

A Guide to What's Inside!

Calendar  
Query: Social Concerns  
The Social Concerns Box  
Personal Notes  
Religious Education  
Events  
Into the Future  
Committee Notes  
    Religious Education  
Meeting Notes  
BFM 2019 Directory

**March 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 Meeting for Worship, except on the first First day of each month, when Meeting for Business is held at 9:00 a.m. We have a mid-week Meeting for Worship at BFM on Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m., and a worship group in Boyds MD the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

1 & 2	Fri/Sat	7:30 p.m.	Sandy Spring Community Play: Seed Corn
2	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Change Group Training, Frederick Friends Meeting
3	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity
		12:30 p.m.	Friends Meeting of Washington's Renovation Plans
4	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Adult Religious Ed. Committee, Bernie Benson's House
9	Sat	1:00 p.m.	Memorial Meeting for Ted Hawkins, Mitchellville MD
		1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
10	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Intro to Quaker Faith & Practice, Music Room
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Baking for BFM Potluck
		12:30 p.m.	Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share
		2:30 p.m.	Holy Land Film Festival, "Thank God It's Friday"
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light at Jane Coe's House
13	Wed	8:30 p.m.	April Newsletter Deadline (301-320-5083)
16/17		10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conference, location t.b.d.
17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach & C., Rel. Ed., & Stew. & Fin.
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity
18	Mon	7:00 p.m.	BFM at the Bethesda Library: Climate Policy Solutions
23	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Meeting, Annapolis Friends Meeting
		2:00 p.m.	Memorial Gathering to Celebrate the Life of Harry Schafft
23 to 26			Frds. Com. on Nat'l. Legislation's Spring Lobby Weekend
24	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: "A Spiritual Journey" by Bruce Birchard, Music R.
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light at the Nielsen-Joneses' House
31		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Group Activity
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room

Query for March: Social Concerns

How have I expressed my faith in action? How are my actions grounded in my faith? To what extent is my sense of justice based in love? In what ways do I endeavor to respond to my own pain and suffering, that of others, and in the wider world? How do we teach our children, and show through our way of living, that love of God includes our affirming the humanity and dignity of everyone and seeking that of God within every person? How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

### **The Social Concerns Box**

Donations to the Social Concerns Box in March will go to Women for Women International. The Peace & Social Justice Committee has agreed to support three women with notes of encouragement, a monthly stipend, and training as they move from being survivors of conflict to active citizens engaged in rebuilding their lives and communities. The program includes financial assistance, leadership training, technical skills, access to capital and small business development, and the opportunity to gain support from other sponsored sisters in her community. We are sponsoring two women from Rwanda and one from Nigeria, at a cost of \$360 per woman per year. Please be generous with your contributions, and please visit the notewriting table at the entrance to Meeting during March. For more information: [www.womenforwomen.org](http://www.womenforwomen.org)

In December, A Wider Circle received \$247 via the Social Concerns Box, and in January, TASSC (Torture Abolition & Survivors Support Coalition) received \$647.

### **Religious Education for Children**

Young people are encouraged to join Meeting for Worship with their families at 11 am and stay for the first fifteen minutes in the Meeting Room. At 11:15 am, children leave the Meeting Room to meet teachers for multi-age activities or classes (K-3rd grade; 4-8th). For children, ages infant-four years old, child-care is available each week in the nursery, located downstairs in the Meeting House. Parents or guardians are always welcome to come with their children, especially for the first visit.

3rd: Multi-age group activity

10th: Baking for BFM Hospitality Hour

17th: Multi-age group activity

24th: Classes on Old Testament stories and

Friends Testimonies

31st: Multi-age group activity

### **Events**

#### **1st/2nd: Sandy Spring Friends School Community Play**

This year's world premier performance of Seed Corn, a one-act opera by Barry Morley with original music composed by Bryan Seith, will be the featured component of what is planned to be a tribute to Sandy Spring Friends School former teacher, Barry, and current teacher, Bryan, and the legacy of community art at Sandy Spring Friends School that they helped to create. The evening will feature three components: a one-act play, "Breakfast Beforehand," written by Barry Morley, originally performed during the early years of the ninth grade program, established by Barry and Anne Morley in 1973; the one-act opera, "Seed Corn"; and original chamber music composed by Bryan Seith. The shows will be performed at the Sandy Spring Monthly Meetinghouse because this was the original performance location of the ninth grade play program. The address is 17715 Meeting House Road, in Sandy Spring. The performances are at 7:15 p.m. The show is free, but there is a suggested cash donation of \$10. No reservations are required.

## **2nd: BYM Change Group Training**

The ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee and the Working Group on Racism invite you to this free Change Group training to realize our vision of overcoming racism and becoming a multicultural religious society. It will take place at Frederick Friends Meeting, 723 North Market Street, in Frederick. The lead facilitator is Dr. Amanda Kemp, assisted by Dr. Erika Fitz. Both are members of Lancaster Monthly Meeting. The training session will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (with an hour lunch break). Here is the link to the flyer and registration instructions:

<http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/ymevents.html> (Scroll down to March 2019.) Before we can create healthy relationships across the color line, attract and retain racial diversity, or be effective advocates for change in our Meeting we need to increase self-awareness. We will focus on:

- Noticing implicit racial bias and unintended micro-aggressions
- Removing audio and visuals in our home and Meeting that cue negative racial stereotypes
- Adding audio and visuals that promote equity in our community
- Expanding our leadership and positive impact by going towards what we fear
- Creating an action plan that includes regularly reflecting on our impact and intention.

Dr. Kemp has created an online master class called Transform Your Conversations about Racism in Five Steps. Here is the link: <https://dramandakemp.lpages.co/july-2018-master-class/>

## **3rd: Meeting for Business**

Meeting for Business will take place on Sunday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m. Meeting for Business is open to all who attend BFM. It is an opportunity to meet worshipfully and for business in a special way. We will hear the draft of our Spiritual State of the Meeting report and reports on FCNL, membership (from our Recorder), and our Meeting community. There will be an update from our Treasurer. Folks from Friends Meeting of Washington will describe their ambitious plans to transform their Meetinghouse complex. Please come! Your participation is welcome. Child Care is provided.

## **3rd: Friends Meeting of Washington Renovation Plans**

Friends Meeting of Washington has begun a renovation of its historic buildings and grounds on Florida Avenue, near Dupont Circle in downtown DC. After a decade of discernment, the FMW community agreed to significant upgrades to improve its accessibility, reduce its carbon footprint, and expand its outreach to local and national faith and non-profit organizations. Representatives of FMW will be present at our Meeting for Business on March 3 to share their goals and plans for this big effort. They will also be available at the rise of Meeting for informal conversations with people who were not at Meeting for Business and/or want to know more.

This renovation will require significant resources over an extended period. FMW warmly appreciates that its members and attenders, as well as other Quakers in the DC area see the importance of these investments. Please consider adding your support by mailing a contribution to Friends Meeting of Washington Capital Campaign, 2111 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008. Additional information is available at: <http://quakersdc.org/renovation>

## **9th: Memorial Meeting to Celebrate the Life of Ted Hawkins**

On Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Collington Chapel, 10450 Lottsford Road, in Mitchellville MD, we will celebrate the life of Ted Hawkins, who lived from 1928 to 2018. He died in December, and March is his birthday month. He was an early member of Bethesda Friends Meeting. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Right Sharing of World Resources.

## **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: March: Richard Powers, *The Overstory*; April: Elaine Pagels, *Why Religion?*

### **10th: ARE: Intro to Quaker Faith & Practice**

If you would like to know more about the basic underpinnings of Quaker faith and practice, please come to the final session of the six-week series called Introduction to Quaker Faith and Practice on Sunday, March 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The sessions are based on *Letters to a Fellow Seeker*, by Steve Chase, which is available at the BFM book table, and can also be ordered from [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org)

### **10th: Up-County Worship Group**

Live up-County? Lucille Harrigan and Lowell Christy would welcome our attendance at the Boyds Meeting for Worship at Lucille'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, March 10. We gather in the Groome Building multipurpose room for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share with others adds greatly to the occasion.

Members of the Outreach & Communications 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: Holy Land Film Series**

The Peace & Social Justice Committee is one of the sponsors of a film series on voices from the Holy Land, which will be shown on March 10 and April 14 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Islamic Center of Maryland, 19411 Woodfield Road, in Gaithersburg.

The movie on Sunday March 10 is "Thank God It's Friday." Equal time is given to interviews that reveal daily life in the Palestinian village of Nabi Saleh, home of Ahed Tamimi, as well as in the neighboring Israeli settlement of Halamish. (Reminder: On March 10, switch to Daylight Savings Time.)

The movie on Sunday April 14 is "The Occupation of the American Mind." It is described as a "stunning exposé on how propaganda drives public opinion and, in turn, our understanding of reality. Here's the story of how American perceptions of the Middle East ... are engineered: from focus group to talking points to mortar fire." --Douglas Rushkoff, Media Theory, CUNY, and Media Commentator, CNN. For details: [www.voicesfromthehollyland.org](http://www.voicesfromthehollyland.org) or Adileh Sharieff at [asharieff@icomd.org](mailto:asharieff@icomd.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. There will be two Sunday evening sessions in March, on March 10 and 24, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

### **16th/17th: Junior Young Friends Conference**

The third conference for 6th to 8th graders will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17. The location is yet to be decided. The conference goes from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday to noon on Sunday, and costs \$40. The phone number during all events is 301-5000-BYM. JYFs should bring a change of clothes, toiletries, sleeping bag, pad, and anything they think will help them make new friends (a game, musical instrument, or sports equipment). Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is one week before the conference. Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend. For details, please contact Jossie Dowling ([youthprograms@bym-rsf.org](mailto:youthprograms@bym-rsf.org), 301-774-7663). Future dates are May 3 to 5 at Shiloh Quaker Camp and at Annual Meeting, July 29 to August 4 in Frederick MD (at Hood College).

### **18th: BFM at the Bethesda Library: Climate Policy Solutions**

BFM will sponsor a Monday evening forum on Climate Change Policy in 2019: What Citizens Can Do at Federal, State and Local Levels, on Monday, March 18, 7:00 p.m., at Connie Morella Library on Arlington Road, in Bethesda. Congressman Jamie Raskin has agreed to join us for the event. We anticipate hearing from organizations such as Citizens Climate Lobby and Chesapeake Climate Action Network as well as local activists. Be sure to put this event on your calendar, and stay tuned for program details.

### **23rd: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting**

The BYM Interim Meeting will be hosted by Annapolis Friends Meeting on Saturday, March 23. Attendance offers a chance to get to know Friends from across the Yearly Meeting and be part of the decision-making at the afternoon session. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. For other details, see: [www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org)

### **23rd to 26th: FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend**

From March 23 to 26, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will host a Spring Lobby Weekend, drawing approximately 450 young adults to Washington from across the country to be trained to lobby Congress on a just and fair immigration system. For more information, see: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/spring-lobby-weekend-739>

### **23rd: Memorial Meeting to Celebrate the Life of Harry Schafft**

Harry Schafft, the husband of Gretchen, died on Saturday, February 9, at home with his loving family. There will be a memorial meeting to celebrate his life at 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, March 23, at the Meetinghouse. All are welcome.

### **24th: ARE: A Spiritual Journey**

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites us all to a session on Sunday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room to discuss the Pendle Hill pamphlet (#332) entitled "The Burning One-ness Binding Everything; a Spiritual Journey," by Bruce Birchard. Several of us in BFM have read this pamphlet and highly recommend it. The Adult Religious Education committee will purchase these pamphlets ahead of time. Starting in early March we will have a sign-up sheet in the library and once you sign up, you can receive this pamphlet free of charge. About the author: Bruce Birchard has

served as general secretary of Friends General Conference, as national coordinator of the Disarmament Program of the American Friends Service Committee, and as a staff member of the Friends Peace Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He has been an active member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting since 1976. Child care is available with advance request.

### **31st: 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 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room on Sunday, March 31.

## **Into the Future**

### **April 6th: BYM Peace & Social Concerns Networking Day**

On Saturday, April 6, at 9:30 a.m., F(f)riends from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting's 52 meetings will be gathering at the Sidwell Friends Upper School at 3825 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, for a networking day on Peace and Social Justice Concerns. This is an opportunity to share interests and concerns. We also will offer four, practical 90-minute workshops, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, each led by Friends with experience in these areas. In the morning, the two workshops are 1) The Back from the Brink Campaign re the threat of nuclear war; or 2) When individuals with mental health problems land in jail, how can we get them help before trial? In the afternoon the two workshops will be on 1) Immigrants, refugees and sanctuary in our midst (update and new resources); or 2) A closer look at our Friends' slow historic progress re civil rights and inclusion. Please register before April 1 by sending an e-mail to: pcaroom@gmail.com Include name, e-mail, monthly meeting, and which two workshops you prefer to attend.

Workshop sessions will begin at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. During breakfast/arrival time, Friends will be encouraged to mingle and share information about specific programs/activities of our own Monthly Meetings.

Coffee, bagels, and pastries will be provided at 9:30; lunch (wraps, salad, chips, drinks) will be provided at noon. Vegetarian/vegan treats may be included both times. Donations are welcome, but not required, to assist with our Networking Day costs (estimated to be \$14 per person).

### **April 6 to 14: Maryland Civil Rights Educational Freedom Experience**

Esther Delaplaine has been active with the Human Rights Commission of Montgomery County for decades. She has gone on their Freedom Ride and highly recommends it as a life-changing journey to relive history. The next one is from April 6 to 14. The group will travel by bus to explore the birth place of the Civil Rights Movement and retrace the Freedom Trail including the Lorraine Motel, Central High School, the home of Medgar Evers, and the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. The leaders are Joan Mulholland, a 1960s Freedom Rider, and Willie King, who transcribed Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." For details: 240-777-8450 or [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights)

### **April 16th to 22nd: Purchase Silent Auction Items Early from the On-Line Buy It Now Sale**

Our Silent Auction (part of Spring Fling – see below) includes a wide variety of interesting services, delicious food offerings, and unique material items. Each year, some items from the Silent Auction are selected for a special opportunity called "Buy-it-Now." This gives you advance notice of

some special offerings, and the chance to bid on them before the day of Spring Fling. The list of possibilities will be sent out by e-mail the second week of April.

### **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 as 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](http://www.bethesdafriends.org/spring_fling.aspx) .

### **Committee Notes**

#### **Religious Education**

We thank the Religious Education Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of Meeting and at potluck in the month of March. The committee organizes the First Day School religious education for children in the Meeting, including recruiting teachers and getting appropriate educational materials. It also organizes the Christmas pageant each year. It usually meets on the third Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Teachers' Lounge Annex.

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **Growing A Quaker Voice in Annapolis**

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, a gathering of eight Quaker meetings in central Maryland, sponsored a forum entitled "Growing a Quaker Voice in Annapolis" on February 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Homewood Friends Meeting (3107 North Charles Street in Baltimore). (Snow date: March 9.) Representatives from all local Maryland meetings (from both Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings) attended. The gathering of all Maryland Quakers was designed to create a

mechanism to enhance Quaker advocacy in Maryland for the 2019 legislative session and beyond. Agenda items included: the Power of Legislative Advocacy; Criminal Justice Reform Legislation; the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act. To learn more about what happened: [homewoodfriends@gmail.com](mailto:homewoodfriends@gmail.com) ,

## **Thinking About Race**

From “Developing Capacity to Communicate About Race with Critical Humility,” in *The Handbook of Race and Adult Education: A Resource for Dialogue on Racism* by the European-American Collaborative Challenging Whiteness (ECCW) <http://www.iconoclastic.net/eccw/>

“We use the term ‘white supremacist consciousness’ not to refer to a group of people, but to a system of thought. White supremacist consciousness describes a way of thinking that takes for granted the legitimacy of an American society dominated by white norms and values. In other words, white norms and values are normalized, thus making their supremacy over other groups’ norms and values implicit. It is this normalization that maintains the institutionalization of privilege based on race. We learned about this highly charged phrase from people of color, drawn from the discourse of Critical Race Theory (Delgado, 1995). As critical race discourse observes, many in our society fail to understand that racism is the institutionalization of privilege; it is not just a manifestation of prejudiced attitudes by individuals. When well-intentioned white people see themselves as ‘not prejudiced,’ they often assume they are also ‘not racist’ because they are examining their personal attitudes instead of the way in which they participate in unjust distributions of power and privilege based on race.”

## **BFM 2019 Directory**

New BFM directories were mailed out in mid-February. Additional copies will be available on the hall table and the literature table. The directory includes important dates, a schedule of reports to Meeting for Business, which committee serves hospitality, committee memberships, and addresses of Friends Meetings, organizations, and publications. In the back are: 1) a listing by first names which may help avoid confusion about which Dan or Marion or Jane one is trying to reach; and 2) the resource guide for committees, which describes how to reserve a room for a meeting, how to get announcements in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter, etc. There have already been some changes in 2019. See your personal newsletter for those changes.