

# InfoShare

New York Yearly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends

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Editor: [Steven Davison](#)

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Asst. Editor: [Helen Garay Toppins](#)

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## Save the date! Spring Sessions 2014—April 4–5

Rochester Meeting and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY.  
Visit our [Spring Sessions web page](#).

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## Upcoming Events

**Apply Now** — **School of the Spirit Ministry** is currently reviewing resumes for two teachers to join Becky Phipps (Fresh Pond, NEYM) as the Core Teaching Team for its program *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*. We ask that the new Core Teachers have an active prayer life and a deep grounding in Quaker faith and practice. We expect that the Core Teachers have a call to teaching and to the nurture of the spiritual life of individuals, meetings, and the Religious Society of Friends. Visit <http://schoolofthespirit.org/about/search/> for details.

**February 27, 2014** — **RESISTANCE, a play about abolitionists, Quakers and the Fugitive Slave Act** by Richard Caulfield Goodman, will be performed in Manhattan, NY at the Seward Park Library, 192 East Broadway. Admission is free. The performance will be at 6:00 PM. For more information call 212-239-8405.

**March 1, 2014** — **Meeting for Discernment** will be held at Purchase Meeting, 4455 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY (Corner of Purchase and Lake Streets) 9:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M. Details at [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org).

**March 16, 2014**— Lewis Webb, Coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee’s Healing and Transformative Justice Program will speak about AFSC-NYC initiatives regarding incarceration issues. This will be a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness of **prison issues** and to learn of avenues of activism and support. Lewis is an attorney, activist, and life-long Brooklynite. This talk follows Meeting for Worship (11 am) and coffee hour (12 pm). Everyone is invited. For more info contact: Chris Japely [saintbeuno@earthlink.net](mailto:saintbeuno@earthlink.net).

**March 21-23, 2014 — Alternatives to Violence Project Level 1 Workshop**, White Plains, NY. Participants will learn better ways to manage anger and how to improve communication and listening skills. Location: Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains, NY 10601. Workshop schedule: Friday, Mar 21: 7pm - 10pm; Saturday, Mar 22: 9am – 9pm; Sunday, March 23: 1pm – 8pm. Meals provided. Suggested donation: \$40; a contribution of more than \$40 will go toward scholarships. We have full scholarships for 10 participants! To register and for more information: 914-328-7943, Mary Eagleson [mleagleson@aol.com](mailto:mleagleson@aol.com). Workshop sponsors: Scarsdale Quaker Meeting and White Plains Cares Coalition. More information at [www.avpny.org](http://www.avpny.org).

**March 28-30, 2014** — is the second **family weekend at Powell House**, the retreat and conference center for NYYM. This year the topic is Stewardship: How are we called to show loving care to ourselves, our families, and the wider world. Family members of ANY age are invited to attend. There will NOT be any childcare, because we will all be learning together! We will use music, games, crafts, role playing, and all sorts of great ways to look at this important theme. There is a significant discount, as this is for families! Visit [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org) for details.

**April 1, 2014** — Deadline for articles for the May *Spark*. The theme centers on Outreach and Advancement. If you plan to write an article, please let Steve Davison know. Contact Steve at [steven@nyym.org](mailto:steven@nyym.org).

**Friday April 4, 2014** — Young Adult Friends (18–35ish) will have a one day mini retreat at Rochester Meeting from 9:30 am–4:30 pm. There will be childcare! We will be looking at the concerns surrounding the pull between jobs/responsibilities and wanting to live more fully and faithfully into a different life. How do we do that? How can we support each other? There will be time to get to know new Friends, see old Friends, and do spiritual work together. Hospitality can be arranged for Friends traveling from a distance. There is a \$15.00–\$20.00 suggested donation. Please contact Gabi Savory Bailey with questions [nyym.yafs@gmail.com](mailto:nyym.yafs@gmail.com) or call 973.819.6807.

**April 4–6, 2014 — Spring Sessions** will be held Friday evening and Sunday morning at Rochester Meeting, 84 Scio Street, Rochester NY 14604; Saturday at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, 1100 South Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14620. There will also be an overnight youth program. For more information and to register, visit [www.nyym.org/?q=SpringSessions2014](http://www.nyym.org/?q=SpringSessions2014). Registration deadline is March 21.

**April 17, 2014 — Stand by Me: Acts of Conscience** will explore the challenges of stopping war and increasing peace, humane approaches to immigration, and protecting the environment. The event will be held at the 15th Street meetinghouse, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003, from 6:30-9:00 PM. For more information call Robert Baldrige, 646-554-4700, or email [quakerstory@yahoo.com](mailto:quakerstory@yahoo.com).

**April 25 & 26, 2014 — Two-Row Wampum Renewal Campaign teach-in** at Brooklyn Friends School and Brooklyn Meeting. Daytime events on Friday April 25 will focus on students and faculty at the school, with a public event in the evening. The Saturday events will take place at the school and at Brooklyn Meeting. Support will be needed in NYC for hospitality, food, and other logistics. The program of the teach-in itself is still being created, and there is room for folks to participate on the themes of the Two-Row Campaign, Honor the Treaties, and Respect the Earth. Information about the Campaign is available at <http://honortheworow.org/>. If you would like to participate, be a presenter, or can offer support or wish further details, contact Tom Rothschild, at [trothschild@brooklynfriends.org](mailto:trothschild@brooklynfriends.org).

**May 1–4, 2014 — Quakers United in Publications Annual Conference** will be held at Woolman Hill, Deerfield, Massachusetts. The theme is *Publishing the Word in a Changing Landscape: Tools & Techniques*. A 10% discount is available if you register and pay all fees by 15 March 2014. Registration closes 15 April 2014. Registration materials and more information available at [www.quakerquip.org](http://www.quakerquip.org).

**July 20-26, 2014** — NYYM Summer Sessions at Silver Bay, New York. Our theme is: *Moving into Action — Where is God Leading us?* Look for details in your May *Spark*.

### Schedule of Upcoming Regional Meetings

Meeting	Date	Location
All Friends	April 27, 2014	Rockland
	January 18, 2014	Rochester
Farmington-Scipio	May 16–18	Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY
	September 20, 2014	Ithaca
Long Island	April 26, 2014	Westbury

	January 26, 2014	Brooklyn
New York	April 20, 2014	Fifteenth Street
Nine Partners	May 4, 2014	Bulls Head-Oswego
	August 3, 2014	TBD
Northeastern	May 4, 2014	Adirondack
Purchase	May 4, 2014	TBA
	August 3, 2014	TBA
Shrewsbury & Plainfield	April 5, 2014	New Brunswick

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## Notes & Announcements

### **NYYM Auditor Search**

New York Yearly Meeting Audit Committee is beginning the process of soliciting a new auditor, and will welcome any suggestions from your Meeting or Regional Meeting of Certified Public Accounting firms that you would like to receive our initial Request for Information (RFI).

Qualified firms will be selected from those responding to the RFI, which we expect to issue in March, and those qualified firms will then receive a Request for Proposal (RFP), expected to be issued by May of this year. An annually-renewable contract, with a 5-year term, beginning in 2015, is expected to be issued by Fall of this year. The audit will cover both the Operating and Trustee Accounts of NYYM. Qualified firms will need to be capable of having a representative spend 13 days each year at the Yearly Meeting Office to carry out detailed record reviews, in addition to auditing records in electronic form.

Please send responses to this notice by 2/28/14 to the Clerk of the Audit Committee, Timothy L. Johnson ([johnsontl@aol.com](mailto:johnsontl@aol.com)) with a copy to Laura Cisar ([landr100@gmail.com](mailto:landr100@gmail.com)). Information on each candidate auditor should include the name and address of the firm, telephone and email address, and if possible, a point of contact and website for the firm. If your meeting or regional meeting has had any prior positive experience with the firm, or if the firm has a Quaker connection, that information would also be of interest.

### **Go Deeper with ESR's New Certificate Programs**

Have you ever felt a call to explore your gift of writing as a ministry but were not interested in a degree? Have you ever wanted to dive into the rich history of Quaker faith and practice but couldn't make a move to Richmond, Indiana? Now both opportunities are available.

Beginning in the fall of 2014, you can take classes at ESR and earn a certificate in Ministry of Writing or Quaker Studies in as little as two years. In the fall of 2015 a certificate in Spirituality will also become available. Using our course schedule you can design your six-course certificate as a two-or-three year program and take advantage of our online, hybrid, two-week residential, and semester-long on-campus offerings to build a program around your interests and needs.

“A traditional degree program isn't the answer to everyone's educational needs,” says ESR dean, Jay Marshall. “We believe these certificate programs will address a growing need and provide focused learning opportunities in areas where ESR has particular expertise. Our ESR Access distance program and expanded technological capacity have prepared us to launch this exciting new seminary experience, which we trust will prove to be a valuable resource for persons interested in exploring these areas.”

Take the next step today. Visit the ESR website for more information, or contact Matt Hisrich, Director of Admissions, at [hisrima@earlham.edu](mailto:hisrima@earlham.edu) or call (800) 432-1377.

## **Volunteers needed for the NYYM website**

The Yearly Meeting is looking for volunteers who would be willing to help manage content on the NYYM website. This includes publishing each issue of *Spark* on the website (five times a year), the *Yearbook* (once a year), and other projects. You don't have to commit to regular service: just let us know as each project comes along whether you can help with that publication—every little bit will make a difference. You don't have to be a web geek to help, either, though a little knowledge of HTML and a little experience with Content Management Systems would be a real asset; but we can teach what you need to know, if you're interested. If you are interested, please contact Steven Davison, [steven@nyym.org](mailto:steven@nyym.org), Yearly Meeting communications director.

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## Staff Travel Schedules

### Travel Calendar: Gabriel Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary

Winter & Spring, 2014

February 21–22	Co-facilitating Creativity and Spirituality Weekend, Powell House
March 1	Meeting for Discernment, Purchase Meeting
March 28–30	Co-facilitating Family Weekend at Powell House
April 4	Facilitating the YAF mini-retreat, Rochester Meeting
April 4–6	Spring Sessions, Rochester Meeting
April 19	Facilitating the YAF mini-retreat, Chatham-Summit Meeting, Chatham NJ
May 16–18	Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering
July 20–26	Summer Sessions, Silver Bay NY

### Travel Calendar: Christopher Sammond General Secretary

January to March, 2014

#### January

10	Visit Attica Prison Worship Group, Attica, NY
12	Visit Buffalo Meeting, Buffalo, NY
17–19	Facilitate Retreat on Vocal Ministry, Chatham-Summit Meeting, Chatham, NJ
24–25	Attend Coordinating Committee Weekend, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
25–26	Attend Program Subcommittee meeting, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
26	Join Old Chatham Meeting for worship
27	NYYM staff retreat, Quaker House, New York, NY
31	Attend Priorities Working Group meeting, Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase, NY

#### February

1	Attend Priorities Working Group meeting, Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase, NY
2	Visit Brooktondale Worship Group, Carolyn Center, NY
28	Participate in Meeting for Discernment, Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase, NY

#### March

1	Participate in Meeting for Discernment, Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase, NY
7–9	Facilitate retreat on Deepening Worship for Saranac Lake Meeting, St. Lawrence Valley Friends Meeting, Ticonderoga Worship Group, and North Country Worship Group, Saranac Lake, NY
24–27	Support NYYM/NEYM Pastors Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

### Travel Calendar: Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary

Winter & Spring 2014

February 1	Brooklyn Meeting, Memorial Meeting
February 2	Scarsdale Meeting, Purchase Quarterly Meeting
February 16	Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, NY, Quaker Worship Group
February 26	15th Street Meeting—Exploring Quakerism: Faith Made Manifest
March 16	Brooklyn Meeting, Brooklyn NY—Prison Ministry
April 4	Attica Prison, Attica NY—Quaker Worship Group
April 5	Spring Sessions, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester NY
April 6	Spring Sessions, Rochester Meeting, Rochester NY
April 26–27	Pendle Hill, Wallingford PA, QuakerQuest Travel Team

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