



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING NEWS, Web Edition for June, 2022

DIVERSITY



QUERIES:

- Does your vision of a just society include people living their lives without fear of discrimination based on who they are, what they believe, and whom they love?
- Do my decisions reflect the voices of people of color, people of different sexual identities, people of different ages and economic conditions?
- How do we work toward creating a community of different people, rather than being a community that just lets different people in?

ADVICES:

Celebrating diversity is more than affirming equality. That celebration leads to embracing Friends of different persuasions, a real sense of inclusion that goes beyond an arms-length acceptance, a partnership with all who seek to deepen their spiritual lives. Acknowledge and dispel stereotypes and prejudices about differences you encounter. Dredge up the embedded, irrational fears and emotions attached to these images. Let go of those fears and negative feelings, and replace stereotypes with a personal assessment and a motion of love.

VOICES:

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female; for you all are one in Christ Jesus.

-Galatians 3:28 (ESV)

Each of us inevitable, Each of us limitless—each of us with his or her right upon the earth,
Each of us allow'd the eternal purports of the earth, Each of us here as divinely as any is here.

-Walt Whitman, 1855

By getting beyond our differences, we dare to believe that we can bring about a Kingdom of God on earth, where we transcend our differences, not ignoring our disagreements, but finding a way to go through them and beyond our fears. We recognize that this is not easy work, but have faith that this is our work, and it is work that we cannot rightly lay down.

-Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns
(FLGBTQC) 2007

The only way to treat people with dignity and justice is to recognize that racism has a profound negative effect upon our lives, and therefore noticing color helps to counteract that effect. Instead of being color neutral we need to notice much more acutely and insightfully exactly the difference that color makes in the way people are treated.

-Paul Kivel, 2002

Meetings for Worship this Summer: Schedule and Formats

After our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in May, Friends agreed to resume our regular 10 a.m. First Day worship on the porch for the summer months; this worship space will not include any technology to connect Friends worshipping from home. At the same time, we will offer a hybrid (or blended) worship format in the worship room for any Friends who would like to join with Friends who are worshipping from home. This means that each First Day at 10 a.m. you can show up at the Meeting House and worship on the porch **or** in the worship room; Friends who need to worship from home will be able to connect to the worship room via our technology bridge (Zoom). Thanks to some new technology, we will be improving the experience of our hybrid (or blended) worship in the worship room, allowing Friends at home and Friends in the worship room to see one another via a projected video link.

Our midweek Meetings for Worship on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 will be on the porch, but we will not offer a technology bridge for Friends at home at that time.

Ministry and Counsel will hold some threshing sessions this summer so that we can listen to one another's experiences of our ongoing experiments to bridge Friends at home with Friends at the Meeting House for Meeting for Worship; together, we'll continue to listen to how Spirit is leading us to worship as a community.

We're taking a break from Forums for the summer!

For many years, we took a break from forums during the summer months. During the last two years, however, we sustained forums during the summer to stay connected during the Covid pandemic. The planners and presenters now need to take a break! So look for word about our resuming forums in the fall. This summer, we encourage spontaneous fellowship on the third Sundays of each month after Meeting!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk's Announcement

If you would like an email or a notice to go out to members and attenders of the Meeting, please send your request to GunpowderClerk@gmail.com.

First Saturday Drum Circle hosted by Gunpowder Friends Meeting, Saturday, June 4

Please feel free to join us any/every 1st Saturday each month, from 3:30-5:00 PM. Bring a snack if you like, bring a drum or percussion instrument if you have one. No RSVP required, however if you'd like to borrow a drum (and there are plenty available, don't be shy!) please RSVP to Julie Evonna at Julieevonna@gmail.com. We will drum indoors or outdoors depending upon weather. Masks are optional

We extend an invitation to folks from the wider community that may like to join with us, too -- there is no need to be a Gunpowder attender. No experience required; all levels of drumming experience are welcomed. We drum for fun!

WGSV Committee Meeting Announcement

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 Wednesday, June 15, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:00pm via Zoom. 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.



WORKING GROUP ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS (WGCC)

The Working Group on Charitable Contributions (WGCC) is tasked with vetting all requests for financial contributions that come to Gunpowder Friends Meeting for consideration. The working group has developed a charitable contribution request form and a review process to aid in the discernment. At this time, the committee would like to remind all Gunpowder Friends that if you have a worthy cause or

organization about which you are passionate and passionately involved and which you believe could benefit from financial assistance, please bring them to the committee's attention for consideration. You will be given a request form to fill out on behalf of the program or organization. The working group will then proceed to review the request upon submission. If you have any questions, please contact either: Rebecca.richards4912@gmail.com or claire@exit24.net.

A Convenient Way to Support Gunpowder Friends Meeting

It takes a village to keep Gunpowder Friends Meeting running. All the gifts that our members have to offer make a difference in that effort, be they time, energy, friendship, vocal ministry, or compassion.

If you are also able to give financially to help defray the expenses we face every month, from postage for Newsletters, to supplies and materials for First Day School, to the electric bill, as well as repairs and general maintenance, there is a way you can do so without having to write a check or put a reminder on your calendar.

Using the services of Vanco, Gunpowder Friends Meeting can accept regular monthly donations of any amount that you determine, directly from your bank.

If you would like to learn more about how to set up this program, contact our Treasurer, Kerry Zimmerman at kerezazimmerman@gmail.com.

Thanks very much !!

A Message from
Care & Oversight

Dear Friends,

Spring is beautiful at
Gunpowder! Everything
is in bloom. The Light
is strong! The Spirit is
present. Wish you were
here! Come visit!
All are welcome!

Your Friends at
Gunpowder



To All Friends
Near and Far

Handwritten text at the bottom of the postcard, partially obscured.



Greetings from Gunpowder!



Thinking About Race – (June 2022) Appraisal Bias

The Washington Post’s Business section led with this article by Tracy Jan: “Black wealth undercut by appraisal bias. Even the most affluent minority communities are routinely undervalued, a cascading harm.” Some key segments follow:

“Just one lower appraisal could affect the cumulative wealth of an entire community, according to a *new Biden administration report* ** on the causes, extent and consequences of property misvaluation. Ultimately, undervaluation of Black communities could reduce property tax revenue to fund maintenance and improvement of local schools and amenities.

“Appraisal bias can hurt a family’s ability to leverage home equity to pay for college, expand a business, pay for repairs or use as a buffer during financial hardship.

“ ‘There is a cascading effect to low appraisals, creating a stagnation that looms over Black people at every socioeconomic level,’ [Jacquelyn] Priestly said. ‘It can stifle the ability to create generational wealth. You’re saying Black people can only go so far.’ ”

[Priestly lives in Prince George’s County and helped start the grassroots network Fair and Unbiased Appraisal Advocates.]

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/03/23/home-appraisal-racial-bias/> **

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, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, currently via Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact the clerk at david.etheridge@verizon.net **.

**Press CTRL and click to follow link.

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.