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

6	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business: All are Invited to Participate!
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		12:15 p.m.	Celebrating Maria
		1:00 p.m.	Spiritual Enrichment Gathering
7	Mon	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for Registration for the Women's Retreat
		7:00 p.m.	Mobilizing Friends for Bold Action Online Course
9	Wed	7:30 p.m.	Adult Religious Education Committee
12/13	Sat/Sun	10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conf., Stony Run Friends Mtg.
12	Sat	1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
13	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: William Penn & Equality (D. Haines), Music Rm.
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity
		12:00 noon	Welcome to New Members
		12:30 p.m.	Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light
		8:30 p.m.	February Newsletter Deadline (301-320-5083)
15	Tues	7:00 p.m.	BYM Camp Enrollment Opens
19	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Hold Space for Transformation, Frederick Frds. Mtg.
		6:00 p.m.	Couples Enrichment Potluck, Sandy Spring Frds Mtg.
20	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship; Pastoral Care
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: Introduction to Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Rm.
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach & Com., RE, & S&F
		9:45 a.m.	Parents, RE, & M&W: Including Children in Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
25	Fri	4:00 p.m.	BYM Women's Retreat (www.bymwomensretreat.org)

27	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: Introduction to Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Rm.
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light

Queries for January: What is the Spiritual State of Our Meeting

In the life of our Meeting, how are our deliberations and actions loving, caring, and Spirit led? Does our life in the Meeting leave us feeling loved, cared for, and led by the Spirit? What challenges us to be loving, caring, and Spirit led? How might there be more actions that are loving, caring, and Spirit led?

Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for January is for the Torture Abolition & Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). TASSC is an organization founded by and for torture survivors, the only one of its kind. Its mission is to end the practice of torture wherever it occurs (in some 150 countries) and to empower survivors, their families, and communities wherever they may be. Given the fact that people in US prisons are tortured (solitary confinement is classified as torture), it is all the more important that we support such efforts. For details, see www.tassc.org

In November, the Social Concerns Box had \$92 for Action in Montgomery.

Since October, there have been additional contributions to Interfaith Works Housing Coalition for a Social Concerns box total of \$795.

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. each Sunday.

For details, please check the weekly bulletin on activities, including the annual Quaker Camp Expo and quilting.

Jan. 6: Classes

Jan. 13: Multi-Age group

Jan. 20: Classes

Jan. 27: Multi-Age group

A special invitation to parents: please join the Religious Education Committee for a conversation with the Ministry & Worship Committee on Sunday, January 20, at 9:45 a.m., to talk about ways the Meeting can continue to include children in the life of the Meeting. The location of the meeting is being decided, but will probably in the lower level lounge of the Groome Building. Childcare will be available.

Events

Spiritual State of the Meeting Month

Each year, the Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W) drafts a Spiritual State of the Meeting report for the Meeting's consideration. M&W relies on the insights of everyone in our

community in drafting this report. There will be multiple opportunities to share your thoughts, including: through conversations at potluck (January 13), through requests to all committees, and through e-mails to any member of M&W. The queries we encourage you to consider are:

1. In the life of our Meeting, how are our deliberations and actions loving, caring, and Spirit led?

2. Does our life in the Meeting leave us feeling loved, cared for, and led by the Spirit?

3. What challenges us to be loving, caring, and Spirit led?

4. How might there be more actions that are loving, caring, and Spirit led?

A first reading of the report will be held at the March Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, with a second reading in April. After approval, it is forwarded to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. For details, see: http://www.bethesdafriends.org/ssom_forum.aspx

2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th: Mid-Week Meeting for Worship

On Wednesday evenings, at 7:30 p.m., there is a mid-week Meeting 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.

6th: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, January 6 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. On the agenda are reports from the American Friends Service Committee's DC Project, Child Care, and Fellowship & Hospitality, and Ministry & Worship Committees. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate. Child care up to age 12 is provided. Please join us if you can.

6th: Celebrating Maria

On January 6 at the rise of Meeting, BFM will have a special appreciation for Maria who has been one of our child care providers for 23 years! January 6th will be Maria's last day at BFM, and we want to wish her well with a special gift and refreshments. If you haven't yet signed a card for her, please do. They will be available at Meeting until we give them to her.

6th: 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. Even if you did not attend that one, 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 1:00 to about 3:00 p.m., and will be held in the Meeting Room. For those interested, there will be a brief meeting afterwards to discuss how we might continue this program.

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 letterwriting and silent vigils. Eileen has designed her online 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/>

12th/13th: Junior Young Friends Conference

Middle School-aged youth are invited to Stony Run Friends Meeting (5116 North Charles Street in Baltimore MD) on the weekend of January 12/13 to participate in a Junior Young Friends Conference. There may be as many as 60 other kids from local Meetings hanging out and having a good time, getting to know one another, learning something, and sharing activities. Please arrive at 10:00 a.m. with sleeping bag, pad, pillow, change of clothes and toiletries. Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is one week before the conference (January 5). For details, contact Jossie Dowling, Youth Programs Manager (301-774- 7663, youthprograms@bym-rsf.org)

12th: 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 January is Henri Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved*.

13th: ARE: William Penn & Equality

On Sunday, January 13, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room (basement) of the SAM Building, Deborah Haines of Alexandria Meeting will discuss William Penn and equality. She has led many well-received ARE discussions in the past. By way of background, when William Penn first arrived in the new colony of Pennsylvania in 1682, he quickly put in place a system for organizing settlement of the land. He ordered his surveyors to move outward from Philadelphia, creating contiguous townships consisting of small farms laid out along either side of a central road. William Penn's townships have received little attention from historians, but they were just as much an expression of religious values as New England's famed village centers. Come learn more about how

the egalitarian Quaker concept of community shaped the landscape of southeastern Pennsylvania in the seventeenth century, and helped lay the foundations for American democracy.

13th: Welcome to New Members & Newborns

On Sunday, January 13, at rise of Meeting, Pastoral Care will welcome and re-introduce our new members since January 2018. Please join us in giving them all another warm welcome.

13th: Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share

Please join us for feast and fellowship in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, January 13. Potluck is a good way to make connections with people you don't know so well (newcomers and others), so please bring a dish to share and be ready to make some new friends. The January potluck is special because there will be opportunities to share our reflections on the spiritual state of the Meeting (see above). We have a special 'welcome 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).

13th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? We are invited to attend 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

13th/27th: 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. This is an invitation to two sessions. One will be on Sunday, January 13, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The second on Sunday, January 27, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.. Please come if you can.

15th: BYM Camp Enrollment Opens

Enrollment for Baltimore Yearly Meeting camping programs (at Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure) begins Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m., for returning campers and February 1, at 7:00 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 serve, so please register as soon as you can if you need a particular session. For details: Jane Megginson (717-481-4870) or: www.bymcamps.org For details about Quaker camps, see: <http://quakersdc.org/node/912>

19th: Hold Space for Transformation

You are invited to participate in "Hold Space for Transformation," a training session sponsored by Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Growing Diverse Leadership Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group on Racism to realize our vision of overcoming racism and becoming a multi-cultural religious organization. The lead facilitator is Dr. Amanda Kemp, assisted by Dr. Erika Fitz, both

members of Lancaster Meeting. The workshop runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Frederick Friends Meeting. This is the first of a two-part training for change groups and friends doing anti-racism work in BYM meeting. The second session will take place on March 2. For details: <http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/>

19th: Couples Enrichment Potluck

The Friends Couple Enrichment leader retreat will bring leaders in from all over the US and Canada for the Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend in 2019. Saturday evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m., January 19, there will be a potluck dinner and a Couple Enrichment Program. We are inviting couples with no experience or previous experience to join us for a time of celebration, nurturing, and growth for their relationships. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner. The gathering will be at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, 17730 Meeting House Road, in Sandy Spring. To reserve a space e-mail:

richlivers@gmail.com To learn more about Friends Couple Enrichment, see: www.friendscoupleenrichment.org

20th & 27th: 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. It will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room, starting on January 20. Future dates are January 27; 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 www.quakerbooks.org

20th: Including Children in the Life of the Meeting

On Sunday, January 20, at 9:45 a.m., all (especially parents) are invited to a conversation about ways the Meeting can continue to include children in the life of the Meeting. Childcare will be available. The meeting is hosted by the Religious Education and the Ministry & Worship Committees. The location of the meeting is being decided, but will probably in the lower level lounge of the Groome Building.

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/> Registration ends January 7.

27th: Coordinating Gathering

Representatives of most BFM committees meet during the week before Meeting for Business to discuss the upcoming agenda. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend. There will be one on Sunday, January 27, at the rise of Meeting in the meeting room.

Into the Future

February 1st: BYM Camps Registration Opens for New Campers

One of the most popular programs of Baltimore Yearly Meeting is the camping program at Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure Quaker Camps. Kids have a wonderful time in the natural world and in getting to know one another. For details, see www.bymcamps.org

February 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. Please register by Friday, February 1. The cost is \$225 payable to the Dayspring Retreat Center. Mail the check to 189 Edgewater Road, Pasadena MD 21122.

Committee Notes

Nominating

Thank you. On December 2, Meeting for Business approved the Nominating Committee’s nominations for committee members, officers, and liaisons to other organizations for 2019. The committee thanks everyone who has agreed to serve and is grateful for the continuing service of so many.

Transitions to new positions. As of January 1, the newly named committee members assume their new assignments. Current committee clerks are encouraged to welcome the new 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 year, if that has not been done already. For details on choosing a clerk and other committee functions, please see the Community Resource Guide on pages 47 to 52 of the 2018 Directory.

Hospitality. The Nominating Committee is happy to provide hospitality at the rise of meeting and to serve potluck in January. The committee seeks to understand the interests and talents of members and attenders, and the ways they may feel led to support the work of the Meeting, and to make nominations that strengthen our community, serve the Meeting’s needs, and support personal growth.

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 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.

Ministry & Worship

Please be mindful of hearing-impaired Friends. M&W would like to encourage everyone to please be mindful during Meetings for Worship of those who are hearing impaired by: (1) speaking clearly and with full voice when delivering messages, and (2) turning off cellphones.

What do we do when it snows?! In general, there will be Meeting for Worship if the Sidwell Friends Lower School is open. Call 202-537-8197 or see www.sidwell.edu

Meeting Notes

Peace Note

As you take out a new calendar for 2019, take note of the Friends Committee on National Legislation's Witness Wednesdays. Each Wednesday when Congress is in session, FCNL offers lobby training at 9:00 a.m. and silent reflection at 5:15 p.m. at its Quaker Welcome Center. FCNL is particularly interested in local Friends having a consistent presence at the silent reflection. For details:

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/witness-wednesdays-1161>

Thinking About Race

Parker Palmer's 2018 book, *On the Brink of Everything*, is a collection of essays through which he "explores what he's learning about self and world." Chapter VI is entitled "Keep Reaching In: Staying Engaged with Your Soul."

"'Confessing My Complicity' [an essay in the chapter] is focused on being white in a society rooted in white supremacy. I'm not on a guilt trip here, just acknowledging the inner roots of a social pathology that, if it goes unconfessed and unaddressed, will make people who are like me a continuing part of the problem. No disease in the United States is more in need of a cure than racism—which breeds irrational fears that, in turn, breed the worst of political evils. As long as I draw breath, I want to be part of the solution. That requires a close examination of my own heart and dealing with whatever pathogens I find there. If I want to help heal the world, I must heal myself."