Shahd Sawalhi, a RFS tenth grader currently studying at Sidwell Friends, will talk about RFS and their lives in Palestine and Washington. Shahd will also talk with BFM First Day School students about her experiences. The proceeds of our Spring Fling (April 24) and Plant Sale (April 17) go to support Ramallah Friends School student scholarships. Copies of a new oral history of RFS, titled *Samoud*, meaning “steadfast,” will be available for purchase (\$35).

10th: Friends House Board of Trustees Open House

Friends House helps older people of mostly low-to-moderate income live their retirement years with dignity. Now, the Friends House Board needs our help. It is hosting an informational tea and hopes you will attend. Please consider learning more about the 100% Quaker Board of Friends House Retirement Community. The open house is at 17340 Quaker Lane in Sandy Spring on Sunday, April 10, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For details, Susan Kaul.

10th: A White Historian Reads Black History

Susan Strasser, a professor emeritus of American History at the University of Delaware, is presenting a series of talks related to Black Lives Matter. Her first talk on slavery was very well received. Her next presentation will be on Sunday, April 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Byron and Rick Reinhard. For details, see <http://www.susanstrasser.net>

10th/24th: 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.

There will be two sessions in April. Both will be from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings. On April 10, it will be at the home of Peter and Ruth Nielsen-Jones. And on April 24, it will be at the home of Jane Meleney Coe in Bethesda, near where River Road and Wilson Lane cross. Please come if you can!

13th: Honoring Those Known Only to God

On the eve of this year’s White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia, an ad hoc group of Friends is preparing a presentation called Honoring Those Known Only to God. It will be live-streamed from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, from the Friends Center in Philadelphia. The project is about bringing together Friends who would like to honor the African American men, women, and children who died while traveling to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Many are in Quaker burial sites.

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14th to 17th: 2016 White Privilege Conference

All Friends are encouraged to join FGC's Ministry on Racism and the Quaker group at WPC17, April 14 to 17, in Philadelphia PA at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

WPC was established and is organized by African American professor Dr. Eddie Moore. The conference strives to empower and equip a variety of attenders to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation.

FGC is sponsoring a group discount for the conference for a fifth year. FGC has supported nearly 200 Quakers over five years in attending WPC. These Friends took advantage of a 55% discount on registration. Baltimore Yearly Meeting is also a sponsor this year. Friends interested in attending the White Privilege Conference and receiving the FGC group discount can sign up to receive further instructions and reminders [here](#). In order to receive the FGC discount friends MUST complete pre-registration with FGC prior to registering for the conference. Folks with questions can e-mail: richies(at)fgcquaker(dot)org or Ministryonracismsupportspecialist(at)fgcquaker(dot)org

17th: Perennial Plant Sale

As you are sprucing up your flower beds, how about digging up a few perennials to bring to the annual BFM plant sale, on Sunday, April 17 from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. and noon to 1:15 p.m. Or, if you have a spot in your garden that needs some color, come select from our healthy, reasonably priced plants. Proceeds benefit Ramallah Friends School scholarships.

Please label by name plants you donate and indicate sun/shade tolerance. They'll look (and sell) better if you dig them up a week before and give them time to recover. Please bring them to the courtyard by 10:00 a.m., so there is time to arrange them. Buyers, come early: many plants sell before Meeting. Questions?

17th: 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 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room on Sunday, April 17.

17th: Adult Friendly Eights Dinners

Adult Friendly Eights are potluck dinners for approximately eight adults in the homes of folks in the BFM community. In April, they will be on Sunday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. For more information: Debbie Friese.

23rd/24th: Spring Fling for Ramallah

Spring Fling is a fun and festive intergenerational event that includes a tasty Middle Eastern buffet lunch, a large "White Camel," aka rummage sale, a silent auction with an array of goods, services, and events, lively music, and wonderful BFM community spirit. Note that any child attending Spring Fling will receive a \$5 gift certificate to the White Camel sale. It begins at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, April

24 and benefits the Ramallah Friends School financial aid program. The school, founded by American Quakers in 1869, is a co-ed K-12 school that provides a first-class, peace-oriented education to children of all faiths.

We would appreciate your help:

The Silent Auction needs donations now or soon. Of what, you ask? Could you donate a cedar chest or a marbella chicken dinner? Could you donate theater tickets or a restaurant gift certificate? Make a scarf or blanket? Dog-sit? Give time at your weekend or vacation home? Join with others to do a progressive dinner? Provide a service? Gardening? Tours? A dinner, dessert, soup? Get creative and/or join with someone else. Dig out that china you no longer use. Please contact Lydia Adelfio, the silent auction's head, to get a copy of the donation form.

The silent auction will also be selling some items online in a Buy It Now sale from April 12 to 17. Look for an e-mail.

The White Camel Sale needs gently used or new items. Sporting goods, jewelry, ill- chosen but otherwise nifty wedding presents, and kids' toys, for example. No clothing, books, or furniture, please. It helps tremendously to have items in hand the day before Spring Fling. If possible, please deliver them to the Groome Building on Saturday, April 23 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., when volunteers are on hand to receive and price them. If you have a donation but can't come on Saturday, contact Jane Meleney Coe. She'll arrange storage. If possible, please avoid bringing items on the morning of Spring Fling. Note that Jane welcomes volunteers to set up and price items on Saturday and help clean up on Sunday.

Middle Eastern Buffet. Angie Parlin, head chef for this lunch for 100-plus, seeks volunteers to help cook or purchase Middle Eastern foods. Yummy recipes are on the BFM website. Or you can create your own Middle Eastern dish (to feed 10-12.) Or you can buy prepared spanakopita, tabouli, stuffed grape leaves and baklava from local Middle Eastern restaurants or groceries. Please contact Angie and tell her what you'll provide. If you volunteer, she'll keep you busy, gratefully.

If you're willing to work but don't have a strong preference where, call coordinator Frank Greve.

If you can't make these dates or simply want to make a donation, Ramallah Friends is the Social Concerns Box beneficiary for April.

26th: BFM Concert

Members of the BFM and Sidwell Friends communities are invited to a lecture and concert by the violinist Jack Glatzer to be held in the BFM meeting house on Tuesday evening, April 26, at 8:00 p.m. The concert will feature the music of the Bach Partita No. 2 in D Minor for solo violin (BWV 1004) combined with discussion of selected paintings by Rembrandt (shown in slide reproductions) and biographical insights into the lives of Bach and Rembrandt. There are no tickets and no charge for admission. Attenders will have a chance to meet Glatzer and talk with him personally afterwards. It has been possible to arrange this event because Glatzer will be transiting through Washington on April 26 to 27 on his current concert tour. Because of past relationships with Sidwell Friends and BFM (through a longstanding friendship with Ralph and Corky Bryant), Glatzer has graciously offered to share a performance of this wonderful program.

Jack Glatzer makes his home in Portugal. He was early recognized as a talented musician, giving his debut recital at thirteen, and winning the national Merriwether Post Competition here in Washington at age seventeen. He only decided to make a full-time career as a musician after receiving a summa cum laude degree from Yale University and an honours degree in history from Oxford University. Glatzer makes concert tours around the world. He has never wanted or received the celebrity status of violinists who specialize in the concerto repertoire and regularly play with large orchestras. But the quality of his

playing places him among the top violinists in the world. He cares deeply about the music itself and teaching others to appreciate it. Thus he has devoted most of his career to playing concerts in educational institutions. He is especially interested in promoting children's interest in music and art. His verbal commentary, grounded in his profound knowledge of history and music, skillfully knits music and visual art together.

30th: Family Friendly Eights Dinner

Family Friendly Eights are a potluck dinner with children in the home of folks in the BFM community. People learn when and where through an Evite. In April, families will gather on Saturday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m. For details, Debbie Friese. To be added to the Evite list, send an e-mail to friendly8s(at)bethesdafriends(dot)org

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Into the Future

July 3rd to 9th: Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

The FGC Gathering this year will be at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph MN. The theme this year is "be humble, Be Faithful, BE BOLD." 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 <http://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. Early registration for the Gathering opens April 1. There are both half-gathering and part-time attender options for adults. Financial aid is available.

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: <http://www.fgcquaker.org>

August 1st to 7th: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session

Baltimore Yearly Meeting will gather from August 1 to 7 this year at Hood College in Frederick MD. The theme is "Discernment and Action in Spiritual Community." Plenary speakers include Nancy Bieber (author of Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment), Christina Repoley (founding executive

director of Quaker Voluntary Service), Lauren Brownlee (of BFM and Director of Social Action at Stone Ridge), Jen Cort (of Sandy Spring Friends School), and George Lakey (co-founder of the Movement for a New Society). You can learn more about workshops and interest groups in the Spring Interchange which will be coming out very soon or at: <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession>

Committee Notes

Fellowship & Hospitality

We thank Fellowship & Hospitality for providing refreshments at the rise of Meeting and for assisting with the preparation and serving of Spring Fling lunch in April. The committee oversees hospitality after Meetings for Worship, and potlucks on the second Sunday of most months, although direct responsibility rotates monthly among all committees. F&H also provides hospitality for special occasions, such as memorial meetings.

Adult Religious Education

The co-clerks of Adult Religious Education this year are Stephanie Koenig and Lauren Phelps. Thanks to both of them for their willingness to serve.

Discerning Our Future

BFM has begun a discernment process, following Sidwell Friends School's announcement of its plans to sell the lower school campus and consolidate the school at its campus in Washington DC. SFS has invited BFM to join in the move, which is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2019.

So far, BFM has formed an ad hoc committee on Opportunities for Our Future, held three called sessions, and posted information on the BFM web site. [Please see the OOF page on our website](#). This information includes a "frequently asked questions" document, which will be updated periodically.

Many BFM committees are considering aspects of the move in their meetings. Among them are the Library Committee, Ministry & Worship, and Stewardship & Finance. We encourage all BFM committees to consider the implications of a move and to share insights and questions with members of the ad hoc committee and at Meeting for Business.

The ad hoc committee also has begun collecting information on location options and welcomes suggestions from anyone in the BFM community. Friends are encouraged to attend monthly Meeting for Business for regular updates, to share your insights, and to participate in making decisions. Please also submit questions and comments via the web site and post ideas on the listserv

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

This month as we celebrate spring and Earth Day, let us pay special attention to how we can be top-notch stewards of the earth. Try using a [carbon footprint calculator](#) to measure your impact on the environment. Environmental racism continues to be one of our great societal and global challenges, and

the Flint MI water crisis is one of the manifestations of that. To learn more about this topic, you can read *The New York Times* article “A Question of Environmental Racism in Flint.” To learn about how to support Flint, check out the CNN website “How to Help with the Flint Water Crisis.”

Green Notes

Friends Examine Response to Climate Change. Two engaging forums in February inspired vigorous discussions about Friends’ response to global climate change and other environmental threats. A thought-provoking presentation by Phil Favero of Annapolis Meeting examined the science behind climate change, engendering a discussion about how Friends are led to respond. Two weeks later, Deborah Haines of Alexandria Meeting documented early Friends’ reverence for the earth and all living creatures, including this timely 1762 quote from John Woolman: “The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.” (BrYM F&P, 25.01) As noted in the minutes for our March meeting for business, BFM has reached unity in support of the shared Quaker statement, *Facing the Challenge of Climate Change*, which has been endorsed by scores of Friends’ organizations worldwide. A follow-up discussion of our response to the threat of climate change is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, at the rise of Meeting. Handouts from February’s environmental forums are available from BFM’s Environmental Sustainability Group.

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