

Bethesda Friends Meeting Newsletter for October 2018:

A Guide to What's Inside!

Query: Personal Spiritual Life

Calendar

The Social Concerns Box

Religious Ed. for Children

Events

Into the Future

Committee Notes

Ministry & Worship

Nominating

Outreach & Communications

Meeting Notes

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 2018 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 the 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 the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

5	Fri	3:30 p.m.	Fall Silent Retreat, Dayspring, Germantown MD
7	Sun		World Quaker Day
		9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided)
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Celebrate World Quaker Day
		12:30 p.m.	ARE Committee Meeting, Teachers' Lounge
9	Tues	7:00 p.m.	BFM at the Bethesda Library: Climate Restoration Films
11	Thurs	6:00 p.m.	Pendle Hill Workshop on Liberation Theology, PA
13	Sat	12:00 noon	Celebrating Native Americans Today, Sandy Sp. Frds. Sch.
		1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the Teachers' Lounge
		2:00 p.m.	Scattergood School Alumni Gathering, BFM Library
		8:30 p.m.	Deadline for November Newsletter
14	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Summer of Solidarity
		9:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Mini-Walkathon
		12:15 p.m.	Potluck (Please Bring a Dish to Share)
		1:00 p.m.	Library Committee, BFM Library
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light
20	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Meeting, Sandy Spring Meeting
21	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care & Ministry & Worship
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Nominating, O&C, RE, & S&F
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity

28	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	ARE: (to be announced)
		9:30 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge Annex
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment With Light

Details are available at our web site: www.bethesdafriends.org

The Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for October 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. On any given day in Montgomery County, 1,100 people are homeless. Between 2005 and 2015 childhood poverty increased from 4% to almost 10%. BFM has been one of the member organizations for more than 25 years. Our youth will host a mini-walkathon on Sunday, October 14.

In the Social Concerns Box for July and August, we collected a total of \$454 for Right Sharing of World Resources.

Religious Education for Young People

Families are encouraged to bring their children to the Meeting Room from 11 to 11:15 a.m., so they can experience Meeting for Worship. Teachers meet children outside the Meeting Room at 11:15 a.m. Classes are held in the Lower School Groome Building, entrance door on first level, next to the playground. On the first and third Sundays of the month, teachers lead multi-age activities for children in K-8th grades. On the second and fourth Sundays, teachers lead classes for K-2 and 3-8th grades. Adult supervision concludes at 12:20 p.m., when children join families in the Meeting Room or in the library for hospitality.

The plans for October are as follows:

7th: Multi-age group activity, K to 8th grades, Celebrate World Quaker Day! We will take a group photo to post on Friend's World Committee for Consultation website. For details, see: <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

14th: Multi-age group activity, starting at 11:15 a.m., annual BFM walkathon to support people who are homeless; Families are welcome to join children and teachers for the neighborhood walk, followed by cider and snack.

21st: Multi-age group activity.

28th: Classes for K to 2 grades and 3 to 8th grades.

For the Baltimore Yearly Meeting religious education program for area Young Friends, (middle and high school), see: http://yf.bym-rsf.net/?page_id=23

Events

3rd/10th/17th/24th/31st: Mid-Week Worship

On Wednesday evenings, at 7:30 p.m., the Meeting Room is available for worship. There may be a few others there, or maybe not. All are welcome!

5th to 8th: 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 \$300. Although the deadline for registrations has passed, there may still be space. Please register ASAP. For more information, contact facilitator Jean Christianson (410-544-1912, jschristianson@gmail.com) If Dayspring is new to you, check their web site (www.dayspringretreat.org) to get a sense of it. There is also a YouTube piece online created at an October Baltimore Yearly Meeting retreat.

7th: World Quaker Day

Sunday, October 7, marks World Quaker Day, the day when we Friends celebrate world-wide our different ways of worship, traditions, and practices. The theme, Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories, draws us into our shared experience of worship, celebrating our wonderful diversity of expression. Church to church, meeting to meeting, and country to country, we feel the power of God collecting us into a faithful family. We welcome all expressions of Quaker worship! How will you celebrate World Quaker Day? Ideas about how to work with the theme can be found at: www.worldquakerday.org Whatever you do as a worshiping community, we hope you will share with others. It can be very simple – a description, a poem, a short video from a mobile phone, a few photos – we will post them on this web site so that you can see what other churches and meetings are doing on the same day.

7th: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, October 7, 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. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. Meeting for Business will include reports from our Treasurer, Peace & Social Justice, First Days School, and Friends Non-Profit Housing. To enable parents of young children to attend Meeting for Business, child care is available for children through age 12 (or sixth grade). Please come if you can.

9th: Climate Restoration: Films and Forum at the Bethesda Library

On Tuesday, October 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m, the BFM Environmental Sustainability Group is sponsoring films and a forum on Beyond Reducing Carbon Emissions: Active Climate Restoration - Can it Work? What Should Citizens Do? There will be three short films and three speakers. All are invited to this free event. Please help spread the word.

11th to 14th: Pendle Hill Workshop on Within and Without: Liberation Theology at Work in Social Movements

From Thursday, October 11 to Sunday, October 14, Pendle Hill will be hosting a workshop on Within and Without: Liberation Theology at Work in Social Movements. Liberation theology is faith

in action toward the elimination of any form of oppression. Join this amazing array of speakers, panelists, and workshop leaders from across the religious spectrum in robust discussion of how faith in action in social movements liberates both the oppressed and oppressors from domination systems here and abroad. For details, see:

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/liberation-theology-conference/?bblinkid=113561673&bbemailid=9459211&bbejrid=732487182#.W5qKpflRevE> Fees are tiered to accommodate financial abilities. Financial assistance is also available from Pendle Hill and from Bethesda Friends Meeting. For a longer view, see the 2018-19 Pendle Hill Program Brochure: <https://pendlehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Pendle-Hill-2018-19-Program-Brochure.pdf?bblinkid=111316684&bbemailid=9430093&bbejrid=718210334>; the Fall 2018-Winter 2019 Arts & Spirituality Program Brochure: <https://pendlehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Fall-2018-Winter-2019-Arts-and-Spirituality-Programs.final-for-website.pdf>; or visit the calendar of Pendle Hill programs: <https://pendlehill.org/calendar-view/#.W5-0ovZRdhF>; also, you can subscribe to the monthly E-Newsletter: <https://pendlehill.org/eneews-opt-in/#.W5vSGflRevE>.

13th: Celebrating Native Americans Today

The Indian Affairs Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (of which BFM is one of 52 Quaker congregations) has organized a celebration of Native Americans Today event from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 13, at Sandy Spring Friends School (Yarnell Hall), 16923 Norwood Road in Sandy Spring. There will be a film festival, dancing and drumming, food, an art exhibit, craft vendors, speakers, tribal leaders, and the Piscataway Mobile Museum. This is a wonderful free event for all ages.

13th: 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. Members have commented that the group has brought them much spiritual refreshment and growth and opportunities to know each other more deeply. There is a shelf in BFM Library dedicated to past selections, which also has a binder with summaries of our discussions of each book. The group is managed through an online mailing list to share announcements, summaries, and thoughts about the readings. The scheduled sections for the fall are:

October: Kevin Kenney's *Peaceable Kingdom Lost*

November: Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*

December: Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved*

13th: Scattergood Friends School Alumni Gathering

Bethesda Friends Meeting is the venue for a gathering of Scattergood Friends School alumni on Saturday, October 13, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Scattergood Friends School is in West Branch, Iowa. You can learn more about the school here: <https://scattergood.org/>

14th: ARE: Summer of Solidarity

On Sunday, October 14, at 9:30 a.m., in the Music Room, one of our members will talk about

“My Summer of Solidarity.” She was deeply moved and inspired by her experiences this past summer. She will share pictures and stories from her service learning in Bethlehem, her experience teaching peace-building skills to teenagers in China, her support of farm workers in Washington State, and her protest and peacekeeping activities in Washington DC. She will share her reflections on how her summer deepened her understanding of AFSC’s vision of Sanctuary Everywhere. Please join us for what will be an interesting and inspiring presentation.

14th: Potluck

Please join us for potluck in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, October 14. It is an opportunity for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share adds greatly to the occasion.

14th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? We would be welcome at the Up-County Meeting for Worship 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.

14th & 28th: 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.

20th: BYM Interim Meeting

BFM is part of a larger grouping of 52 Quaker congregations in Maryland, DC, 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. Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, 17715 Meetinghouse Road in Sandy Spring, is hosting the Tenth Month Interim Meeting on Saturday, October 20. 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. Check www.bym-rsf.org for more information.

28th: 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, October 28, at the rise of Meeting.

Into the Future

November 17th: Two Minutes to Midnight: What We Can Do to Prevent Nuclear War

The Back from the Brink campaign in Maryland is hosting a conference, “Two Minutes to Midnight: What We Must Do to Prevent Nuclear War,” on Saturday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Goucher College in Baltimore (1021 Dulaney Valley Road). The goal of the conference is to build the movement in Maryland to abolish nuclear weapons by developing a plan of action for our coalition. The conference is envisioned as a way to energize, inform, and educate one another. BFM is a conference co-sponsor. The conference is free and open to the public, but space is limited! Register at: <https://secure.psr.org/page/29755/data/1> See full conference agenda here: <https://www.preventnuclearwar.md.org/>

Christmas Pageant Orchestra

If you play a musical instrument, consider playing in the Meeting’s Christmas Celebration Orchestra and letting the directory know of your interest, preferably by Tuesday, November 13. All ages are welcome to participate. Orchestra rehearsals are:

- Sunday, November 18, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. (Music Room, in the basement of the SAM Building, across the courtyard from the meetinghouse).
- Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Thursday, December 13, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Sunday, December 16, from 9:30 a.m. (Groome Building basement); then 11:00 a.m. “dress rehearsal” (Groome Building multipurpose room); noon performance.

Committee Notes

Ministry & Worship

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 the third First Day morning at 9:00 a.m. for its committee work.

Nominating

Fall is the time of year when the Nominating Committee makes recommendations to fill the openings on the Meeting’s committees and among the Meeting’s officer and organizational liaison positions. In this process, it is very helpful for the Nominating Committee to learn about the interests of all who participate in BFM so that we can help you match your interests to the appropriate committee.

For people who have not been involved in committee work before, we strongly encourage you to join a committee. We have found that working with others on committees is one of the most rewarding ways of deepening our relationships within the Meeting community and putting our Quaker principles into practice. BFM committees are always eager to have new faces, new ideas, and new energy.

During October, the Nominating Committee will identify nominees to begin serving in January

2019. Nominations are presented at the November Meeting for Business and approved in December. Committee members typically serve for two two-year terms.

To learn more, please see the list of committees, with descriptions of their activities and responsibilities, on pages 2 to 10 in the BFM Directory or go to:

http://www.bethesdafriends.org/officers_committees.aspx To fill out a form expressing interest in a committee, go to:

http://www.bethesdafriends.org/committee_nominations.aspx Questions or input can be directed to any member of the Nominating Committee

Meeting Notes

Peace Notes

In DC in August there was a “Unite the Right Rally” of white supremacists. In preparation for the event, the Southern Poverty Law Center promoted their resource “Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide” (available on their website at:

<https://www.splcenter.org/20170814/ten-ways-fight-hate-community-response-guide>) Their ten recommendations are useful to keep in mind any time we need to confront bias:

1. Act
2. Join forces
3. Support the victims
4. Speak up
5. Educate yourself
6. Create an alternative
7. Pressure leaders
8. Stay engaged
9. Teach acceptance
10. Dig deeper

Thinking About Race

“... We might also stop to imagine when there might be moments when it is important to take a step back and ensure that others have space that does not include us.

“For example, William, an African American, spoke of his experience seeing groups of whites entering a situation that would have felt unapproachable to him had the situation been reversed: “There is also a sense of privilege, a sense of entitlement.... you think about the Million Man March. This was a day of atonement, everybody asked, ‘Please let us just have this day for ourselves and this is something we need to do.’ Then you watch CNN or CSPAN ... and you see some white people walking in there anyways.

“For William, although legally allowable, white people entering that space was inappropriate and can only be described as the enactment of privilege. Even if the white people’s intent was to show their support, we should wonder, did they ask whether or not the African Americans who planned and participated in the event desired the support? If we do not see that our everyday behavior often carries a sense of entitlement, we will not ask questions about its effects. For this reason, just knowing that we need to ask the question is an important step.”

From *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How To Do It*, by Shelly Tochluk, 2010, pp. 121-122.

Directory Changes

Please be sure to check your name and address, etc., in the draft BFM directory for 2019. The last opportunity at BFM will be Sunday, October 21. 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.