

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

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Bethesda Friends Meeting Newsletter for October 2015

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Query for October: Personal Spiritual Life: Learning

How can we most effectively foster a spirit of seeking the Light? What helps us to be open to new understanding, support, and guidance? What encourages us to share our spiritual insights with others and to willingly receive from them in turn? How does Meeting nurture our spiritual growth and transformation? What efforts are we making to become better acquainted with the sources of our spiritual heritage and the contributions of other religions and philosophies?

October 2015 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is 11:00 a.m. every First Day. It is also held at 9:30 a.m. every First Day except for the first First Day of the month, when Meeting for Business is held at 9:15 a.m.

3	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conference, Goose Creek Meeting
		10:00 a.m.	FMW Couples Workshop: "We Love Each Other, But..."
4	Sun		World Quaker Day
		9:15 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is provided through age 11)
		11:00 a.m.	RE Program: Walkathon for the Homeless
		5:00 p.m.	Olive Oil Ministry Potluck, Westmoreland Congregational
		6:30 p.m.	WPH Potluck & Dialogue: Friends Investments
5	Mon	8:00 p.m.	Committee Night
9	Fri	3:30 p.m.	Fall Silent Retreat, Dayspring, Germantown MD
10	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Growing Our Meetings Workshop, Valley Frds Mtg.
		10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center Family Fun & Work Day, WV
		10:00 a.m.	Family Camp Weekend, Shiloh Quaker Camp, VA
		2:00 p.m.	Richard Barns' Memorial Meeting, BFM Meetinghouse
		2:00 p.m.	Quaker Book Group at the Bethesda Library

11	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: "The Appeal of Quakerism to the Non-Mystic"
		11:00 a.m.	RE Program: Meetings for Worship & Learning
		12:15 p.m.	Potluck
		1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light
13	Tues	8:30 p.m.	Deadline for November Newsletter
17	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Meeting, Goose Creek Meeting, VA
18	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Groome Bldg, behind stage
		9:30 a.m.	Advancement & Outreach Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Religious Education Committee, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		11:00 a.m.	RE Program: Homelessness in Our Community
		12:30 p.m.	P&SJ Forum on Immigration & Sanctuary, Meeting Room
		12:30 p.m.	ARE Committee Meeting, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		6:30 p.m.	Friendly Eights (Adults)
22	Thurs	6:30 p.m.	Interfaith Works Empty Bowls Dinner, Potomac MD
24	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Friends Wilderness Center: Witches & Quakerism
		10:00 a.m.	Family Camp Weekend, Catoctin Quaker Camp, MD
		5:00 p.m.	Friendly Eights (Families)
25	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:15 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers Lounge Annex
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: Improving Our Democracy, Music Room, SAM Bldg.
		11:00 a.m.	RE Program: Meetings for Worship & Learning
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		12:45 p.m.	Spring Fling Yoga, Lower Level, Groome Building
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light
30	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Inquirers' Weekend at Pendle Hill, Wallingford PA

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for November is for the Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provides affordable housing and social services to homeless families in Montgomery County as they transition from homelessness to independence. BFM has been one of the member organizations for more than 25 years. Our youth will host a mini-walkathon on Sunday, October 4.

In the Social Concerns Boxes for July and August, we collected a total of \$333 for the Right Sharing of World Resources.

Message from the Clerks

On September 15, the following announcement was sent out to the Meeting community:

We are writing with important news for our Meeting. Sidwell Friends School has announced that it will purchase the Washington Home and Community Hospices property adjacent to and just north of the SFS Middle School (at the corner of Upton and 37th Street). Their plan is to move the Lower School to that location in the fall of 2019 and consolidate the school into one campus in DC.

Bryan Garman, the new Head of School, reached out last week to the co-clerks and to our SFS liaison with a heart-felt invitation that our Meeting move with them to the DC campus. Our Friend Margaret Plank, currently the SFS Board Chair, also was present.

This is a very special opportunity for the school, and we feel joyful for them. It also presents significant challenges and, we hope, also opportunities for our Meeting. The Bethesda campus that has been our home for decades will be sold. There is no reason we couldn't reach out to the new

owner (unknown at this point) and ask if we could continue to share the space, but there is no guarantee.

Change can be difficult, especially one this large. However, we hope and believe this change can unfold into new opportunities for us as the way opens.

The following are our thoughts about immediate next steps:

1. The co-clerks will consult the Meeting's officers and committee clerks individually and through Coordinating Gathering and then follow up with Meeting for Business as a whole to ask what kind of discernment process will help us understand what this means for us as a Meeting and what our options are.

2. Bryan Garman has offered to come to Meeting for Business in October to share more about the school's vision for this move and to hear our initial questions, and he intends to be personally involved in ongoing conversations with us as this all unfolds.

3. We may wish to form either an ad hoc committee or standing committee to serve our Meeting as we gain more clarity about the questions we need to ask ourselves and as we gather information and seek unity on options. Such a committee could help organize information sessions, threshing sessions, and follow-up meetings with SFS. We will consult the Nominating Committee in particular about their thoughts.

We would like to stress that we have four years to understand and act on the implications of this announcement. So, please hold this news in the Light, knowing we can take our time to create something good for our Meeting out of it.

For details, please click this link: http://www.sidwell.edu/about_sfs/one-campus/index.aspx.

BFM Program for Young People

To highlight Quakerism in action and to help make faith and practice meaningful for the children in our Meeting, the Religious Education Committee has changed the name of the children's program, from First Day School, to Quaker Values and Leadership.

The program begins at 11:00 a.m.

On the first and third Sundays of each month, children in grades K-8 meet for large group, multi-age activities. Parents are welcome to join their children.

On the second and four Sundays of each month, after attending Meeting for Worship with their parents for the first 15 minutes, children will meet in smaller groups by age/grade.

On October 4, the activity will be a Walkathon for the homeless at 11:00 a.m.

On October 11, meetings for learning by age/grade groups.

On October 19, the activity will relate to the Walkathon and will be another form of service activity to support the homeless.

On October 25, meetings for learning by age/grade groups.

If you have not yet registered your children for the Quaker Values and Leadership program, please register online now by going to:

http://www.bethesdafriends.org/sign_up_religious_education.aspx.

October Events

3rd: Junior Young Friends Conference

The first Junior Young Friends (for 6th to 8th graders) Conference of the year is Saturday, October 3 to Sunday, October 4 at Goose Creek Friends Meeting (18204 Lincoln Rd, Purcellville VA 20132). The conference begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and goes until 12 noon on Sunday. Bring a sleeping bag, pad, changes of clothes, toiletries, a mess kit (utensils for eating), and things for fun (games, sports equipment, or musical instruments). JYF conferences cost \$40 to attend.

For the first conference during the 2015-16 school year, everyone is required to complete and

bring a medical form. Registration can be completed online at: https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/what_we_do/jyfs/jyregister.html, by sending forms via email to youthprograms@bym-rsf.org, or via fax to 301-774-7087, or via post to 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860.

3rd: FMW Workshop on “We love each other, but...”

Why do we often have the worst conflicts with those whom we love the most? How can we be in more loving connection with family members whose behavior troubles us? How can we support closer connections among all family members? The Friends Meeting of Washington Marriage & Family Relations Committee is sponsoring a workshop titled: “We Love Each Other But...” on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Assembly Room of Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue, NW, a few blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro. The workshop is open to everyone from area Meetings.

This workshop will provide both a theoretical context and practical skills to increase our ability to connect with the loving spirit or inner light of all people. Special attention will be given to improving relationships with family members and friends whom we find especially challenging to relate to. Much of the material will be drawn from the process known as Nonviolent Communication, also known as Compassionate Communication (see www.cnvc.org), which is being actively shared on six continents and which dovetails nicely with Quaker principles. Participants will have the opportunity to adapt the material to their own specific issues and concerns.

The facilitator is Jane Connor, a certified trainer of Nonviolent Communication and the co-author of the leading textbook in the field, *Connecting across Differences: How to Connect with Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere* (see www.amazon.com).

4th: World Quaker Day

On Sunday, October 4, Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) is inviting every Quaker Meeting to celebrate World Quaker Day. How can BFM remember the many Quakers worshipping around the world? Please consider this in your committee meetings and, on the day itself, hold in the Light Quakers in each time zone around the world, as they will be doing for us. For details: <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>.

4th: Meeting for Business

On the agenda for Meeting for Business this month are reports from our Treasurer, Peace & Social Justice, and Friends Non-Profit Housing, and an update from Religious Education. All who attend Meeting for Worship are welcome to participate. To enable parents of young children to attend Meeting for Business, child care is available for children through age 11. Please come if you can, at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, in the meeting room.

4th: Olive Oil Ministry Dinner

On Sunday, October 4, at 5:00 p.m., people interested in learning more about the Olive Oil Ministry (OOM) will gather for a potluck dinner at Westmoreland Congregational Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle (where Massachusetts and Western Avenue meet). Daoud Nasser from Tent of Nations will talk about the impact of the OOM in Palestine, and Reverend Deborah Hunley will speak about Canaan Fair Trade and their work with the agricultural sector. There will be plenty of time for Q&A. Bethesda Friends Meeting is one of nine congregations in this area that purchase organic fair trade olive oil in support of Palestinian growers. Olive oil makes a wonderful gift on many occasions.

4th: William Penn House Potluck & Dialogue

F(f)riends are invited to a potluck and Quaker dialogue at William Penn House on Sunday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m. Representatives from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation will talk about Quaker investment policies and report on their recent conference. Bring a dish to share; family members and friends are always welcome. WPH is at 515 East Capitol Street, SE. For details: www.WilliamPennHouse.org or 202-543-5560.

9th to 12th: Silent Retreat for Friends

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Join members of Annapolis Friends Meeting for a Silent Retreat. This retreat has never been full, so please join us. We will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in meadows and woods, reading, walking, resting, praying, finding our own rhythms, and listening for the "still, small voice" at Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown MD. The cost of the retreat is \$290, and the deadline for registrations is October 3. If Dayspring is new to you, see www.dayspringretreat.org to get a sense of it. There is also a YouTube piece online created at an October BYM retreat.

10th: Growing Our Meetings Workshop

Baltimore Yearly Meeting has arranged for Friends General Conference to provide a one-day "Growing Our Meetings" workshop at Valley Friends Meeting in Dayton VA, on Saturday, October 10. The workshop will focus on the ways that Friends can invite Spirit into our efforts around three dimensions of meeting growth: in-reach, outreach, and inclusion. For details, see: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/services/grow-our-meetings-workshop>.

The workshop incorporates training and experiential activities, worship sharing, discussions, discernment and planning, and opportunities for collaboration among meetings and building networks of support.

BFM has asked its Advancement & Outreach, Ministry & Worship, and Pastoral Care Committees each to name a person from the Meeting to attend.

10th/24th: Events at Friends Wilderness Center

On Saturday, October 10, there will be a fun and work in the wilderness day from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. or when you need to leave. What better way to spend a beautiful fall day than sharing the fellowship, work, and Sheila Bach's great cooking as we help with chores around the cabin and in the yard at the Friends Wilderness Center. To allow for accurate meal planning, you are requested to RSVP to Sheila to let her know you are coming for work and partake in a free lunch. There are jobs for everyone, so bring out the whole family, your neighbors who need some fresh clean air, and your co-workers who will feel better for being in the wilderness. If you have teenagers, or have one or more down the street who need hours for community service work, bring them along. Here is a list of a few of the things that need to be done: wash windows; split wood; stack wood on porch; clean up trail to tree house and area around tree house; and walk trails to clear branches.

On Saturday, October 24, the program will be on Witches and Quakers. Save the date; more information will be coming.

FWC is just 1.5 hours from Bethesda on a 1,400-acre tract of land which backs up to the Appalachian Trail in West Virginia. Going there provides a wonderful opportunity for hiking, camping, and communing with nature, in addition to special programs such as these. The website is www.friendswilderness.org.

10/11th & 24/25th: BYM Fall Family Camp Weekends

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting camps offer us all (individuals as well as families) a chance to come and enjoy the beautiful camps at a special time of year for a day or for the weekend. A program coordinator will plan camp-type activities for Saturday and Sunday morning, as well as Saturday afternoon and evening. These may include things like playing in the creek, a crafts project, or hiking. There will also be plenty of work projects to do! These offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to participate in meaningful and satisfying work. In addition, participants will enjoy meals together, time to explore, and an evening campfire. You may come for the day or spend the night on Saturday. Camp will also be open on Friday night but there will be no dinner served on Friday. Other meals are provided. To pay for some of the supplies and staff, participants are asked to contribute \$25 to \$50 per person, according to your ability to pay. Please send an e-mail to davidhunter@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend, with the names and ages of all members of your party, when you will be arriving and departing, and any dietary restrictions you may have. For details: <http://bymcamps.org/family-camp-weekends-Fall-2015>. There will be a family camp weekend at Shiloh from October 10 to 11, and another at Catoctin from October 24 to 25.

10th: Memorial Meeting for Richard Barns

On Saturday, October 10, at 2:00 p.m., there will be a Memorial Meeting for Richard Barns, a Quaker from 1960 and a member of BFM from 1973 until his death earlier this year. It will be at the Meetinghouse and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. Light refreshments (in the library) will be served.

10th: Quaker Book Group

The Quaker Book Group plans to meet on Saturday, October 10, at 2:00 p.m., at Bethesda Public Library on Arlington Road (not the BFM Library) to continue discussing Matthew Fox's *Original Blessing*. All are welcome.

11th: ARE Forum: "The Appeal of Quakerism to the Non-mystic"

On Sunday, October 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room of the SAM Building, Michael Wallace will discuss the 1916 essay by William Little (1853-1936) entitled "The Appeal of Quakerism to the Non-mystic." The question this essay attempts to answer is whether Quakerism has anything to say to someone for whom the door of the spiritual world, which stands ajar for some, is closed and padlocked. Excerpts from the booklet can be found in *The Quaker Reader*.

11th: Potluck

Please join us for potluck in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, October 11. It is an opportunity for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share adds greatly to the occasion.

11th & 25th: 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. All are welcome to attend. First-time participants find the process quite easy to follow and, often, richly rewarding.

This is an invitation to two such sessions, on Sunday evenings, October 11 and 25, both from

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

17th: BYM Interim Meeting

BFM is part of a larger grouping of 52 Quaker congregations in Maryland, Virginia, and parts of Pennsylvania called Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Three times a year people from the Meetings gather for fellowship, committee meetings, and a general business meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Friends from other Meetings. You can be a part of important decision making. Goose Creek Friends Meeting (18204 Lincoln Road, Lincoln VA 20160) is hosting the Tenth Month Interim Meeting on Saturday, October 17. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Business Meeting in the afternoon will be followed by dinner at the rise of Meeting. For details, check www.bym-rsf.org.

18th: P&SJ Forum: Old Sanctuary, New Sanctuary

Linda Rabben of Adelphi (MD) Friends Meeting will be coming to BFM on Sunday, October 18, at the rise of Meeting to talk about the sanctuary movement. Recently Adelphi Meeting endorsed her leading to speak at Quaker meetings in the BYM area on sanctuary, asylum, refugees, and immigration issues, which she has been following and writing about for 20 years.

Linda is an anthropologist, author, and human rights activist. She did anthropological field research in Brazil over a 25-year period and worked for Amnesty International, the Rainforest Foundation, and other NGOs on human rights and environmental and international development issues. In 2014, she coordinated an international conference on Chico Mendes and the global grassroots environmental movement.

Since the late 1990s Linda has published seven books about human rights, including *Give Refuge to the Stranger: The Past, Present and Future of Sanctuary*. The second edition, *Welcoming the Stranger*, will be published by University of Washington Press in 2016.

18th: Adult Friendly Eights Dinners

Adult Friendly Eights are potluck dinners for approximately eight adults in the homes of folks in the BFM community. In October, they will be on Sunday, October 18, at 6:30 p.m. Please note future dates for Adult Friendly Eights are:

November 15

January 17

February 21

March 20

April 17

22nd: Interfaith Works Empty Bowls Event

On Thursday, October 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center/Washington Hebrew Congregation (11810 Falls Road, in Potomac), you can be part of an Interfaith Works festive community gathering called Empty Bowls. People from member congregations (including BFM) of Interfaith Works come together through art, a bowl of soup, and the desire to help the most vulnerable in Montgomery County move from crisis to stability. Participants will sample soups from lots of great restaurants. At the end of the evening, each attendee will take home a hand-crafted bowl as a reminder that hunger and homelessness continue to challenge thousands of our vulnerable neighbors every day. The cost is \$25, to support the programs of Interfaith Works. Ticket information is available at:

http://iworksmc.givezooks.com/events/empty-bowls-2015-2?utm_source=Empty+Bowls+2015+-

24th: Family Friendly Eights Dinner

Family Friendly Eights are potluck dinners with children in the home of folks in the BFM community. People learn when and where through an Evite. In October, families will gather on Saturday, October 24, at 5:00 p.m. Please note that future dates for Family Friendly Eights are:

November 21

January 30 (not the 23rd)

February 27

March 19 (not the 26th)

April 30 (not the 23rd)

Send an e-mail to friendly8s@bethesdafriends.org to be added to the Evite list.

25th: ARE: Improving Our Democracy

On Sunday 25 October, Cynthia Terrell will lead a conversation about solutions to the crisis in American democracy and dysfunction in Congress through reforms to our electoral process. Quakers played a major role in efforts to democratize our voting system in the early 1900s and have an opportunity to re-engage with institutional changes that enable the reflective democracy that is central to lasting social change. Used already in a number of states and cities, these reforms address gerrymandering and the influence of money in politics with innovative solutions, and lead to the election of far more women and people of color. For more information, see: www.Representation2020.com and www.FairVote.org. This session will take place at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room of the SAM Building.

25th: 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. On Sunday, October 25, at 12:30 p.m., we will meet in the Meeting room.

30th: Inquirers' Weekend at Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill is a wonderful educational and retreat center for Quakers, located in Wallingford PA. Many in BFM have been spiritually enriched by participating in their various programs. Details are available at www.pendlehill.org or 800-742-3150.

Here are some of the fall programs:

- Inquirers' Weekend from Friday, October 30 to Sunday, November 1. Ground yourself in the basics of Quaker faith and practice with Quaker historian Emma Lapsansky-Werner and Quaker publisher Chris Mohr. Experience worship, discussion, sharing, and questions with fellow seekers and experienced Quaker leaders.
- Beyond Diversity 101, from Monday, November 1, through Thursday, November 5. Become more effective in your work to overcome racism through this five-day intensive with skilled Quaker educators Niyonu Spann and Lisa Graustein. Use heart, mind, body, and spirit together in a learning community that moves beyond blame and guilt to take responsibility, shift mindsets, and build useful skills.
- Clerking, from Friday November 20 to Sunday, November 22. Join master teacher Arthur Larrabee and clerks of Quaker meetings and committees for this annual must-attend for

incoming clerks. New and experienced clerks come together to consider the role of presiding clerk. You will come away with new energy, enthusiasm, and skills for serving your community as clerk.

- Waiting on the Spirit, from Friday, November 27 to Sunday, November 29. The Advent season invites us to slow down and enter a period of expectant waiting. Join Deborah Shaw and John Meyer for a retreat with worship, devotional reading, music, deep listening, and shared fellowship.

Events into the Future

November 12th to 15th: FCNL Annual Meeting

Save the dates for the Friends Committee on National Legislation's Annual Meeting from Thursday, November 12, to Sunday, November 15. You can register now at: www.fcnl.org/annualmeeting.

The first day's focus will be on lobbying Congress to build a pathway to peace. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with Friends from around the country who care passionately about the issues of the day.

January 29th to 31st: BYM Women's Retreat

The BYM Women's Retreat will be held in a new location in 2016: Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown MD. It is about an hour from Washington. The center offers a number of benefits, including accessibility and safety (covered walkways, elevators, etc.), comfortable accommodations, plenty of meeting rooms, and excellent food. If you are wondering why the shift is away from the Skycroft Conference Center, where the retreat has been held since 2010, costs there increased by 35%, prompting the search for a new location. If you have never been to the Women's Retreat, ask anyone who has. It is a totally great weekend. For details, see: <http://bymwomensretreat.org>.

Committee Notes

Ministry & Worship

Hospitality. We wish to thank the Ministry & Worship Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of meeting and potluck this month and for being clerks of our Meetings for Worship. The committee is concerned primarily with nurturing the Meeting for Worship (including Meetings for Worship for the Conduct of Business), and with the larger spiritual state of the Meeting. Members of this committee bring closure to Meetings for Worship and make the announcements. The committee is responsible for special meetings such as weddings and memorial meetings. It drafts an annual report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting. It meets on committee night.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care has been hearing from Friends who are care givers, and from their friends, that there might be a need for a care givers' support group. If sufficient interest is voiced from the meeting community, PC will arrange for two or three initial sessions to try the idea out.

Advancement & Outreach

Be sure to check out BFM's new web site, which was officially updated in August.

Committee clerks and members will want to see how their committees are described, and perhaps update the link to an annual report. Here is the link:

http://www.bethesdafriends.org/officers_committees.aspx.

Child Care

Child Care sign up form: Can you help out periodically as a volunteer in the child care room on Sundays at 11:00? If so, please use the new form on the BFM website. You can list what dates you can volunteer &/or you can add your name to the "Email request list," which is sent out once a month when volunteers are needed. Here is the link:

http://www.bethesdafriends.org/volunteer_for_child_care.aspx

Peace & Social Justice

Please join the Bethesda Shelter Supper Group! For many, many years, BFM has been taking supper once a month to the Bethesda Shelter, which is now located on Marinelli Road in Rockville. It provides transitional housing to homeless with chronic mental illness.

The BFM supper group has six teams; each team provides supper only two times a year. There are traditionally four people on a team. On the first Saturday of the month, members of a designated team bring a meal for 15 men consisting of a main dish, a vegetable side or salad, a dessert, and a gallon of milk/soy milk.

In 2016, we will need some new people for our teams. Might you be interested in participating in this project? Participating is a great way for a family to do a service project together. Do you have friends in the Meeting (or out) you'd like to work with in fixing food so families could work together? Also, some months, the children in the youth program do a portion of the cooking. If you are a parent or an adult who would like to do some cooking with them, join us! Finally, if you want to cook all by yourself, that can work too; you fix your contribution on your own in consultation with your team.

Meeting Notes

Peace Note

Parker Palmer gave a powerful plenary talk at the FGC Gathering in July about the transformative nature of Quakerism. The talk can be found at:

http://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/parker_j_palmer_fgc15_plenary. It is a wonderful reminder of the lived Quaker values that are behind activism. He spoke particularly about his experiences at Pendle Hill, a Quaker retreat center that is just outside of Philadelphia, which is a perfect place for inner peace renewal. This fall the BFM book group is also planning to read Parker Palmer's book *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*, which explores the topic of how our outward selves can match our inward selves. Parker Palmer and Pendle Hill are both excellent resources along that journey.

Green Notes

Facing the Challenge of Climate, a shared Quaker statement, was recently distributed to all local Meetings by the BYM Unity with Nature (UWN) Committee. The statement begins, "As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples." The statement was prepared last year by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for use at the 2014 Climate Summit. The statement was lightly revised and will be used to

educate negotiators at the 2015 Paris Climate Summit on November 30 to December 11. After it was embraced and distributed by Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), the shared statement has attracted signatures from Quaker organizations, as well as monthly and yearly meetings, from around the world. Meetings are encouraged to reflect on the content of the statement for inspiration and guidance within their own meetings and communities. Here is the link to the statement:

<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/shared-quaker-statement-facing-challenge-climate-change>

Thinking About Race

“I never knew anybody who really got active because of guilt. Everybody white that I know that’s got involved in this struggle got into it because they glimpsed a different world to live in. Human beings have always been able to envision something better. All through history there have been people who have envisioned something better in the most dire situations. That’s what you want to be a part of.” Anne Braden, quoted in the Facebook page, “The Other Tennessee.” See:

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Other-Tennessee/464461963762234>).

The Other Tennessee is part of a regional online campaign of Southerners stepping up against hate and racism in response to both the Black liberation movement on the move and the presence of hate groups in our towns and cities. They are building on and expanding the white anti-racist tradition in the South. See the coalition’s full statement at:

<http://surjnashville.org/get-involved/the-other-tennessee/>

Directory Changes

Please be sure to check your name and address, etc., in the draft BFM directory for 2016. The last opportunity will be Sunday, October 18. Please indicate with a check mark that the information is correct, note corrections, or add your name. Those who are unable to confirm their listing will shortly receive a follow-up e-mail or phone calls, because we try to keep the Directory as up-to-date as possible. Your help now makes the process easier.