

GOAT Noat for June 2017

People's Climate March by Polly Heninger: April 29 was hot and mostly sunny (though threat of rain in the morning was good for the poncho sellers). At least a dozen Homewood members and attenders took MARC trains down to Washington, DC, to join the demonstration for jobs, justice, and climate action. We strolled with other participants to the gathering area near the US Capitol and found the faith contingent with its little flags for various denominations, including Quaker. As it got hotter and the assembled crowd got larger, we chatted and nudged each other about slogans on signs and clothing. Several T-shirts in the Jewish group bore the poetic "Don't be a schlemiel. Climate change is real". The march itself was a slow amble stretching twenty blocks up Pennsylvania Avenue to encircle the White House. Once there, we sat for a moment of silence and a mass heartbeat created by clapping or chest thumping in unison. The end provided time to sit in the shade in view of the Washington Monument, chat with F/friends, and listen (or not) to speakers. 200,000 marched in Washington and 100,000 more in 370 sister marches around the country.

Many have commented that the energy of the Women's March in January was more palpable and fervent. The crowd was much denser as we were squeezed into a smaller space. The energy of this march was more dispersed and the messages more diverse. Yet, at least for me, the messages were no less urgent. Two of the more memorable: "Use the sun, stupid" and "Denial is more than a dried-up river in Egypt". I found much passion, knowledge, and caring in the crowd. I am left with even more motivation to resist the current administration's attempts to divide the country and deny this global calamity.