

Yearly Meeting Ministry

WITNESS

Using a newly developed infrastructure for sending out press releases to share our Light with the wider world, we distributed the minute approved during Summer Sessions 2012 repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and the minute opposing fracking in New York State. The Yearly Meeting also gave its support to three Friends traveling abroad under minutes of service in peace witness:

Greta Mickey has been helping Friends in the Republic of Georgia learn AVP and create a peace center. Nadine Hoover has continued to work in Indonesia toward reconciliation between parties to violence in local communities. Margaret Lechner attended the international AVP gathering in Central America and helped establish AVP in El Salvador.

We also continue to nurture ten worship groups in prisons around the Yearly Meeting and we have increased our focus on supporting formerly incarcerated people as they reenter society.

OTHER MINISTRY

This past year has seen a significant resurgence of interest and activity in the faith and practice of Quaker ministry in New York Yearly Meeting. More than 50 people attended a consultation organized by the Yearly Meeting's Advancement Committee focused on how we might better support emerging ministries. The Yearly Meeting's Ministry Coordinating Committee sponsored a threshing session at Summer Sessions on recording gifts in ministry, and Powell House offered a conference on Cultivating Gifts in Ministry this fall. Recognizing Gifts in Ministry was also the theme of the November issue of *Spark*.

We are creating a web directory of Friends whose gifts would be useful and nurturing to monthly meetings and we are revamping the Traveling Friends Program, adding four new Friends committed to sharing their gifts with monthly meetings and worship groups.

Associate Secretary Helen Garay Toppins is now a Friends General Conference Quaker Quest Traveling Team member and co-facilitates Quaker Quest workshops. Advancement Committee has been promoting QQ and has given money to one monthly meeting to support a full program there. They also worked with NYYM and FGC staff to hold a Yearly Meeting-wide one-day introductory program, so that monthly meetings could experience what this vital outreach tool can do for them.

QUAKER QUEST

Friends Around the World

New York Yearly Meeting sent four formal representatives to the World Gathering of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya, April 17–25, 2012. These Friends are eager to share their experience with monthly meetings or quarterly/regional meeting gatherings. Three other NYYM Friends joined them at the gathering.

WORLD GATHERING



Friends at the World Gathering in Nakuru, Kenya: Andrew Tomlinson, Diane Keefe, Christopher Sammond, George Rubin, and A.T. Miller, back row; Gloria Thompson, Sylke Jackson, and Margaret Mulindi, front row.

Yearly Meeting Staff

We moved the office from the basement to the third floor of 15 Rutherford Place, a brighter, cheaper environment for YM staff.

OFFICE MOVE

Helen Garay Toppins has spent more time visiting meetings and worship groups. She recently facilitated a Quaker Quest workshop for Wilton Meeting.

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

Christopher Sammond facilitated or co-facilitated seven retreats with topics that ranged from opening to deeper worship to discernment in vocal ministry to empowering emerging ministers.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Gabi Savory Bailey has completed a survey of young adult Friends (YAFs), visited many monthly meetings and individual young adults, given support to families with young children, helped form regional YAF groups, and helped YAFs become involved in our Quaker communities.

YOUNG ADULT FIELD SECRETARY

Steven Davison has begun the work of enhancing our website and digital communications, expanding our press relations, and developing social media.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

In addition to his usual duties, Walter Naegle worked with the Black Concerns Committee to facilitate local events recognizing the centennial of NYYM member and civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who was Naegle's late partner.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

The ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation and Help) program continues to offer workshops, trainings, and one-on-one support for the care of older Friends and has added a third coordinator to their staff.



New Meetings in the Yearly Meeting

This year, New York Yearly Meeting added two new meetings—Genesee Valley Preparative Meeting and Kendal Indulged Meeting—and several Worship Groups: Canadaigua, Brooktondale, and One in Christ (meeting at Fifteenth Street Meeting House).



Young Friends at Summer Sessions 2012: Carolyn Beer, Franzi Ross, and Lily Bergstein

For more details about the work of the Spirit in New York Yearly Meeting, visit our website (nyym.org). It features recent news and tabs for Upcoming Events, Social Witness, including an Actions We Have Taken section, past issues of *Spark*, minutes of the Yearly Meeting's proceedings, and its Epistles.

Yearly Meeting Committees

The Youth Committee has initiated a broad conversation about how best to nurture our high school-aged Friends, including a “think tank” event held in Albany. The Junior Yearly Meeting program supported six high school Friends attending Powell House’s annual clerking retreat as preparation for their roles as clerks of the high school program.

YOUTH

PRIORITIES WORKING GROUP

The Priorities Working Group continues to visit monthly and regional meetings “to gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends.”

The Yearly Meeting has formed a new Development Committee focused on helping monthly meetings in their fundraising and raising funds within the Yearly Meeting to better support the growing edges of its ministry.

DEVELOPMENT

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

The Conflict Transformation Committee has made visits to monthly meetings in need and offered three regional conferences at Ithaca, Orchard Park, and Montclair.