

Calendar
 Query: Caring for One Another
 The Social Concerns Box
 Personal Notes
 Religious Education
 Events
 Into the Future
 Committee Notes
 Nominating
 Library & Book Table
 Ministry & Worship
 Pastoral Care
 Meeting Notes
 2019 Directory

February 2019 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 opportunity 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 there is a worship group in Boyds the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

	1	Thurs	7:00 a.m.	BYM New Campers Enrollment Opens
	3	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care Provided)
			11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activities
			12:30 p.m.	Providing Health Care in Amish Country
			12:30 p.m.	Environmental Sustainability Group, Teachers' L.
			12:30 p.m.	Spiritual Enrichment Program, Groome Building
	4	Mon	7:30 p.m.	ARE Committee, at Bernie Benson's House
	8	Fri	6:30 p.m.	Silent Retreat for Friends at Dayspring,
Germantown				
	9	Sat	1:30 p.m.	BFM Book Group in the BFM Library
	10	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Intro to Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Rm
			11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
			11:00 a.m.	Worship Group in Boyds MD
			12:30 p.m.	Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share
			1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library
			7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
	13	Wed	8:30 p.m.	March Newsletter Deadline
	17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: M&W and Pastoral Care
			9:30 a.m.	ARE: Intro to Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Rm
			9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach & C, S & F, Rel. Ed.
			11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Multi-Age

	22	Fri	5:30 p.m.	Deadline for Applications for BYM Workshops
			7:00 p.m.	BYM Young Frds Conf., Sandy Spring Frds
Meeting	23	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Religious Education Retreat, Frederick Meeting
	24	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' L.
			9:30 a.m.	ARE: Intro to Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Rm.
			11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
			12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room
			7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light

Query for February: Caring for One Another and Listening

How can we most effectively foster a loving and understanding attitude in our community? What helps me to listen deeply and with an open heart to others? When is it hardest for me to be ready to listen? How do we share in the diverse joys and transitions in each other's lives? In challenging or stressful times, how open am I to seeking support from the Meeting community?

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for February is dedicated to supporting the Central Pennsylvania Clinic: A Medical Home for Special Children and Adults in Bellesville PA. This clinic is being built to serve an Amish population that is heavily impacted by genetic conditions and illnesses caused by what is known as a "Founders Effect." Stemming from a small group of immigrants in the 1700s, and procreating closely over generations with a restricted gene pool, as many as a 100 severe maladies occur on a frequent basis. Dr. Holmes Morton, a geneticist and pediatrician with decades of experience in his first clinic in Lancaster, is using his MacArthur "genius" award money to build a second center reaching further into Amish country. Our donations will go to funding a library and meeting area within the clinic for education and counseling that will aid treatment and understanding of these sometimes rare medical conditions. At the rise of Meeting on February 3, we will be able to see a video of this work. If you are unable to be there, see:

www.wvpublic.org/post/search-meaningful-work

Religious Education for Children

The Christmas Celebration was a great success, thanks to the parents and many others who contributed to the imaginative Christmas play, a project that brought the children closer together and taught them so much about social justice, Quaker history, Quaker testimonies, and the power of creative collaboration.

In terms of the program for February, children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to join their families in Meeting for Worship from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. each Sunday. On the the first and third Sundays, there are multi-age activities; on the second and fourth Sundays, there are classes.

On Thursday, February 1, registration for new campers at Quaker Camps begins. For details, see below under events.

Events

1st: Getting Ready for Summer 2019: BYM Camps

Enrollment for the BYM camping programs (at Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure) began on January 15 for returning campers, and will begin on February 1, at 10:00 a.m., for new campers. The camps are residential for children ages 9 to 17. Anyone may apply online (please do!). Spaces are available first-come, first-served, so please register as soon as you can if you need a particular session. To register, go to www.bymcamps.org

Why consider a sleep-away Quaker camp for your children (9 years and older)? For most children, at first, Quakerism and Meeting for Worship are seen as a “grownup” religion and experience. At camp, however, children experience the Inner Light in a natural setting, in outdoor silent worship, and in community with their peers and well-trained, talented counselors, many of whom were once campers themselves. Campers detach from electronics and social media to have fun playing and participating in camp activities; they gain the confidence that comes from learning practical life skills through daily camp chores; they make lasting friendships with children from other parts of the area or country. In short, the Quaker camp setting and program afford opportunities for experiential, multisensory learning that weekly FDS and traditional school cannot provide. All Quaker camps are open to children whether they come to BFM or not, so please share this information with others who might be interested.

For details about the camps, visit www.bymcamps.org or contact Jane Megginson (717-481-4870). For an extended list of Quaker camps, see: <http://quakersdc.org/node/912>

The value of the Quaker camp experience for children and teens is why BFM has financial support available, so we invite you to inquire about how to apply. For those who might want financial assistance for their children, please contact the co-clerk of Pastoral Care.

3rd: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, February 3, 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. There will be reports from Friends Committee on National Legislation, the American Friends Service Committee and the Recorder (re membership changes in the last year) and a community report. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. Child care up to age 12 is provided. Please join us if you can.

3rd: Spiritual Enrichment Gathering

Enriching our spiritual lives and enriching our Meeting: Are you yearning for more spiritual fellowship, for deeper conversations among those who are in the BFM community? Or are you wondering how you might enrich your spiritual life? Do you have questions, concerns, reflections about Quaker faith and practice that you would like to share with others? Following the mini- retreat on November 18, a number of people expressed the hope that we could do this again, so we had another gathering on January 6, and this one on Sunday, February 3, will be our third. Even if you did not attend either of the earlier ones, please know you are welcome to this one! We will gather together for two hours, with the intention of deepening our conversations with one another and exploring brief readings and queries. This will last from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., starting with lunch from 12:30 to 1

(participants bring brown bag lunches) and will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Groome Building (where we have potlucks).

8th to 10th: Dayspring Silent Retreat

The purpose of silent retreat is the deepening of communion with God, with other persons, and with oneself. The point is to “make space for...a time of waiting in silence, in solitude, to hear the voice of the One Who speaks in everything that is, and who, most of all, speaks in the depths of our own being.” (Thomas Merton)

The retreat is at Dayspring in Germantown MD, and sharing the warmth of spiritual community in the heart of winter, amid nature’s beauty, is a great blessing! It is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual refreshment. For details: Jean Christianson at jschristianson@gmail.com or 410-544-1912. Please register by Friday, February 1. The cost is \$225 payable to the Dayspring Retreat Center. Mail the check to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Road, Pasadena MD 21122.

9th: 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!). 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 of books is as follows: February: John O’Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*; March: Richard Powers, *The Overstory*; April: Elaine Pagels, *Why Religion?*

10th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? Lucille Harrigan and Lowell Christy would welcome our attendance at the Up-County Meeting for Worship at Lucille Harrigan’s home 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.

10th: Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share

Please join us for potluck at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, February 10. We gather in the Groome Building multi-purpose room for food and fellowship. Potluck is a good way to make connections with people you don’t know so well (newcomers and others), so bring a dish to share and be ready to make some new friends. Your contribution of a dish to share with others adds greatly to the occasion.

Members of the Outreach & Communication Committee are hosting a table for people who are newer to Meeting and may not know so many people but would like to know more. The Peace & Social Justice Committee is hosting a letter-writing table for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

10th, 17th, 24th: Introduction to Quaker Faith & Practice

Are you relatively new to Friends (Quakers)? Would you like to know more about the basic underpinnings of Quaker faith and practice? Would you like to get to know others who are also relatively new, and also meet people who have been Friends for a while? The Adult Religious

Education Committee is sponsoring a 6-session series, Introduction to Quaker Faith and Practice. All the sessions are on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The first two sessions happened in January. Future dates are February 10, 17, and 24; and March 10. The book we will be reading, *Letters to a Fellow Seeker*, by Steve Chase, will be available at the BFM book table, and can also be ordered from Quaker Books (www.quakerbooks.org)

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. This is an invitation to two sessions. One will be on Sunday, February 10, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The second will be on Sunday, February 24, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Please come if you can.

17th: Getting to Know One Another

All are welcome, after Meeting for Worship on Sunday, February 17, for this session with refreshments from 12:20 to 1:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for new folks to share about their background and what brought them to BFM, and to ask questions. Even long-time members often don't know each other, so all can share, learn, and build community. A key goal is to help everyone feel at home at BFM.

22nd to 24th: Young Friends Conference

On the weekend of February 22, there will be a Young Friends Conference for high school-aged Quakers at the Sandy Spring Meeting, 17715 Meeting House Road in Sandy Spring. Young Friends should arrive beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday. To register for the conference: www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yfs/yfcon.html or contact Jocelyn Dowling (301-774-7663). The deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is two weeks before the conference. Anyone registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend.

22nd: Deadline for BYM Workshop Proposals

The deadline for submitting workshop proposals for Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions is Friday, February 22. The 2019 Annual Sessions will be held from July 29 to August 4. Workshops are held for two hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The theme for the year is Quaker Tools for the Journey. Workshops which address this theme, or on other topics of interest to Friends are welcome. For a bit of context, here is the theme statement:

“We Friends have some precious tools and insights to help create the conditions for peace, stop the destruction of God's natural environment, and enable the growth of a just society....” Patience A. Schenck, *Answering the Call to Heal the World*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 383, 2017.

Our world can at times seem bleak: corrupted by injustice, division and self-interest. What does our Quaker heritage teach us of resilience and discernment in the face of discouragement? Which tools, forged in Friends' faith and practice, will serve us best to meet today's challenges?

We look back to our Quaker heritage, the deep roots of our faith, for inspiration. We look to history to learn from the practices that gave a few early Friends the strength to effect real change. We

also acknowledge that as we celebrate exemplary Friends, our history offers cautionary episodes: dark times when Friends allowed complacency to blind them to the deep wrongs they themselves participated in. We must live with all these examples as we shape our course both individually and corporately.

- What are the “roots” we have grown from?
- What are the “flowers” of our faith and practice?
- What “seeds” have we planted that will nurture us for tomorrow?
- What tools will we need to speak to “that of God” in others?
- What do Quakers bring to these troubled times?

What ideas are currently bubbling up? It may seem early to be thinking about an August workshop, but preliminary coordination happens on March 17; and the deadline for the catalogue of workshops is April 8.

Please submit your proposal online at:

<http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/workshopprop.html> Please note that any description that exceeds 50 words will be sent back to you for editing. Workshop titles are limited to 13 words.

23rd: Religious Education Retreat

Please join other F(f)riends for a day focused on Teaching Friends across the Generations: A Day for Sharing our Wisdom and Inspiring One Another, held at Frederick Friends Meeting, 723 North Market Street in Frederick, on Saturday, February 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a snow date of April 13. The morning will focus on what we have found most meaningful and successful in our individual Meetings. In the afternoon we will brainstorm ideas about some common challenges we face, (e.g., unpredictable attendance, honoring differences in children while keeping the group together, shrinking and inconsistent attendance, and establishing a nurturing and constructive environment for teachers/teacher recruitment.) We will close by exploring and developing an idea which emerged from our RE discussion/listening groups: Learning Boxes for Teaching Across the Generations. This would involve resource packets which would contain lesson plans, book recommendations, etc., for each age group, from preschool to adult RE and focus on one particular theme, such as simplicity or compassion. All members of the Meeting would concurrently study some aspect of the same theme, giving an opportunity for increased intergenerational cohesion and interaction. For this retreat to be most productive, we need you. Please recruit someone from your Meeting to attend. For details: Ellen Arginteanu (814-206- 6712, ellenandjules@protonmail.com)

24th: Coordinating Gathering

Representatives of most BFM committees meet during the week before Meeting for Business to discuss the upcoming agenda and to share our reflections on the spiritual state of our community, specific tasks, and Quaker processes. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend. There will be one at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, February 24.

Into the Future

April 28th: Spring Fling for Ramallah Friends School

Spring Fling is BFM’s celebration of our community and the season. It’s also our Meeting’s biggest fund raiser. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund for Ramallah Friends School in Palestine. Founded in 1869, its mission is to provide “educational excellence based upon the Quaker values of

equality, simplicity and peace.” The school is a real beacon of hope in a troubled land, and they are immensely grateful for our support. Spring Fling, which engages scores of us, is built around four main activities, all of which welcome volunteers, donations, and customers.

The activities are:

- **Silent Auction:** This wide array of donated goods and services includes many kinds of items, such as household goods, jewelry, art work, photography, gift certificates to restaurants or theaters; services such as gardening consultations, handyman services, music lessons, homemade food or baked items; social events such a dinner and/or discussion in your home, a wine and cheese gathering, or a film and discussion in your home. We even have had the donation of time at someone’s vacation home. Be imaginative, and think about what you have in your home and no longer need, and what your talents and gifts are that could be helpful to others. We need to know about your contributions or donations for the silent auction as soon as possible. We would like your donations by April 1 to prepare them for the online Buy It Now Sale from April 16 to 22.

- Middle Eastern Buffet.

- “White Camel” Rummage Sale. Note: any child attending Spring Fling receives a \$5 gift certificate to the White Camel Sale. Donations of items for sale should be brought to BFM on Saturday, April 27, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. so we have a chance to price them.

- Perennial Plant Sale.

- Ramallah Friends tee-shirts and Palestinian olive oil will be sold as well.

- If you are willing to work but don’t have a strong preference where, check with various coordinators to see where the need is greatest.

- If you can’t come to the event, you can simply donate via the Social Concerns Box for April. See: http://www.bethesdafriends.org/spring_fling.aspx.

Committee Notes

Nominating: BFM 2019 Committee Clerks:

Tips for Clerks. Clerks of committees are reminded that copies of the minutes of all committee meetings should be given to the co-clerks and the archivist

Also, to schedule any event at Meeting, please contact our scheduler When you have confirmation, let the newsletter editor know before the newsletter deadline of the 13th of every month except July.

Many of the newly constituted committees have met now, but whether you have or not (and whether you are the clerk or not), please reach out to new committee members soon, welcome them, and ask if they have any questions. Some folks are new to committee work or new to our Meeting, and will be especially appreciative of outreach and welcome.

Take time to consider how to make participation on committees a nurturing experience for all, including plans for the coming year, the committee’s priorities, and what might be laid down, shared more widely with the larger meeting, or done differently in a more spirit-led way.

There are more helpful tips in the committee resource guide on page 47 of the 2018 BFM Directory.

Library & Book Table Committees

Hospitality. We wish to thank both the Library Committee and the Book Table for providing hospitality at the rise of Meeting and potluck this month. The Library Committee takes care of our library resources. It is responsible for the acquisition, care, and circulation of the Meeting’s books and

other information resources. The Book Table offers an engaging selection of books (for sale) to our community during coffee hours.

Ministry & Worship

What Do We Do When It Snows? There will be Meeting for Worship for whomever comes, unless the school (and hence the Meetinghouse) is closed. The school does make every effort to clear the grounds as quickly as possible. They close the gates if there are two to four inches of snow. The school typically posts that information on its website:

<https://www.sidwell.edu/> The same information can be obtained by calling the School's Security Office (202-537-8197).

Pastoral Care

Would you like to get more involved in the life of the Meeting? One way is to sign up to occasionally help the Pastoral Care Committee tend to the needs of those in the BFM community who might need a ride, a visit, or another type of tangible help. If you'd like to be on our list of occasional volunteers, please let the weekly Friendly Ear or Jane Meleney Coe (301-320- 5083, bethesdafrm@igc.org) know. When the need arises, someone from Pastoral Care will contact you to see if you are available. If not, we'll try to reach you the next time. It's a great way to get to know people you might not otherwise meet, and a great service to the Meeting.

Meeting Notes

Thinking About Race

This is from the 2018 book *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside Out* by Ruth King:

“After several days of teaching in Washington, DC, I was able to secure tickets to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. My partner and I took a taxi to the museum. After clarifying our destination, the driver, a middle-aged white male and acknowledged Trump supporter, shared that he had never visited the museum and was disturbed because the building’s design stood out like a “sore thumb” on the Museum Mall. He stated with puzzlement, ‘Why couldn’t they make the building fit in with the other museums on the Mall? What does it have to look so different? I think it’s the ugliest building I’ve ever seen. It simply does not fit in.’ My partner and I, two elderly black women sitting in the back seat of his car, looked at each other with clear eyes. I replied, ‘That is the story of our lives in this country as black Americans. We don’t fit in and don’t want to fit in. And why should we? The museum is about us defining ourselves and sharing our history. Of course it would look different from any other museum on the Mall.’ To which he replied, ‘Hmm, I never thought about it that way.’ To which I replied, ‘I hope you have a chance to visit the Museum. It will likely give you more to think about.’”

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Development Director

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (composed of more than 50 congregations, including Bethesda Friends Meeting, and 6,500 members across the midAtlantic Region) is looking for a new Development Director. The Development Director is responsible for identifying, cultivating, soliciting and securing new and ongoing gifts from individuals and foundations in support of BYM’s ministries and programs (including the camping program for 550 to 600 campers each year, a youth program, the

annual sessions, the Spiritual Formation Program, and the annual Women's Retreat). The Development Director builds relationships and affinity for BYM and for the future of the Religious Society of Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting. Candidates must have a minimum of five years of relevant and successful fund raising experience. For more details and a complete job description, go to: www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/development/directorsearch.html To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and a list of three references to: Development Director Search at applications@bym-rsf.org.

2019 Directory

The 2019 BFM Directory will be printed as soon as possible. In addition to our names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, the directory contains useful information about the BFM calendar, committee membership and responsibilities, hospitality guidelines, and other Quaker Meetings and organizations. Most directories will be mailed out.