

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING NEWS, Web Edition for October, 2021

AGING



QUERIES:

- Do we welcome the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for others, as an opportunity for wisdom, for detachment from turmoil, and for greater attachment to the Light?
- How might I attend to what love requires of me in each new stage of my life?
- How can we support that of God in one another in the face of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral challenges?

ADVICES:

Aging begins the moment we are born, and cells within us keep growing until we die. We need to approach old age with courage and hope, with receiving and giving, and with forgiving and being forgiven. Aging is a natural part of human life. At no time should people be on the periphery of society because of their age. Older persons, who represent an increasingly large portion of the population, have varied talents, interests, and concerns. Friends have a long tradition of appreciating the gifts of older members, and our Meetings should continue to encourage participation of all ages in Meeting activities.

VOICES:

In primitive tribes we observe that the old people are almost always the guardians of the mysteries and the laws, and it is in these that the cultural heritage of the tribe is expressed. How does the matter stand with us? Where is the wisdom of our old people, where are their precious secrets and their visions?

-Carl Jung, 1955

They that love beyond the World, cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies. Nor can Spirits ever be divided that love and live in the same Divine Principle, the Root and Record of their Friendship. If Absence be not Death, neither is theirs.

-William Penn, 1682

I am convinced it is a great art to know how to grow old gracefully, and I am determined to practice it... I always thought I should love to grow old, and I find it is even more delightful than I thought. It is so delicious to be done with things and to feel no need any longer to concern myself much about earthly affairs... I am tremendously content to let one activity after another go, and to wait quietly and happily the opening of the door at the end of the passageway that will let me into my real abiding place.

-Hannah Whitall Smith, 1903

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL GATHERING – HALLOWEEN PARTY – MEETING WIDE EVENT

at The Meadow, the Schmaljohn's property, Saturday October 30th from 3-6 pm

Come help our Young Friends celebrate a favorite holiday and see your favorite Friends of all ages in "fancy dress" -- Halloween drag. We will have pumpkins to carve, and there will probably be a trick to be had and a treat to be found.

We won't be doing a shared meal, exactly, but there will be a fire pit so if you want to bring wieners to roast, or fixings for S'mores, or snacks to share that's OK.

FDS SCREEN TIME begins on September 26, 11:30 to 12:15 with FORTH FIRST DAY FDS: FFFDS!! and will continue every fourth First Day through the school year. We will be using brief video presentations, some sent out ahead for YFs to share with their families. Together in screen time we can share reactions, respond to queries, possibly share a related activity.

FROM WGSV:

The Working Group on Stewarding our Vision is charged with naming and supporting future Meeting aspirations. The next meeting of the WGSV committee will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021, from 4:30 to 6:00pm in person at the meeting house. We will continue discernment around the monthly meeting's request for the WGSV to create a process for addressing the need for sound long term financial planning.

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

FROM MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

Meeting for Worship format:

As we continue to discern what format(s) will best support our Meetings for Worship and other Meeting activities, we invite Friends to another listening session during coffee social hour on October 3rd. Our last session on August 29th allowed us to listen deeply to one another's experiences of various formats. We have experimented with several formats to date: hybrid (wherein Friends at the

Meeting House are connected to Friends worshipping from home via Zoom and a camera/speaker system), parallel (when worship happens in-person at the Meeting House and simultaneously via Zoom with no technology connection between the gatherings), and in-person at the Meeting House (with no Zoom-facilitated worship). We are not yet in unity about which format(s) we will sustain, so we remain by agreement in a continuing period of experimentation and listening. Ministry and Counsel is grateful for the openness of Friends to share our experiences and to listen deeply to one another. We trust that Spirit is guiding us and that Way will open.

Ministry and Counsel has purchased copies of *Seeds that Change the World: Essays on Quakerism, Spirituality, Faith and Culture*, written by Debbie Humphries. We're delighted to offer a copy to each Gunpowder household. If you are coming to the Meeting House, please pick up a copy on the table near our name tags. We'll be reading from some of the essays in this book in our forums this year. If you are not coming to the Meeting House, please send an email to Amy Schmaljohn, and she will mail a copy to your home (amy@schmaljohn.com).

10/24 Forum:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021, 11:30-12:30 AM: FORUM: LOVE IN ACTION

This forum will be conducted in-person only. No Zoom coverage.

We will hear from civil rights legend John Lewis using excerpts from an audiotaped *On Being* interview of John Lewis by Krista Tippett entitled "Love in Action". This interview explores the spiritual basis and practice of non-violent direct action used in the civil rights movement. In our forum we will play excerpts from the interview followed by a time of response in a worship sharing format. For those who would like to listen ahead of the forum, here is a link to the entire interview and transcript: <https://onbeing.org/programs/john-lewis-love-in-action/#transcript>.

Memorial Meeting for Lois Sexton

A Memorial Meeting for Lois Sexton, under the care of Gunpowder Meeting, is planned for Saturday, October 23, 2021. Friends of Lois are invited to attend. Further details, including time and location, will be shared closer to the date based on COVID conditions. Members of Lois' Memorial Committee are Ann Heaton, Tina Rives, Amy Schmaljohn and LouAnne Smith.

Conscientious Objection Workshop

LouAnne Smith has submitted the following announcement because Friends agreed [at 8/15/2021 business meeting] that the Meeting as a whole will endeavor to become more informed on CO issues.

Selective Service System (SSS) registration for a possible draft into compulsory U.S. military service is automatic in most states when getting a state driver's license. If the draft is reinstated, draftees could have as little as nine days to prepare a CO claim before having to go before a local draft board.

Phil Caroom of BYM Peace & Social Concerns and Annapolis Friends Peace & Social Concerns is excited to offer a **Conscientious Objector Workshop for Friends ages 15-25 via Zoom on October 19th at 7pm and November 3rd at 3pm.**

Part 1 on October 19th will invite realistic consideration of a) what the U.S. military's ultimate function and command systems are, b) how the U.S. Selective Service System seeks to quickly transform ordinary young people into lethal fighters, and c) how one can seek conscientious objector (CO) status and alternate service. Young Friends also will hear two adult Friends tell briefly about their own experiences seeking conscientious objector status during prior U.S. wars.

Part 2 on November 3rd will cover the practical aspects of seeking CO status, including reflecting on the three requirements for CO status, practice responding to questions a Draft Board might ask, and consideration of best ways to document belief in the Peace Testimony.

To attend, please email Phil at pcaroom@gmail.com.

Richard Rohr Discussions

Tracy Haidar announces her expectation that Richard Rohr discussions following Meetings for Worship on fourth First Days, which previously had resumed in September, will begin in January, 2022.

From Hospitality Committee

A reminder to Friends using the kitchen that all kitchen trash should be carried out at the end of your event by someone who can dispose of it at home. Please do not place any trash (kitchen or otherwise) in the trash cans in the shed. We do not have trash collection service at the Meeting House. Thank you!

From Julie Evonna (our Friend with the beats!!)

One beat at a time! Let's drum! Please come and join us for our next Djembe Drum Group. **We will meet Saturdays, October-2,9,16 & 30 from 3:30 – 5 pm at the Meeting House.** Let's tap into the rhythmic spirit that resides in us all. The groups will be focused on healing, meditation, West African Rhythms and fun! Drums will be provided. The more the rhythmic merrier. Please email me with your questions and to reserve your spot. julieevonna@gmail.com.

Volunteer with us  **MEALS ON WHEELS**
OF CENTRAL MARYLAND
More than a meal™

Immediate need for meal delivery volunteers!

Deliver meals to your homebound neighbors
Monday - Friday from 11am-1pm

- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Carroll County
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County

Our volunteers deliver nutrition, connection & peace of mind.

Other opportunities include packing meals, grocery shopping, and being a friendly voice on the phone with Call Connection

Call, email, or visit us online: 443.573.0925
volunteer@mowcm.org
mealsonwheelsmd.org/volunteer

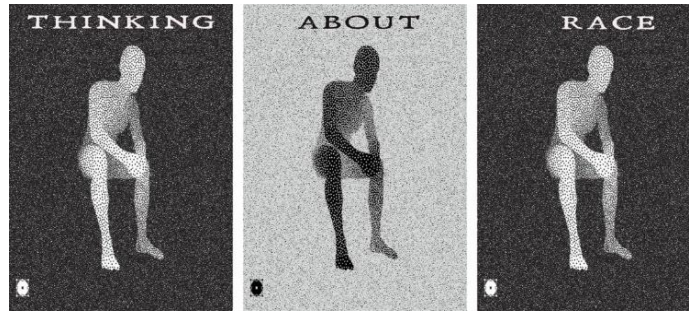
Claire Hartman, with her concern for Peace and Social Justice, wishes to alert Friends to the importance and needs of the Meals on Wheels project.

Per the illustration, volunteers are needed to carry on this important work.

Full size 8 ½" by 11" copies of this flyer are available at the Meeting House.

As noted in the flyer, for complete information about the organization's activities in central Maryland, visit their website at:

<https://www.mealsonwheelsmd.org/>



Thinking About Race – (October 2021) Isabel Wilkerson in *Caste*

Recent high-profile efforts to prohibit teaching about the racially fraught history of the United States and from suggesting that history has any impact or creates any responsibility today, is addressed succinctly by Isabel Wilkerson on page 15 of her latest book, *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*:

“We in the developed world are like homeowners who inherited a house on a piece of land that is beautiful on the outside but whose soil is unstable loam and rock, heaving and contracting over generations, cracks patched but the deeper ruptures waved away for decades, centuries even. Many people may rightly say, ‘*I had nothing to do with how this all started. I have nothing to do with the sins of the past. My ancestors never attacked indigenous people, never owned slaves.*’ And, yes. Not one of us was here when this house was built. Our immediate ancestors may have had nothing to do with it, but here we are, the current occupants of a property with stress cracks and bowed walls and fissures built into the foundation. We are heirs to whatever is right or wrong with it. We did not erect the uneven pillars or joists, but they are ours to deal with now.

“And any further deterioration is, in fact, on our hands.”

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.

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.