Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Newsletter

17715 Meeting House Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

http://www.sandyspring.org
FIFTH MONTH 2021

Queries for Fifth Month: *Personal Way of Life* (from BYM *Faith and Practice*)

- Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions?
- Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society?
- Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption?
- Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?
- Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential?
- Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and general over-indulgence?
- Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

From the Clerks:

"Waiting is at the heart of things; not waiting in line for something that might be gone when you get there; not waiting for a vacation long overdue; not waiting for the end of dreary responsibilities of demeaning duties. These waitings are all relatives of impatience, a dissatisfaction with things the way they are.

True waiting is a way of living expectantly. It is your mind poised in serenity. It is placing your mind beyond time while still acquiescing to time. Waiting is a form of revelation that opens the door of revelation. Waiting bathes us in tranquility. Waiting brings us close to the Light of the Eternal."

Barry Morley, Inside/Out, Memorial Edition, Summer 2020

Life Events & News of Friends:
Please hold these Friends in the Light:

- **Anna Colosi** is challenged by the on-going wait for a kidney replacement.
- **James Lehman** has been honored with Scouting's Silver Beaver Award. Ask him about it!
- **Charles Lewis** graduated last week and had his wisdom teeth out 5/3!
- **Windy Cooler** graduates from Earlham School of Religion which will be broadcast!
- **Robert True's** mother died 5/1 at 99½ yrs. old**.**
- **Oliver Stratton-Treadway** gives a rigorous senior thesis presentation on 5/4 at 5:30pm
- **Joan & Rich Liversidge's** granddaughter graduates with a BS in Nursing and will work in the NICU.
- **Beth Garrettson's** memorial will be 10/23 - hopefully large and all in-person!!

MEETING OFFICERS

Meeting Clerk

Mid-Summer Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Date will be ***7th Month 25***.

All Clerks Meeting will be ***6th Month 19***.



Recorder

The book of Lyceum records from before the Meeting owned it, that we donated to the Museum, is now online. See https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/p17340coll20/id/64713/rec/1 . .

C O M M I T T E E S

Advancement & Outreach

Sandy Spring Friends Meeting creatives! A&O is hosting a combination virtual and in person art show for viewing from May 22. This presentation and show ask the questions of our members and attenders "How did the act of creating something sustain you through 2020? How does it sustain you still?" This is open to all sorts of art – 2 dimensional, three-dimensional, music, prose and poetry. ***Artists will have the opportunity to talk about their work both on the Zoom scheduled for May 22*** and in person when we open the gallery. If you're interested, please contact Margo Lehman at quakerlady42@gmail.com or Susan Brown at sbrownfi33@gmail.com.



Change Group

The Statement was ***approved*** by the Meeting:

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting stands in solidarity with Asians, Asian-Americans, and Pacific Islanders. The recent mass shooting in Atlanta of eight people, including six Asian-American women, is the most prominent example of rising levels of violence aimed at AAPI people. It serves to highlight the particular vulnerability of female immigrants to violence and exploitation.

The coronavirus pandemic of the past year has been used by some to feed negative stereotypes of Asians and Asian Americans which endangers all people who are perceived to belong to that group. Hateful rhetoric and acts of violence are increasingly a daily occurrence. This makes people fearful of going about their daily lives and makes racially-targeted mass violence, such as that which took place in Atlanta, much more likely. Indeed, thousands of hate-driven acts of violence against people of Asian descent have been reported in the last year.

We recognize that the "othering" and scapegoating of Asian immigrants and the perception of those of Asian heritage as un-American, is part of the long arc of an American tragedy. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the forced relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during WWII are just two of the most well-known examples.

We stand against the climate of fear and acts of violence that are being perpetrated upon Asians, Asian-Americans, and Pacific Islanders. We stand against the rhetoric and racism that makes that such violence possible. We stand for a society in which such acts of violence are not permissible and do not occur.

Community Life



Save the date! **SSFM Annual Bird Walk returns on Mother's Day, May 9th.** David Holmes from the Howard County Bird Club will join us, along with the many birders in our Meeting. We will be offering two time slots**, 7:30 and 8:15**, this year to provide for more physical distancing. Stay tuned for more details. Light refreshments will be served – all out doors, weather permitting of course. Wear your comfortable shoes, bring your binoculars and bird books. Also**, a Friend is offering to donate $150 for each bird ID'ed and $250 if ID'ed by a child age ten or under - b**udding birders! Donations go to the GOOD Fund to help the Meeting repay the personal loans from our Community House construction.



Friends in Unity with Nature

The MC-FACS guide to "**Buying Green Electricity for Your Home**" ***has been updated with pricing as of April 13***. There are options both for buying wind power energy and subscribing to community solar projects--which are complementary strategies (i.e., it's not either/or -- you can and should do both). The English-language version is found at: http://bit.ly/mcfacs-clean-electricity

GOOD Fund *(Howard Zuses)*

We have recently been spending a bit of time in around the Meeting property preparing for the time when we return in person. It was just about this time in 2017 that we had the soft opening for the Lyceum renovation and Community House addition. Just as now we were hoping to make a good first re-impression.

At one point in accomplishing what was characterized by some as a "beautiful miracle" we had borrowed $821,223 from the Sandy Spring Bank and $350,000 in non-interest Friendly Loans from members. In these four years (much sooner than the fifteen years planned) we have retired the mortgage entirely and have reduced the Friendly Loans to just over $200,000.

As someone who was involved in how we planned to borrow and repay this money I feel that as a community what we have accomplished during the last four years is another "beautiful miracle". As the Building Development Fund became the GOOD (Get Out Of Debt) Fund members and attenders have been mindful of the need to remain focused on making these contributions. To all of these Friends "Thank You".

We are now ready to discuss the many ways that we can raise this final $200,000 and retire the remaining Friendly Loans. I have suggested these conversations several times in the past. 2020 presented major obstacles to that. Some of you may be

new to our community or others may decide that they are finally able to be part of the anonymous list who have supported this project so far. Please be touch. I have a hope that as we return to the full use of our Meeting buildings and grounds, we might have a celebration of all we have accomplished together and what we will do in the future.

(Note: Don't forget the Bird Walk to reduce the debt!)

Marriage & Family

Anniversaries to celebrate in may:

5/2/81	Ron & Jenny Lord	40 years
5/15/99	Elizabeth Cooper & Arthur Kerr*	22 years
5/17/08	Carol Cober & John Parker	13 years
5/19/12	Valerie Tate & Gregory Arms	9 years
5/22/99	Catherine & Nathan Stratton Treadway	22 years
5/23/04	Dorothea Musgrove & Richard Marlsbury*	17 years
5/28/89	Kevin & Jenny Caughlan (in memoriam)	32 years
5/30/98	Jim LeVan & Nancy Ficus Levan	23 years

**Note: The Directory does not contain addresses for these two couples. We'd appreciate it if anyone can provide them.*

We ask all in the SSMM community to reach out to couples who are celebrating anniversaries and hold them in the Light.

Marriage Care Committee members are especially encouraged to communicate with or meet with their couples. If you have updates, corrections, or additions to our list of anniversaries, please contact any member of our committee: Bruce Evans, Windy Cooler, Mike Clark John Salzberg, Linda Garrettson. We also appreciate a notice of any anniversaries we should no longer include.

M&FR News: M&FR joined with M&C to facilitate worship sharing sessions following Meeting for Worship on April 18th and 25th and on the evening of Wednesday, April 21st. The queries under consideration included: *Covid-Re-entry, how did a spirit of love helped to cope with the fear and uncertainty? Following this traumatic year, how do we discern what we have gained and lost? How do we best re-connect with our spiritual community and strengthen the relationship?* The Ministry & Counsel Committee in its monthly report provides an excellent summary of some of the thoughts shared during the worship sharing sessions we co-sponsored.

Membership & Spiritual Care

A transfer of membership of Daria Todor from Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting to Pipe Creek Meeting (MD) was accepted.

Ministry & Counsel

There will be no more night They will need no lamp nor sun
For God will be their All

Revelations 22:5

Paul Manz used this verse to compose ***E'en So, Lord, Quickly Come*** in response to the critical illness of his 3-year-old son. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfBYn_UjyBc&t=2873s

We are in the midst of continued experimenting. During the first two weeks of Meetinghouse being open there was at most 6 in attendance at one Meeting (including tec person and greeter). The challenges of worship rely on what is brought to it. What do you bring to our worship experience? Our challenge is how to provide worship for those who prefer being in the Meetinghouse with no technology and those for whom technology is the only option to be in community with us, and everyone in between. Opportunities to hear from other Quakers also learning during the pandemic have been in the announcements and newsletter. The June 11-13 on Becoming Blended Worshipping Communities: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges is being given by Woodbrooke Study Centre UK in conjunction with Pendle Hill. https://pendlehill.org/events/becoming-blended-worshipping-communities-exploring-the-opportunities-and-challenges/

There were three worship sharing times to reflect on our year living during a pandemic and thinking of our future using the following queries: *During the last year, how has the Spirit of Love helped you to cope with the fear and uncertainty? How has the last year changed us, what have we gained, what have we lost? How would you like to reconnect or connect to SS worship community?* Attendance ranged from 10-30, the reflections given were deep and heartfelt, including-how abrupt an ending is clicking Leave the Meeting? Please see attachment for more reflections.

We are in need of greeters for 11 o'clock and in need for those operating the technology. Thanks to all who have volunteered. We recognize that is not possible for some. Contact Mike Bucci bucci114@verizon.net

Memorial services are being planned. Our next will be for ***Nora Caplan on June 5 at 2 pm. This will be a blended servic***e including those in person from the Miller Center via zoom. With a current health capacity of 100 in the Meetinghouse, 25 in the Lyceum and 50 outdoors, we are making contingency plans for this new type of event. It may come to advising some to attend via zoom to stay under limits. ***June 12 the memorial for Brian Stark will be in-person only.***

Ministry and Counsel has sent a document (attached) complementary to Growing the Meeting. We have an opportunity to be active in suggestions to grow our Meeting both inwardly and outwardly-growing a community of seekers by being seekers. It would take a few committed people to put us on a path in examination of who we are and who we want to become as a Meeting. The hiring of a Meeting coordinator adds to that opportunity.

Windy Cooler, 2020 Cadbury Scholar, will give the Pendle Hill First Monday lecture June 7 at 7:30. https://pendlehill.org/events/better-than-good-seven-testimonies-for-quaker-caregiving/

Roger Starr completed six years of service to the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel and we are grateful for his example of faithfulness and truth telling.

As we consider ways of worship together and blending as community-here's a Pendle Hill workshop of interest: ***Becoming Blended Worshiping Communities: Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges*. Jun 11-13,** https://pendlehill.org/events/becoming-blended-worshipping-communities-exploring-the-opportunities-and-challenges/?fbclid=IwAR2b44meEeJhDqo5niofXNQYid0VuOJXPbkUmJishIxsEmqrQHDlkkZ5Dh0

Nominating

Approved for Committee Membership
Julie Eagle- Marriage and Family Relations 21-24

First Reading for Committee Membership
Ellen Atkinson - Aging 21-24
Brie Frigm - Religious Education 21-23
Jerry Hurley - Trustees 21-26

Religious Education reports that their online and in person First Day School teachers this year are Margo Lehman, Jim Hershey, Brie Frigm, Windy Cooler. We have updated the Nominating Committee Roster accordingly.

We continue to work on committee membership. If you have a leading about a committee you would like to serve on, and where your gifts would best be utilized for this upcoming year, please let one of us know.

The committee in the most need of membership is Finance with 3/6 openings (50%).

Other committees with openings are:
- Committee on Aging (4/12 openings)
- Ministry & Counsel (4/12 openings)

Alice Bowman and Leah Niepold will serve as co-clerks of the Nominating Committee at this time.

We would like to ***minute our appreciation*** for Brooke Carroll's years of service as the Clerk of our committee and for Ginny Styer's outstanding work and dedication.

Leah Niepold	niepole@ssfs.org
Alice Bowman	alice.bowman@jhuapl.edu
Steve Berry	sgberry@earthlink.net
Jen Cort	wecort4@yahoo.com

NOTE: There are also **openings on Nominating!** Please contact Nora clerk@sandyspring.org to join!

Religious Education

Discussions about an end-of-First Day School year **Ice Cream Social** are underway. Details may not be available until close to the time depending on health guidelines.

A **Christmas Pageant Survey** will come out shortly. Please ***fill it in and send it back right away***!

Supervisory

We are hiring a Meeting Coordinator! The job description and process for application are **on our website**- click the link at the top right "We Are Hiring" or go here: https://www.sandyspring.org/we-are-hiring Please share this far and wide as we'd like a robust candidate pool!

Since the Supervisory Committee received the support to hire a full-time Meeting Coordinator, the Committee has done the following:

- Posted the Meeting Coordinator job description, procedure for submitting an application, and application deadline of May 28th on the Meeting's website.
- Identified and contacted Quaker organizations and various job announcement websites and made arrangements for them to post our job announcement on their websites.
- Reached out to area Meetings and asked them to share information about our job opportunity.
- Developed an evaluation rating tool which will be used to evaluate all applications.
- Urged Meeting members and attenders to help spread the word about this job opportunity**.**

(Note: Suggestions to assist Supervisory to reach out to people of color with this invitation to apply are welcome.)

Trustees

Trustees took time this month to reflect on forgiveness, grace, and daffodils.

We discussed employing a Meeting coordinator with an employment attorney. Patricia Payne gave Trustees advice about the hiring process, insurance, interviewing, and benefits. Trustees are working closely with the Supervisory Committee to smooth the path toward hiring an employee.

Trustees also attended the healing sessions based on the experience around our past employee, and deeply felt the pain of many whose trust, feelings, and service were harmed. We appreciate the guidance of the sessions' leaders, Bette Hoover and Becky Cromwell, and the light from all who attended. This issue, though ten years ago, still carries wounds for the Meeting that we are trying to heal. We encourage discussion with Trustees about this issue, and welcome all to attend our meetings.

Trustees also discussed the issue of a member in crisis, and its legal and property implications. Members who are in need will be supported with funds for personal assistance, but should not live on the property. Trustees need to balance the work of the Meeting with the safety of our community and our buildings. Our role is to help Meeting members accomplish the care and work they are called to do, and all Meeting members should feel that they can approach Trustees for aid and guidance.

Trustees are looking over the annual financial report, as well as the financial review by a member of another Meeting, and anticipate discussion on those reports.

Trustees is working with the Meeting clerk and assistant clerk, as well as Ministry & Counsel, Building Care, Hospitality/Community Life, and Religious Education committees to manage reopening of the Meeting House and Community House safely. We are checking the COVID-19 regulation changes assiduously. And we anticipate another meeting of the combined group to discuss plans for gradual reopening, paying special attention to upcoming memorial services in June, and First Day School procedures.

Some upcoming work includes an inventory of Meeting property, a new liaison for Sandy Spring Friends School, and discussion of campus improvements and nearby developments.

Thank you to Jen Cort for her valuable and extended service.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is set for May 12, all are welcome.

Community Announcements

Palestine Olive Oil Ministry offers. Michael Conklin is available to ***deliver any orders of the following products*** from Palestine: (1) olive oil @$20 (half-liter), *(2) pure olive oil soap @$5, (3) Za'atar spice blend @$6, and (4) organic capers, sun-dried tomatoes olive oil tapenade @$7.* Text/call Michael 202-578-3439 or email michaelhconklin@gmail.com

RELATED GROUPS

Baltimore Yearly Meeting *bym-rsf.org/*

The General Secretary Search Committee is pleased to invite members of the Yearly Meeting to join open conversations with each of the three finalist candidates on **May 5, 6 and 7 at noon**. Friends will hear a brief presentation from the candidate and have the opportunity to submit questions and share feedback to the Committee after. Zoom links for each session will be sent out May 3. Candidates are scheduled as follows: ***Rashid Darden, May 5; Sarah Gillooly, May 6; Wayne Finegar, May 7***

Dayspring Silent Retreat Center. ***Calling Upon Sophia - An Online Retreat with Lorie Conway on May 8th, from 10-4.*** On this retreat, we will open the gates of our hearts and invite Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) to draw near and reveal herself to us**.** Zoom (a link will be sent out after we receive your registration and payment), $50 suggested, pay what you are able. Registration: Nat Reid at office@dayspringretreat.org

Our Diets and the Environment - ***Zoom presentation – Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 – 7:15 pm***. To help inform our choices as we strive to live in harmony with the living world, Becky Ramsing of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future will talk about the impact of our food systems on climate change and the ecosystem. Register here to get the Zoom link: https://tinyurl.com/cejtnwnk

BYM virtual Spiritual Formation Retreat will be **5/14-15**. See p. 9.

The Grad Con Planning Ad-Hoc Committee has planned a glorious event to send off our seniors! Come join us for an IN-PERSON celebration! Young Friends, (about 14-18 yrs.) **Sat May 15 - Sun May 16, at t**he BYM Office, 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring. If you are not comfortable attending an in-person event, we will have a hybrid set up so everyone can join! Email Sunshine at youthprograms@bym-rsf.org if you want to be included in that hybrid event! Online Registration: https://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yutes/yfs/yfcon.html

Camps are open!! Due to the unique circumstances, there will be ***a need for an additional $50,000*** to cover the costs of BYM Camps this year. Please be generous!

Help Get Camp Ready for Summer 2021! ***We have scheduled a number of workdays to prepare for camp***. These workdays will be day-long events, attendance will be limited and we will not be able to serve any meals. Please bring your own bag lunches (please do not bring food to share). Please use the links below to sign up and help out. There is a lot to do after over a year of dormancy at the camps so we need your help! We can't wait to see you at camp.

Opequon Dates –May 8th, 19th and 29th
www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48AFA62CABF8C43-lets2
Shiloh Dates - May 15th
www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48AFA62CABF8C43-lets1

Friends Committee on National Legislation

FCNL Thurs 4-430pm; ***Friends Zoom in on timely topics***
Register: https://www.fcnl.org/events/thursdays-with-friends

Friends General Conference (FGC)



Another opportunity to experience **FGC annual conference** without travel, June 27 – July 3. Exciting workshops, many with anti-racism, climate change and other Quaker concerns and topics. www.FGCgathering.org

Friends House

Quakerism, Jung and Racism: ***May 10 (rescheduled from 5/5) 7:30pm.*** There has been much discussion of racism in the planning committees of the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (FCRP). Last Feb. the topic was White Privilege and this year we are planning to have ***Fanny Brewster, a Black Jungian Analyst presenting her concept of Racial Complex***. "I will offer an explanation to the Jungian concept of a complex and how it relates to what is happening in the country today. Also of great import is the book by Reshma Menakem ***"My Grandmother's Hands"*** and the concepts of racialized trauma, inherited trauma, and vicarious trauma. I would like to have some discussion of how Friends have dealt with race over the years and currently. The very well done "Fit for freedom, Not for Friendship" by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye will be the source for some of the material for area of Friends and race. Again, no particularly knowledge of Quakerism or Jung is required."
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88131617800?pwd=UWFXcGxQL2ZVcHNyd2FrM2hhSXR3dz09

The **Walk and Roll event planned for May 15 has been postponed until Sept** as have other events of this nature in Montgomery County.

Sandy Spring Friends School

Join The Fun: PA Auction Planning Meetings ***Amplifying the Light;*** This remarkable **virtual community event is being held on Sat, May 15, 7pm** and is our sole fundraiser. Learn more about the auction and purchase tickets here.



Thinking about Race (May 2021) – ***Ibram X. Kendi on "not racist"***

What's the problem with being "not racist"? It is a claim that signifies neutrality. "I am not a racist, but neither am I aggressively against racism." But there is no neutrality in the racism struggle. The opposite of "racist" isn't "not racist." It is "antiracist." What's the difference? One endorses either the idea of a racial hierarchy as a racist, or racial equality as an antiracist. One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of problems in power and policies, as an antiracist. One either allows racial inequalities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no in-between safe space of "not racist." The claim of "not racist" neutrality is a mask for racism.…[The] only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it—and then dismantle it.

From How to Be an Antiracist, Ibram X. Kendi, p. 9

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. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis or via Zoom, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net

Report to April 11, 2021 Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting on BYM Interim Meeting held March 6, 2021

Interim Meeting acts for Baltimore Yearly Meeting between Annual Sessions. IM typically meets three times a year (Nov, March, June). IM here: https://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/yearbooks/third21.html

A variety of matters were reported on briefly and decided:

- The Safety Policy Working Group has added language to govern online gatherings of youth. There may be no private meetings online among youth or between youth and one older Friend.
- BYM concluded 2020 with excess revenue of $241,000 over expenses. Retirement contributions to staff that had earlier been paused due to expected impact of the pandemic have been restored.
- Mary Braun, Development Director reported that 2020 total funds raised—totaling $728,935—represent an increase of 122% over the prior year.
- The Search Committee for a new General Secretary is meeting regularly and will be bringing finalist candidates for interviews soon.
- We agreed to sign on to "A Quaker Statement on Migration" developed by AFSC, and endorsed by FCNL and others, brought forward from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Local meetings are encouraged to review and endorse this statement.
- We endorsed the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, brought forward from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Local meetings are encouraged to consider their support.
- Faith and Practice has posted a revision to the section on Marriage and Family. Friends are asked to review the document.
- We approved the request from Supervisory Committee that the committee be enlarged by two additional members; both to assist with the committee responsibilities, and to increase diversity of gender, race, and age.
- In 2022 BYM will celebrate its 350th anniversary, as well as the 100th anniversary of the camping program. An ad-hoc 350th committee is working on plans and programs.

Brian Massey, the new camp director, gave an extensive report. He began with comments about what a privilege and joy it is to be in this position. He is working with the camp directors on plans for summer camp, including the matters of support systems for campers' behavior, issues of parental pressure, and policies for racial equity and inclusion. There is a need to build trust and address the emotional safety of campers, all of which requires enhanced training.

IM considered at some length a minute of appreciation (forwarded from the Camping Program Committee) for Jesse Miller, who recently resigned as director of Opequon Quaker Camp. A lengthy, broad, and deep discussion ensued in response to the widely-circulated letter that Jesse Miller sent to BYM in December, 2020. In the letter Jesse identified racism in BYM and its camping program. The letter gives BYM much to focus on, think about, and work on.

The IM minutes note:

> After considerable discernment, extended worship seeking guidance on this matter, and the surfacing of many insights and helpful suggestions, Friends were unable to unite around a way forward. Friends expressed unity in deep appreciation for Jesse's years of service to the community and his deep devotion to it. Friends expressed appreciation for Jesse's letter of resignation and the courage he demonstrated in identifying persistent racism in a spirit of love for BYM and its camping program. The concern is commended to Friends across the YM for continued labor as to how we will express, as a community, our commitment to deal with both our failings around racism and our intentions to address these concerns as they continue to wound members of our community. The minute brought forward by Camp Program Committee is sent back to them for further review.

The discussion of Jesse's letter and the culpability of BYM lasted two hours, with many members participating. The issues were deeply considered. The meeting was in unity on the need to apologize, to acknowledge blame and shame for wounding and hurt, and to improve. We were not in unity on proceeding with the original minute (as noted, sent back for revision).

BYM is considering having an institutional assessment on racism; this will be discussed at the June IM.

Covid Re-entry Worship Sharing – April 18, 21, and 25

How has the Spirit of Love helped you to copy with the fear and uncertainty?

- Many Friends expressed gratitude for the many hands and hearts that prepared and implemented changes to allow us to gather together, either safely outside, blended worship opportunities, the change group activities, and other offerings via ZOOM.
- Thankful for the Spirit of effort, continuity, and business inspired by Divine Love.
- One Friend noticed multiple random acts of kindness during the last year.
- Another Friend wondered is they coasted during the times of person-to-person time so there is more to cultivate in the Spirit of Love.
- One Friend found the pandemic to be "a test of faith" and an exploration of how to nurture a sense of safety.
- Another Friend expressed that they have been called on to expand the spirit of love

How has the last year changed us, what have we gained, what have we lost?

- Many Friends recognized how we have connected with many far away or unable to get to the meetinghouse in person.
- On ZOOM I see everyone's face and names and it is satisfying.
- New Friends have joined us via ZOOM and some who have difficulty attending in-person have been able to join with us.
- Being part of our meeting during the pandemic via ZOOM has been a gift, a blessing.
- Gained a comfort level with ZOOM that wasn't present pre-pandemic, both for worship and business.
- Attendance for worship and business may be about the same as when we were in person.
- The Earth with a smaller footprint has benefitted.
- Connections with others beyond Friends has enhanced our lives this past year.
- Many Friends also acknowledged we have lost touch with some during this time and we are missing them.
- Lost the informal interaction during hospitality time, parking lot conversation that included more of the community such as our young people.
- Pandemic exacerbated issues and conflicts in the world; made them more visible.
- Difficult to nurture new relationships on ZOOM; easier in-person.
- ZOOM depletes energy for other connection; especially for those who need to work using this technology.
- Awareness increased of the sacrifices of our ancestors made that many of us have been spared until now.

How would you like to reconnect or connect to Sandy Spring worship community?

- Overwhelmingly Friends want to reconnect with those who we have not seen and/or drifted away during the last year. Miss people I used to see; how do we get them back????? Want to get them back!!!!
- There is a longing for togetherness in worship for some. Being physically in the Meeting House reinforced a sense that the was "leaving the world behind" to focus more deeply on the spirit.
- After a year of not being in worship in-person or on ZOOM, I am more comfortable here after vaccination and encourage others to join.
- Some Friends commented they are not comfortable to return to in-person worship until we reach herd immunity.
- Another Friend commented that returning to in-person worship with masks was uncomfortable.
- Several Friends would like to see us continue with a ZOOM option to in-person worship.
- Friends were cautioned to not judge or demean other's choices for worship. Having choice is a gift!
- A live experience helps us meet new people; fear that we will lose this if we continue with ZOOM.
- This is a time to discern what really matters to us and shed things with less import.
- Feels odd to hug; re-entry takes time.
- Willing to increase extra time and effort for in-person worship and fellowship. It is worth it!!

2020 Office Committee Annual Report

The Office Committee's purpose is to maintain the communications, calendars, database, website, historical records, and office functions of the Meeting. While we continue to do these tasks as well as we can with the current limitations – MS Access instead of an integrative organizational program, and no web clerks - we are in a holding pattern while we await the changes to our function and organization when the Meeting hires a Meeting Coordinator.

Communications Manager Rosalind Zuses maintains email and phone, including phone messages that are left on the office phone. She updates and distributes the electronic Directory twice a year. Rosalind also maintains the Meeting calendar for building uses and events, which is then available on the Meeting website and published in the Announcements and Newsletter. Building Care and the Meeting Clerk (for Meeting House use) are responsible for approving the uses that are scheduled.

Database Manager Anna Colosi maintains the Meeting "database" in Microsoft Access. However, one of the primary jobs for the new employee will be to manage a database program that will be able to integrate the various lists and information that are being

maintained separately now, such as email lists, membership lists, and Directory. The employee may be assisted in some of these tasks by the Office Committee, depending on what the time demands on the employee will be.

Office Manager Howard Zuses maintains supplies, sorts paper mail, makes copies, and works with technology, maintenance and repair people and inspectors (some of this is in conjunction with Building Care). John Worley has taken on the task of managing Zoom meetings – Howard is grateful! We expect the Office Committee to continue to provide this support as needed.

Meeting Recorder Susan Brown has created shared resource Google Groups to allow committees to file and share their records with each other. Files for historical maintenance, like minutes and reports, will be copied from there and saved in Dropbox, which is then accessible by Swarthmore College for permanent digital storage with the rest of the Meeting's historical records. Susan also has been working in the Sandy Spring Museum with the Meeting Archives held there. The Recorder's responsibilities will not change with a Meeting Coordinator in place.

The tech resource committee members, Patrick Amato, Jeff Sluder, Geoff Yates and Tom Clouse, have been on tap and helpful as various questions and issues have arisen during the year, and we expect will be able to aid the employee as well. They are helping identify organizational programs that could be used if the employee does not have one that they are familiar with/recommend. Continual thanks to Matt Taylor and Jennifer Domenick for their assistance updating the web site.

2021 will be interesting and full of changes for the Office Committee as we work with the new employee and Supervisory to delineate the optimal allocation of time and responsibilities.



Patapsco Friends Meeting
Advancement and Outreach 2021

QuakerSpeak Videos
Third Sundays Viewing and Discussion

Sunday, May 16, Noon

Frequently Asked Questions About Quaker Meeting for Worship

8:54 minutes

When we polled newcomers to Quaker meetings, these were the 8 most frequently asked questions they had about Quaker worship when they first walked through the doors of a meetinghouse.

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities

MAJR's MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION — 2021 Report Card

As Maryland legislators, citizens, and advocates all coped with pandemic safeguards, they nevertheless addressed challenges such as police oversight and criminal justice reform. Many bills that were important priorities for MAJR were passed, though we don't yet know if the Governor will veto some of them. MAJR members, read with pride:

1) Overrides of the Governor's 2020 vetoes:

- The Kirwan Commission/"Blueprint for Maryland's Future"(HB1300) will offer resources for schools in the State's poorest schools and help end the "school-to-prison" pipeline with long-needed changes to disciplinary systems;
- A Women's Prerelease Facility (SB0684) will offer reentry resources to women nearer to their once and future homes;
- Two expungement bills (HB0083 and HB1336) will prevent Courts from disclosing charges after they are dismissed, permit expungement of old marijuana possession offenses and minor burglaries, and create a Commission to study further "partial expungement" reform.

2) Police reform included bills to:

- Set higher standards for officers' use lethal force and accountability (SB0071);
- Allow public disclosure of police misconduct records (SB0178);
- Give civilians a role in police discipline for the first time (HB0670);
- Restrict no-knock warrants (SB0178);
- Mandate body cameras for all officers (SB0071);
- Shift investigation and prosecution of police-involved fatalities to an independent unit in the Attorney General's office (SB0600) ; and
- Ban police departments from acquiring surplus military equipment (SB0600).

3) "Front Door" bills to reduce unnecessary arrests or incarceration included:

- Citations in lieu of arrest (SB0671) for simple drug possession and minor misdemeanors;
- Pretrial supervision without fees (HB0126) across the State;
- Better funding for "mobile crisis teams" (SB0286) to respond to mental health problems in lieu of police;
- Steps to prospectively reduce exposure of juveniles to adult life sentences (SB0494) and to study more juvenile reforms (HB1187).

4) "Behind the Walls" bills to improve prison outcomes included:

- Correctional education milestone incentives (HB0089);
- Retroactive review of juvenile sentences to adult prison terms after 20 years (SB0494);
- Removal of the Governor's veto of parole for life sentences (SB0202).

5) "Back Door" legislation to assist Marylanders released from prison. The Partial Expungement Commission created in 2020 (SB0874) was renewed. MAJR continues to pursue the Maryland Division of Corrections' promise to create a statewide "Reentry Council," which we hope will take effect as the pandemic ebbs.

In summary, a record number of seventeen MAJR-prioritized bills passed, despite the pandemic! We owe special thanks to all MAJR supporters for your prolific contacts with your legislators! You took advantage of our new approach to lobbying and sent over 6000 emails to your senators and delegates. We couldn't do this without you!

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting Calendar
Fifth Month 2021

MEETING CONTACT INFORMATION

Meeting Clerk:	**Nora Fisher**	**301-384-9411**	**Email:**	**Clerk@sandyspring.org**
Office:	**Rosalind Zuses**	**301-774-9792**	**Email:**	**Office@sandyspring.org**
Newsletter Editor:	**Rosalind Zuses**	**301-476-0632**	**Email:**	**News@sandyspring.org**
Treasurer:	**Graham Johnson**	**301-279-7240**	**Email:**	**treasurer@sandyspring.org**
Web Clerk:				**webmaster@sandyspring.org**

Zoom: If you need to set up Zoom meetings or have technical blips, John Worley at 410-730-0749/email worley.john@gmail.com .

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Sandy Spring Meeting House https://Zoom.us/j/196138896?pwd=V0Jtb1VqbVo5cW9NM2hYNW9kK1F4Zz09
Meeting ID: 196 138 896, Password 021789 *(not needed for above link*). **(Same link and phone info for 9, 11am & MfB)**
9:00 am all First Days **Meeting House will be open for in-person worship along with ZOOM (blended) at both 9 am**
11 am (all but first First Days*) **and 11 am with attenders wearing masks and maintaining at least six feet of distance not to exceed 40. In-person attenders will provide contact information at each worship service.**
7:30 pm Fifth Days **(***6:30 for Virtual Potluck)* https://Zoom.us/j/389588708?pwd=QThyZTRPSkFSM3g0d0MzbHY1YmQ3Zz09
**the first First Day each month Worship with a Concern for Business begins at 10:15am (summer & some holidays -check calendar)*
Friends House Miller Center: Open for up to 25 attenders 10:00-11:00 am all First Days
We are invited to the Zoom Sharp Street Church Service, 10-11am Sundays, ID 462 404 780; Password 670949

Regularly Scheduled Events.

First Days:		
First/Third	10:30am	Virtual First Day School Classes, Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/94181706521?pwd=WkxBWGlUK3VkQWc2NkpCMkoxVFFuZz09
Second/Fourth	10:30am	In-Person First Day School classes, outdoor, masked, physically distant, Testimony of Stewardship
Second	10:10am	Hymn Sing, Zoom: **Temporarily laid down**
Second & Fourth	9:00am	Bible Study; Roger Starr (301) 649-6841 join Zoom*:* https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84145716023?pwd=RTIzTHRSaHFhODRnNmFHYTR2eFVXZz09
Fourth	10:10am	Quaker Reading Group, maryleastevenson@gmail.com; Join Zoom:
All	4:00pm	A Course in Miracles, Messages: 301-384-9411 **ZOOM – call for info**
Seventh Days		
Third	6pm-9pm	***ZOOM ONLY*** activities, Community Life Cmte.
Fourth	9am-12	Get Out and Do Stuff Day, Graveyard & Grounds, unskilled labor needed!

Calendar – SSMM Website: *http://www.sandyspring.org*

5/8	Sat	10-4	Dayspring Silent Retreat *Calling Upon Sophia* - An Online Retreat with Lorie Conway, see BYM
5/9	Sun	7:30/8:15a	Mother's Day Bird Walk - $150+ for each identified bird to the GOOD Fund; 2 groups, see Commun Life.
5/10	Mon	7:30pm	Quakerism, Jung and Racism: talk by Fanny Brewster, see Friends House for details (re-sched. from 5/5) Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88131617800?pwd=UWFXcGxQL2ZVcHNyd2FrM2hhSXR3dz09
5/14-15	Fri-Sat		BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat*; Joy and Woe*. https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/
5/15	Sat	7pm	SSFS Scholarship Auction; Amplifying the Light Learn more about the auction and purchase tickets here.
5/22	Sat	eve	Virtual Art Show featuring SS Meeting artists, poets, writers, musicians talking about their work, see A&O
6/5	Sat	2pm	Nora Caplan Memorial Service, SSMM Meeting House, reception in Lyceum. Also on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85088187383?pwd=eGlBaXoyZjRzRUduM0xzTm95UTI3Zz09
6/6	**Sun**	**10:15am**	**Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Zoom (see above)**
6/12	Sat	3pm	Brian Stark Memorial Service, in-person only SSMM Meeting House, reception follows in Lyceum.
6/19	Sat	9-11am	All Clerks Meeting
6/27-7/3	Su-Sa		FGC annual conference without travel, lots of workshops, www.FGCgathering.org
7/10	Sat		Ann Murphy Memorial
7/25	**Sun**	**10:15am**	**Mid-summer Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Zoom (see above)**
8/2-8	Mo-Su		BYM Annual Sessions, Hood College if in-person; https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession/

NEWSLETTER
Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
17715 Meeting House Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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5th Month 2021



If you are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter, or would like to receive it in electronic format please inform the Sandy Spring Meeting Office at **301-774-9792** or office@sandyspring.org
Thank you!!

Friends please send corrections, comments, or concerns about this newsletter to ***news@sandyspring.org***

