

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING NEWS, Web Edition for October, 2022

MEMBERSHIP



QUERIES:

- How can I actively support the meeting community?
- How can I support the Clerk of Meeting and clerks of committees?
- How am I maturing into the fullness of membership in this spiritual community?
- How does the meeting community nurture my spiritual growth and transformation?
- In what ways does the Meeting make its needs clear to each of us?

ADVICES:

We affirm that each Friend has a direct responsibility for the Meeting. Membership carries with it spiritual obligations. Each of us, as members, is called to participate in the Meeting's spiritual life and to attend worship regularly. Members need to nurture each other's God-given gifts and talents. As members, we are invited to seek guidance from one another and the Meeting in discerning God's will for ourselves. Pray for one another.

VOICES:

As Quakers, we have no creed to recite, no confession to confess, no rituals to undergo that will reliably bring us into the fullness of membership. But we do have a rich and inspiring tradition; we have each other; and we have the Spirit of God which, we are promised, will "lead us into all things."

-Thomas Gates, 2004

Membership is costly ... It is not just about belonging, feeling accepted, feeling at home. It has also to do with being stretched, being challenged, being discomforted... We can never be entirely sure of where the venture will lead us ... [but] the one thing we can be sure of is that the process, taken seriously, will call us to change.

-Helen Rowlands, 1952

Like all discipleships, membership has its elements of commitment and responsibility but it is also about joy and celebration. Membership is a way of saying to the meeting that you feel at home, and in the right place. Membership is also a way of saying to the meeting, and to the world, that you accept at least the fundamental elements of being a Quaker: the understanding of divine guidance, the manner of corporate worship and the ordering of the meeting's business, the practical expression of inward convictions and the equality of all before God. In asking to be admitted into the community of the meeting you are affirming what the meeting stands for and declaring your willingness to contribute to its life.

-Britain Yearly Meeting, 1999

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.

DRUM CIRCLE:

Please feel free to join us any/every 1st Saturday each month, from 3:30-5:00 PM. 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, October 12, 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.

From Connor White: Claire White is Studying in Germany

The Clerk will send out Claire's mailing address in an email. Also, it will be added to the membership list on the password-protected portion of the website and posted on the bulletin board in the Meeting House. Claire would love to hear from folks back home, so Friends are encouraged to send her a card or a letter.

From Shelly Slyker:

I hope you can join me for a **Feldenkrais Series of Awareness Through Movement Lessons: Finding Ease in Sitting** The dates are:

Wednesday September 28, October 5 & 12th from 7:00-8:15pm at the Gunpowder Meeting House

These seated lessons use small, gentle movements paired with awareness. The mind quiets and tensions release. In this safe space of playing small and slow, we can learn about our habitual patterns and new options for more ease in both body and mind. Quieting the noise of discomfort may help in your daily functional tasks including settling into worship. I invite you to attend one or all three sessions. Donations will be accepted each week to me for the Refugee Work, and a total of the donations will be reported to the community in October.

To register, please kindly email Shelly at shellyslyker@gmail.com and plan to wear comfortable clothing for the lessons.

From First Day School:

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES for FDS AND FRIENDS at the Meadow, Sunday October 30

The details will be coming along, but plan on afternoon from around 3 to 6. There will be costumes and s'mores and pumpkins . . . and LOTS of fun. There will be snacks, but not a meal. Everyone welcome, including friends and relations.

From Heather Sowers: Opportunity for Fellowship!!!

The Resistance Revival Chorus is a collective of more than 60 women, and non-binary singers, who join to breathe joy and song into the resistance, and to uplift and center women's voices. They will appear at just four places this year, and York, PA is one of them.

Resistance Revival Chorus, Saturday, October 8, 2022, 7:30PM

Appell Center for the Performing Arts, Strand Theatre, 50 N George St, York PA, 717-846-1111

For information about the chorus: resistance revival chorus <https://g.co/kgs/wgsZgJ>.

Listen to the song Ruth shared with us: <https://youtu.be/1TbDPwA09Bc>

Appell Center is blocking seats for us: when ordering tickets at <https://tickets.appellcenter.org/8731>, refer to Order# 952778 (Heather Sowers) and they will seat us together. Appell is letting you pick a

ticket price that brings you joy so that everyone can enjoy great art! The true cost of a seat to this performance is \$30 to cover most of the expenses. However, you can pick a price as low as \$15, and as high as you wish to support another ticket.

Dinner option before the concert: Ed & Jennifer are inviting Friends going to the concert to gather for a meal together beforehand. They will have burgers on the grill and Heather will bring a salad. We will gather there between 4:30 - 5pm and leave at 6:45 for the concert.

RSVP is requested!: Please RSVP to Jennifer at jlerobinson@gmail.com and Heather at heatherjo715@gmail.com if you are joining us for the dinner and concert or just the concert.

Travel & Parking: Friends are encouraged to carpool from the city or from the Meeting House. Heather will help to organize carpooling. The parking garage closest to the theater is at 25 West Philadelphia Street.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT REPORT: *Photos by Wendy Balder and Anna Brown*

Our refugee resettlement work began this past Spring when we joined other meetings and churches working with the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) Welcome Home Project. Since then, the Gunpowder group has settled four families and given significant assistance on 3 other moves. There are more to come but now more slowly. We have turned from the immediate crisis of the chaotic fall of Kabul to the long-term work of bringing refugees here from the various places they landed across the globe.

We feel this is clearly our responsibility after a decades' long war in which the civilian population bore its burden. But I will say, as the photographs will testify, it is also our great JOY! From food to furniture to fuzzy stuffed animals on each kid's bed they will know that they have come "from harm to home." You might wonder how the families are doing, or why they are not pictured. It is because we have only been given the job of setting up a "Welcome Home" – the professionals at IRC coach them through their first months here – our job is to step away to allow them to do that work.

We don't yet know whether we will be asked to house refugees from other parts...Ukraine? Central America? But we have learned a lot and gained so much that we will be ready. *Rebecca Richards*



Sorting out the goodies:
Amy Schmaljohn



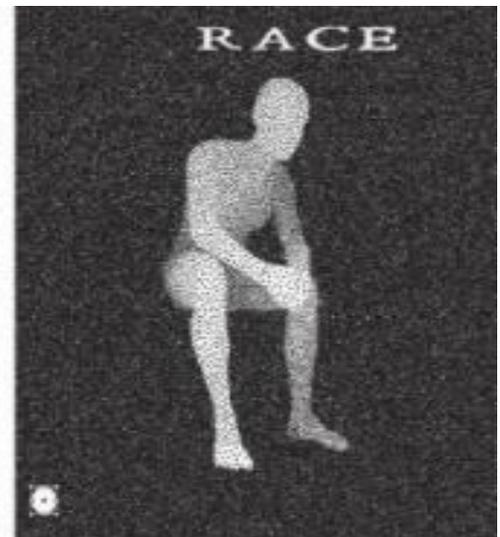
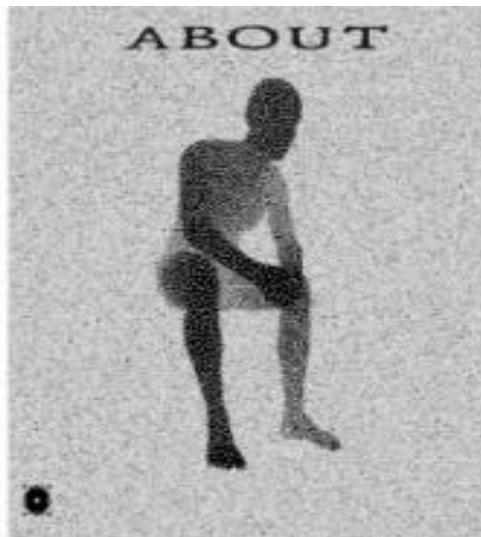
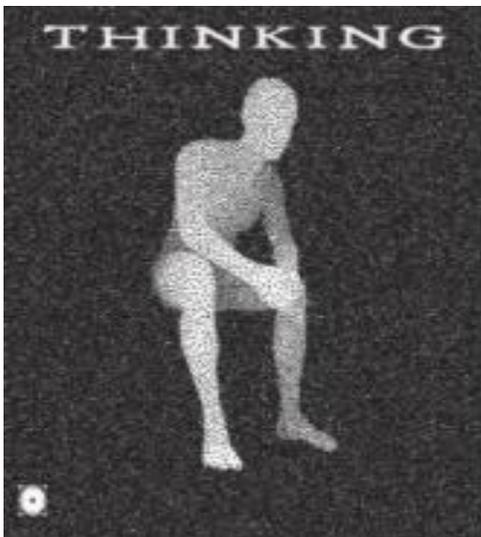
After setting up the kitchen: Jo Brown, Rebecca Richards,
Anna Brown, LouAnne Smith, Amy Schmaljohn



Enjoyment of set-up living room: Rebecca Richards, LouAnne Smith, Amy Schmaljohn, Jo Brown, Shelly Slyker, Wendy Balder



A view of green



Thinking About Race (October 2022) – Ladder to the Light

From **Ladder to the Light - An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage**, by Steven Charleston, 2021, Broadleaf Books, p. 79

"One of the greatest challenges we face in our ascent to freedom is the fear of diversity. Throughout the centuries, oppressive cultures have invented scores of ways to pretend human beings are fundamentally different. They have invented the concept of race. They have developed elaborate caste systems. They have engineered class distinctions. They have economically separated people by gender. They have practiced religious exclusivity and intolerance. The list goes on, but the results have been the same. Humanity has remained fractured along imaginary fault lines created by fear and perpetuated for social control and domination."

Charleston, a member of the Choctaw Nation, goes on to tell us how to climb the ladder:

"In the kiva, we begin overcoming this fear. We begin to see the deeper truth of our own humanity. The higher we climb on the ladder, the more we realize the reality of our own existence. We are not different; we are the same. The light exposes these false divisions and helps us recognize one another for what we are: brothers and sisters in the great tribe of human beings."

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*.

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.