

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

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BFM Newsletter June 2016 Version for Web

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?

June 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.).

3 to 5		BFM at Camp Catoctin, stay a few hours or a few days!
4	10:00 a.m.	Adelphi Strawberry Festival, Adelphi Friends Meeting
5	Sun 9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
	12:00 noon	Potluck at Camp Catoctin

11	Sat	6:30 p.m.	WPH Potluck & Dialogue: Andrei Israel's Journey
		3:00 p.m.	BFM Book Group at the Bethesda Library
		3:00 p.m.	Quaker Participation in the Gay Pride Parade, FMW
12	Sun	4:00 p.m.	Friends Wilderness Center: Songs, S'mores, & Star-Gazing
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: Grow Our Meeting by Inreach & Outreach, Music Rm
		12:30 p.m.	Quaker Participation in the Gay Pride Festival,
13	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light Session at Jane Coe's House
		8:00 p.m.	Stewardship & Finance Committee, Science Room
		8:30 p.m.	Summer Newsletter Deadline
16	Thurs	6:30 p.m.	FCNL Reception at Sidwell Friends Upper School
16 to 19			Pendle Hill Program on Climate Justice, Wallingford PA
17 to 19			Young Adult Quaker Party in NYC!
17 to 19		6:30 p.m.	Silent Retreat for Friends at Dayspring
18	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Mtg Day, Maury River Friends Meeting, VA
19	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Advancement & Outreach Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Com, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		12:30 p.m.	Committee Day for ARE, Pastoral Care & M&W
26	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Information Session on BFM's Future, Music Room
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light at the Nielsen-Joneses' House
27	Mon	5:00 p.m.	BYM Annual Sessions Early Reg. Deadline (25% off)

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for June is for [Jubilee Jobs](http://www.jubileejobs.org), 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 the homeless, people in recovery, ex-offenders, 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 \$5,484 for [Ramallah Friends School](http://www.ramallahfriends.org) scholarships in the Social Concerns Box. A more detailed report is below.

In March, we raised \$1,080 for [Women for Women International](http://www.womenforwomen.org). With the budget allocation of an additional \$360, we are now able to sponsor four women.

Events

Report on Spring Fling

Defying expectations, Spring Fling 2016 posted records in participation and proceeds for Ramallah Friends School. **As of May 8, Spring Fling and the Social Concerns box proceeds totaled \$14,149 for Ramallah Friends School scholarships. That's about 12 percent above last year's record.** Attendance was up about 10 percent to 150, including 21 children. And we had fun!

Simply put, people gave more and more people gave—as volunteers, donors and customers. It helped that April 24 was a sparkling day amidst gray ones.

In addition, newcomers and new strategies made some remarkable contributions, and scores of veterans made essential ones, such as cooking Marbella's Chicken, finding gold in their attics, unpacking and repacking unsold items, redeeming kids' \$5 gift certificates, mounting the Silent

Auction, providing balloons and beverages, and on and on. Guests, donors, and in-kind donors included two Palestinian families and a Lebanese one drawn to the cause, and a leader of the Olive Oil Ministry. First Day School students contributed vases they'd decorated, as well as their own lightly-used games and toys, to the White Camel Sale. To this retiring coordinator, Spring Fling felt, as it always has, like love: a festival of giving and receiving.

The small quantifiable part of satisfaction is this tally as of May 8:

Spring Fling 2016	
Auction	\$4,735
White Camel	\$1,225
Luncheon	\$1,392
Plant Sale	\$469
T-Shirts	\$578
Olive oil	\$266
Social concern box	\$5,484
TOTAL	\$14,149

3rd to 5th: BFM Camp Catoctin Weekend

Our time at Camp Catoctin this year will be the first weekend in June. Come for Saturday or whenever you like. Arrive and depart any time from Friday, June 3, at 4:00 p.m., through lunch on Sunday, June 5. 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 potluck weekend, so please bring food for your family for the weekend and something to share for the Saturday evening spaghetti potluck. There will be 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/day/adult. Catoctin Quaker Camp is at 12611 Tower Road, Thurmont MD 21788. You can see details on the [BFM flier here](#). You can [learn more here](#) about Camp Catoctin.

4th: Adelphi Friends Meeting Strawberry Festival

On Saturday, June 4, Adelphi Friends Meeting will hold its [2016 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. 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.

5th: Meeting for Business

Please come if you can, at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 5, to Meeting for Business in the meeting room. All are welcome to attend and participate. It is an opportunity to meet worship-fully and for

business in a special way. On the agenda this month are the second reading of our budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1 and reports from Spring Fling and Friendly Eights and the ad hoc committee for Discerning Our Future (reporting on the survey results). The ad hoc Nominating Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee will be appointed. A detailed agenda will be e-mailed before June 5. Please note that child care is provided for children up through age 11.

5th: William Penn House Potluck & Dialogue

F(f)riends are invited to a potluck and Quaker dialogue at William Penn House on Sun-day, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. Presenting this month will be Andrei Israel, the new executive director of William Penn House. He will be sharing about his journey to service at William Penn House and his vision for William Penn House as a center of Quaker peace and social justice education. Andrei is a product of the BYM camps, Sidwell Friends School, and Quaker workcamps. More recently, he has studied, taught, and conducted research in the fields of geography, women's studies, and environmental studies. His talk will describe how these experiences have shaped his approach to faith and activism, and ways that William Penn House can help Friends respond to the pressing peace and justice issues of today. This is an opportunity for fellowship within the wider Quaker community. Family and friends are always welcome. WPH is at 515 East Capitol Street SE. For details: www.williampenhouse.org.

11th: 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!). 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: [click here](#)

11th: Friends Wilderness Center Event: Songs, S'mores, & Star Gazing

Friends Wilderness Center (Harpers Ferry WV) invites us to a marvelous two-part family program on Saturday, June 11, from 4:00 to 9:30 p.m. Part one will be an outdoor (weather permitting) singing of campfire songs, familiar from childhood and Quaker summer camps. Guitars and other instruments are welcome. Singing will adjourn for dinner around 6:00 p.m. to be rekindled around an open fire and the making and consuming of s'mores. Thus sticky, happy, and maybe even a bit hoarse, we will enter into the final part of the program as we turn our eyes to the heavens and let Kevin Boles guide us through the night sky using his impressive telescope and amazing knowledge of things astronomical. Please RSVP to Sheila Bach to assist her in meal planning (dinner will cost \$10 per person – family discounts available). You may choose to do both parts of the program or just come for the sky-watching. When RSVP'ing to Sheila please make your preference clear.

Friends Wilderness Center is in West Virginia, near Harper's Ferry. FWC is just 1.5 hours from Bethesda. RSVP to Sheila Bach. Note: If this will be your first time visiting FWC, please be sure to read both the introductory material on the home page and on the directions page of www.friendswilderness.org This will help avoid getting lost or arriving later than intended.

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12th: ARE: Grow Our Meeting by Inreach & Outreach

Those who participated in the first session of Grow Our Meeting had so much fun that we decided to have a second session, which will be on Sunday, June 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room (Lower Level) of the SAM building, across the patio from the Meeting house. In October, three Bethesda Friends attended the Yearly Meeting's "Grow Our Meetings" workshop on behalf of the Meeting. The goal of this 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, we will share some of the tools we got from the session. All are welcome, with special encouragement to those who are on the Pastoral Care, Ministry & Worship, Adult Religious Education, and Advancement & Outreach Committees. Please come if you can!

12th: No Potluck at BFM in June

The Sidwell Friends Lower School kitchen will be closed and unavailable to us for the summer, beginning June 5, so there will be no potluck at BFM in June. For those who really enjoy potluck, consider the potluck mid-day meals at Camp Catoctin on Saturday, June 4, and/or Sunday, June 5. Sunday potluck luncheon follows 10:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship. (See the announcement above about our Camp Catoctin weekend.) As has been the tradition, there will be no potluck at BFM in July or August.

12th/26th: 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.

16th: FCNL Reception

Bethesda Friends are invited to a Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, at Sidwell Friends Upper School meeting room. Executive Secretary Diane Randell will share information on several of FCNL's recent initiatives including its focus on involving more millennials and generation x-ers in its policy work and on the renovation of the next door building as a conference/hospitality center. Refreshments will be served. If you can attend, please [RSVP](#) as soon as possible to For details: Andrew(at)fcnl(dot)org

16th to 19th: Pendle Hill Program on Climate Justice

Pendle Hill, the Quaker Retreat Center in Wallingford PA, is hosting a powerful faith-based organizing for climate justice from June 16 to 19. There will be worship, plenary sessions, workshops, and interest groups for deepening one's capacity to work effectively with others on lobbying and advocacy, constructive community resilience projects, and strategic nonviolent direct action campaigns. To learn more: Lina Blout (lblout(at)pendlehill(dot)org) or www.pendlehill.org

17th to 19th: Young Adult Friends Party

Quaker Party is an attempt to gather every Friend, friend of Friends, long-lost Friend, relative of Friends, or friendly person wandering by who finished high school in 1990 or after...ish. All day Saturday, there will be free-flowing spaces where you can wander in and out: Music/Jam Room (bring a musical instrument if you have one), an art room, a Walk Cheerfully Room (for play and deepening connection), a Quiet Room (including books to read), and a Fellowship Room (a place to hang out). There will also be workshops. The location is the 15th Street Meetinghouse, 15 Rutherford Place, in New York. To learn more: Facebook: [Firsteverquakerparty](#); E-mail: [quakerparty\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:quakerparty(at)gmail(dot)com) or [their webpage](#).

17th to 19th: Silent Retreat for Friends at Dayspring

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 17 to Sunday afternoon, June 19. 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 \$220. The registration deadline is June 10.

18th: 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. Maury River Friends Meeting in Lexington VA is hosting the Sixth Month Interim Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. 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. Overnight hospitality is offered both Friday and Saturday nights by local Friends. For details: www.bym-rsf.org

26th: Information Session on Discerning Our Future

On Sunday, June 26, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room, the Ad Hoc Committee on Opportunities for Our Future will host an information session on choices for the Meeting in light of Sidwell Friends School's plan to sell the Lower School campus. The presentation will be followed by a robust Q&A/discussion. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Information on these issues is posted [here on our BFM site](#).

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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 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. For details, see: 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). [Learn more about workshops and interest groups in the Spring Interchange.](#)

Note that the early registration is 25% less than regular registration. The deadline is June 27.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting offers each Meeting the opportunity to send three Friends for two days at no cost. This is for people who have not yet attended Annual Session, or haven’t attended in over 10 years. Attenders at Annual Session over the years have found it to be an enriching experience. Even if you have been before, Pastoral Care has some funds to support attendance at this and other conferences. To learn more, talk to the Friendly Ear at the rise of Meeting.

Committee Notes

Friendly Eights

We thank the Friendly Eights Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of meeting this month and for organizing simple potluck meals each month, October through April, for fellowship in groups of eight (more or less) in participants’ homes. Some meals are for adults and others for families with their children. The committee meets as needed.

Discerning Our Future

The ad hoc Committee on Opportunities for Our Future (AHCOOF) recently sent a questionnaire to all who participate in the Bethesda Friends Meeting community. As you likely know, Sidwell Friends School announced last fall that they plan to move the lower school to a site adjacent to the upper school campus in Washington DC in the summer of 2019, and the Meeting approved the formation of AHCOOF to help facilitate BFM’s information collection and discernment process regarding our future location. The questionnaire is one of a number of ways AHCOOF is seeking input and information from the BFM community. Please consider providing your views to any of the members of the ad hoc committee.

The ad hoc committee will report on the results of the questionnaire at the June 5 Meeting for Business. It is expected that decisions will be made, in the manner of Friends, at one or more Meetings for Business to be held in the fall. [Additional background information](#)

Pastoral Care

Experiencing serious illness or death of a loved one? Notify the co-clerks of the Pastoral Care Committee. They will try to activate help for you.

Stewardship & Finance

Stewardship & Finance has sent out its spring request, the last of two during the fiscal year ending June 30. BFM's current activities are supported by financial contributions from BFM participants. Every contribution is important, no matter what size. In addition to covering the Meeting's direct expenses and supporting Baltimore Yearly Meeting, our budget supports extensive Quaker activities including education, camping, and other Friends groups such as American Friends Service Committee. We also support non-Quaker organizations addressing low-income housing, literacy, jobs, conflict resolution, trauma recovery, and interfaith cooperation. These activities cultivate and sustain Quaker values (nonviolence, education, human rights, environmental stewardship) in us, our families, our community, and beyond. Our funding goes far and is often critical. For example, David Zarembka, Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams, recently reported that \$600 from BFM is the equivalent of two 3-day training workshops for 40 to 50 people. Please donate generously in relation to your means. Thank you for your support!

There are five ways to make your financial contribution:

- Write a check payable to: Bethesda Friends Meeting.
- [Credit card](#) (this uses PayPal, but no PayPal account is required.)
- The contribution box (for BFM) in the Meeting House can be used for cash or checks.
- Automatic transfers from your checking account. First, decide transfer frequency (monthly or quarterly), the amount of each transfer, and the date for each transfer. Then contact the BFM Treasurer for assistance. He can be reached at [treasurer\(at\)bethesdafriends\(dot\)org](mailto:treasurer(at)bethesdafriends(dot)org)
- Donated securities. Contact the treasurer for assistance.

Religious Education & Child Care

During the summer months, there will be supervised play on the playground for elementary school aged children. If the weather is not conducive to being outside, the supervised play will be in the Groome Building. Volunteers are needed to help as Friendly Adult Presences. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Library.

Child Care will continue during the summer for children who are 6 months through pre-K (until they move to First Day School). Can you help as a volunteer to assist the paid provider? Please [sign up here](#).

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

The Quaker Palestine Israel Network (QPIN)'s website describes: "Over many years, Quakers have worked to support the development of lasting peace with justice in Israel Palestine. In the past few years several monthly meetings and yearly meetings have issued minutes of support for boycott and divestment as a nonviolent approach to advocate for change. Ann Arbor Meeting, Swannanoa Valley Meeting, and Illinois Yearly Meeting to name just a few have expressed concern and actively advocated for peace and there is a growing energy and movement emerging among Friends. QPIN

(The Quaker Palestine Israel Network) was founded in the fall of 2013 to support the growth of this movement of Friends, to educate about boycott, divestment, and sanctions as a nonviolent approach, and to work together across Quaker meetings and churches and with the interfaith movement for greater impact.” See: <https://qpinblog.wordpress.com>

The [Quaker Network to End Mass Incarceration’s](#) mission is to contribute to the nation-wide effort to end mass incarceration by facilitating the exchange of resources, linking up those who are interested in the subject, hosting online discussions, and promoting the leadership and solutions of the formerly incarcerated.

Thinking About Race

White Fragility was one of the workshops offered at the White Privilege Conference (WPC17). The facilitator was Robin DiAngelo. She holds a PhD in multicultural education, is Director of Equity for Sound Generations in King County/Seattle, Washington, and is a consultant and trainer. Her description of the workshop was:

“White people in the U.S. live in the context of white supremacy. This context provides an insular, racially privileged social environment that builds our expectations for racial comfort while at the same time lowering our tolerance for racial stress. I term this lack of racial stamina ‘White Fragility.’ White Fragility is a state in which even a minimal challenge to white entitlement and the white worldview becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves including argumentation, invalidation, silence, withdrawal and claims of being ‘attacked’ and not feeling ‘safe.’ These moves function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and maintain white supremacy. In so doing, our freedom is limited and the movement we need to create racial equity and justice is blocked. This workshop will provide an overview of white fragility and the perspectives and skills needed for white people to build their racial stamina and re-imagine more equitable and just norms and practices.”

See more [in this pdf document](#).

The WPC17 took place in Philadelphia, April 14 to 17, 2016. Eleven Quaker organizations were part of the 14-member Host Team, and five others were sponsors at various levels, including Baltimore Yearly Meeting. About a dozen people from BYM attended the conference, which had an attendance of 2,500 people, 500 of whom were Quakers and 260 of whom were high school students.

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