

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING NEWS, Web Edition for November, 2020

SOLIDARITY

QUERIES:



What does it mean to be in solidarity with others?

How committed are we to living in solidarity with the Other? The less privileged? The marginalized? The stranger?

Is our solidarity with others real and relational or theoretical and fleeting?

Does our understanding of being in solidarity include walking and talking together? Learning together? Making room and even...sacrificing a little?

ADVICES: Authentic solidarity requires a series of conversions. It requires our voluntary displacement from our position(s) of privilege—whether that be class, race, gender, physical ability, nationality, or religion—toward someone not like us in a real and tangible way. We may need to develop an appreciation for traits that our culture might not deem “acceptable” or even valuable. Only through relationships can we know what kind of help or advocacy is truly desired. Solidarity is not about “I’m helping you,” but a commitment to walking and learning together. And of course, learning together requires us to be in dialogue, with the understanding that I have much to learn.

From Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations, May 2020

VOICES: The work of solidarity is to close the distance between “Us” and “Them” by joining and accepting others as fully human—in our struggles and gifts alike. This work requires a commitment to relational accompaniment.

Richard Rohr, 2020

What is needed is for us to stop making pious, sentimental, and individualistic gestures, and risk an act of love.

Paolo Freire

Living out the Gospel is always a process of humanization; a movement toward greater freedom, dignity, inclusivity, and possibility. We *are* one, and through solidarity we more clearly identify and name the systems that separate us. We find in ourselves and in the other the true “image of God” in which we are created and connected.

Paolo Freire/Richard Rohr



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR, SUNDAY 11/1/20, AT RISE OF MEETING: Do you miss catching up with Friends at our Coffee Socials? Care and Oversight Committee invites you to stay online at the rise of Meeting on 10/4/20 for some casual social time using the breakout room feature of Zoom (BYO coffee, tea and/or snack!) **ALSO: HALLOWEEN PARADE** courtesy of FDS! Don't miss it!



NEXT WORKING GROUP ON STEWARDING OUR VISION (WGSV) MEETING TUESDAY, 11/3/20, 4:30-6:00 VIA ZOOM: The Working Group on Stewarding our Vision is charged with naming and supporting future Meeting aspirations. The next meeting of the WGSV will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, via Zoom, 4:30-6:00pm. We will share our thoughts around the gathering which was held on October 17th and plan our next steps in this process of

discerning our way forward. Friends are most welcome to join us. Friends are most welcome to join us for both. If you plan to attend please contact Greta Kirk-Mickey at greta.mickey@gmail.com or Anita Langford at amlangfo@verizon.net



**MINISTRY &
COUNSEL**

FROM MINISTRY & COUNSEL: WORSHIPFUL CONVERSATIONS ON RACE:NEXT:

11/5/20, 7PM. Under the care of Ministry and Counsel, Gunpowder will host a series of conversations on race to help each of us find listening ears and helpful Friends. We had our first meeting in September. At subsequent meetings, we will break into small groups to discuss a topic, before regathering for closing comments. These are meant to be spacious, spiritually grounded conversations among Friends. We do not aim to find solutions or fix problems. But simply to find space to talk and share, to listen deeply, to learn. Worshipful Conversations on Race will occur **each First Thursday,**

from 7 to 8:30 via Zoom. You can come to one or all --- **but you must sign up** to get the Zoom link sent to you. To sign up, please email Anita Langford at amlangfo@verizon.net



FORUM, SUNDAY 11/8/20, RISE OF MEETING: ON QUAKER LIFE AND

PRACTICE VIA ZOOM: Join Friends in some reading, reflection, and discussion of Marcelle Martin's book *Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*. You do not need to have read in advance, as we'll read aloud particular passages and discuss what insights we can glean from the lives and writings of early and contemporary Friends, and how these connect to our own experience. These "Quakerism" sessions have been a favorite part of our forum line up in the past few years.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION, THURSDAY, 11/19/20, 7-8:30 VIA ZOOM: Whether or not you've participated in Spiritual Formation before, you are welcome to join in any or all of our sessions this year, which will be on the third Thursday of each month from 7-8:30. Contact Rebecca Richards to be on the email distribution list (rebeccaruth48@comcast.net)



BIBLE STUDY: SUNDAY, 11/22/20, 9AM: VIA ZOOM: Join us in our continuing study of the "Psalms of Ascent" (120 - 134) that help us hear the ancient cry of longing for the nearness of God, especially in challenging times. We meet each fourth Sunday of the month from 9-10AM just before Meeting for Worship. There is no advance reading required. Come to hear how these ancient texts connect to our contemporary lives and to participate in a time of lovely fellowship and deep sharing.



RICHARD ROHR DISCUSSION GROUP, 11/22/20, 11:30, VIA ZOOM

No advance preparation is required. We will read a short passage aloud and then settle into a worshipful discussion. A link to the session will be sent closer to the date.



CROP WALK DONATIONS NEEDED: Because of social distancing this year’s Crop Walk will be virtual and we will be relying on online donations. To donate, go to the website www.crophungerwalk.org/glenarmmd and follow these directions:

- Click on “Donate.”
- Under “Team” type in Gunpowder Friends.
- Complete the donation form indicating the amount you want to donate .
- Complete payment information. Credit card or Pay Pal may be used. Contact Tina Rives for further information: steve.tina.rives@gmail.com

**GUNPOWDER
FRIENDSHIP NIGHTS**



**EVERY WEDNESDAY
7-8PM, ONLINE**

GUNPOWDER FRIENDSHIP NIGHTS, WEDNESDAYS, 7-8PM, VIA ZOOM:

Looking for a lighthearted way to stay connected with Gunpowder Friends during this time of physical distancing? **Join us each Wednesday evening from 7-8 via Zoom.** Our host Jeremy Funk always has a “light and lively” question to get the conversation going, and it flows from there. You can drop in for a few minutes or stay the hour. Whatever suits your needs. The Clerk will send out a link each week.



MEETING FOR WORSHIP ANCHORS NEEDED: We’re encouraging Friends to stay connected to our beautiful Meeting House and grounds by volunteering to be among a small group of Friends anchoring our worship through a live Zoom link from the worship room or porch. For more information about how to anchor worship at the Meeting House or to sign up for a time, please contact Rep Pickard (deathquaker@gmail.com) or sign up via this link: <https://forms.gle/EZeVWhX58ULpkgjC8> . We ask that all Friends interested in this ministry sign up in advance.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING (BYM)

INTERIM MEETING: VIA ZOOM, Saturday, November 7, 10AM. [Click here to register.](#)

HOW TO BEAT AN ELECTION YEAR POWER GRAB: George Lakey, the Quaker activist, is holding webinars on how to beat an election power grab should one occur after the November 3rd election. Choose a training date at choosedemocracy.us/trainings/.



ANNUAL MEETING, 11/14-17/20: An invitation is extended to each of you to consider participating in [FCNL's Annual Meeting](#) this year, which is a virtual gathering. Cherice Bock of Sierra Cascades YM will be our worship leader on Sunday morning, and Julian Castro, former HUD Secretary and presidential candidate will give the keynote about police reform—the topic of our lobby day. We are honoring Sen. Gillibrand (NY) for her leadership on ending endless wars and promoting peace and Rep. Deb Haaland (NM) for her leadership on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.



FIRST MONDAY LECTURE, 7-9PM, 11/2/20: PREPARING OURSELVES FOR THE WORK AHEAD:

Pendle Hill guest speaker, Eileen Flanigan will discuss how we prepare ourselves for the road ahead, regardless of the election outcome. Free to all. Registration required:

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/event-registration-first-monday-lecture-11-02-20/>



RACIAL ORDER

The following is an excerpt from an October 2020 Atlantic Magazine article entitled “Claudia Rankine’s Quest for Racial Dialogue” by Ismail Muhammad. In the article, Muhammad reflects on Rankine’s new book: Just Us: An American Conversation:

“...Rankine’s intent is not simply to expose or chastise whiteness. She has something more nuanced in mind: using conversation as a way to invite white people to consider how contingent their lives are upon the racial order—every bit as contingent as Black people’s are. ‘I was always aware that my value in our culture’s eyes is determined by my skin color first and foremost,’ she says. The same is true for white people, of course, however unaware of that reality they may be...”

QUERIES:

- Am I aware that my value is, in our culture’s eyes, determined by my skin color first and foremost? If so, how, when, or where am I aware of this?
- Am I aware that the value of a person of a different skin color than mine, is, in our culture’s eyes, determined by that skin color first and foremost? If so, how, when, or where am I aware of this?
- What (if any) is the difference between these two awarenesses?

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each local Meeting. The BYM WGR meets most months on the first Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, currently via Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.



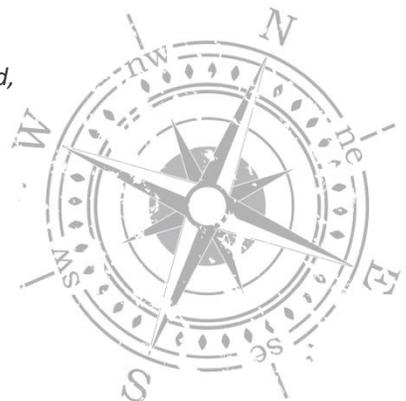
FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON STEWARDING OUR VISION

Friends, we have walked a long way on this road together -- discerning the vision that will call us to work in the world. It often feels, as the saying goes, that we are building the road as we walk it. But then, that is not a bad thing. We are strengthening and building community with the work we do, we are deepening our sense of the Spirit which guides us, we are even beginning to see the outlines of what this work might be.

On Saturday October 17th, 22 Friends gathered in virtual space to hear from one another where the Spirit might be calling us into action. It was a deeply gathered and Spirit filled sharing in which some clear leadings surfaced and found significant unity. The WGSV will be meeting soon to determine the next phase of our discernment. Look for further announcements of a time in November for another meeting-wide gathering.

AND WE WILL GET TO CONCRETE PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION as we are led. I am reminded of some wise words by Walter Brueggemann, Old Testament professor, contemporary prophet (and another transplanted Nebraskan, I might add):

*The prophet does not ask if the vision can be implemented,
for questions of implementation are of no consequence
until the vision can be imagined.
The imagination must come before the implementation.*



The Web Edition of the Newsletter does not include minutes from Gunpowder's Meeting for Business. Personal Information has been redacted. The full newsletter, complete with minutes, is available at the Meetinghouse – attenders may also request the electronic or print edition.

Please feel free to inquire with Gunpowder's Clerk at gunpowderclerk@gmail.com.