

Yearly Meeting Ministry

The People's Climate March



Young Friends at the People's Climate March

provided hospitality and other support to Friends traveling to participate in the March from the farthest reaches of the Yearly Meeting and beyond. The Witness Activities Fund helped pay for a bus from Ithaca for attenders of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and a second bus for young Friends who asked to go to the March as part of their Powell House conference.

Friends witness around the world

Two Friends traveled to El Salvador to conduct AVP workshops there. Individual Friends pursued peace-making ministry in Indonesia, education ministry in Bolivia, and community development work in East Africa. Closer to home, three Friends were led to witness with civil disobedience against the Seneca Lake natural gas storage facility, and to go to jail when arrested.

Nurturing young Friends

Regional host committees have been expanding the youth programs offered during Spring and Fall Sessions, bringing many more families to Sessions and greatly strengthening the Yearly Meeting's youth community. Fall Sessions 2014 saw record attendance, including 24 teens.

NYYM Prayer List

The Yearly Meeting has revived its Prayer List and is distributing it regularly to a wide network of Friends called to a ministry of prayer.

NYYM Priorities

At Summer Sessions, the gathered body of the Yearly Meeting approved six new Priorities for the Yearly Meeting—the first fruits of the Spirit from the three years that the Priorities Working Group spent listening to Friends across the Yearly Meeting.

Visitation Initiative

The clerk of the Yearly Meeting launched a Visitation Initiative, inviting Friends to visit other meetings and report their visits on a special website.

Breathing Space

Breathing Space helps formerly incarcerated people gain job skills and reenter society. Organized by two Friends from New York Yearly Meeting, the program has inspired support from across the Yearly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting Witness

Brooklyn Meeting held a River of Life teach-in as a follow-up to Friends' widespread participation in the Two Row Wampum Treaty campaign held last year.

Ithaca Meeting held a *Roots of Justice, Seeds of Change* workshop.

Perry City Meeting is hosting nonviolent civil disobedience training for opponents to the build-out of natural gas infrastructure.

Morningside Meeting appealed to Governor Cuomo to reform the practice of solitary confinement in a letter endorsed by New York Quarterly Meeting.

Scarsdale Meeting hosted an AVP mini-workshop for area professionals.

Yearly Meeting Priorities

We envision a Yearly Meeting

*deeply grounded in the practice of our faith;
made up of strong, vital monthly meetings;
gathered together into one body;
that nurtures our children, youth, and young adults;
that supports and amplifies our witness; and
is accountable and transparent.*

Yearly Meeting Staff

In a new initiative begun this year to better meet the needs of young adults, Gabi Savory

**YOUNG ADULT
FIELD SECRETARY**

Bailey organized five very successful mini retreats in regions throughout the Yearly Meeting. The YAF community continues to grow and deepen because of Gabi's efforts.



A Young Adult Friends Mini Retreat

Steven Davison has redesigned several sections of the Yearly Meeting's website, built out its Resources section to cover dozens of Quaker topics, started a Twitter account, and helped several meetings improve their own websites.

**COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR**

Christopher Sammond continues to visit many meetings and worship groups. As part of that work, he led four retreats for local meetings on deepening worship, vocal ministry, and community.

**GENERAL
SECRETARY**

Amid a myriad of other duties, Helen Garay Toppins continues to visit meetings and prison worship groups. A trained Quaker Quest facilitator, she welcomes invitations to facilitate Quaker Quest interest groups.

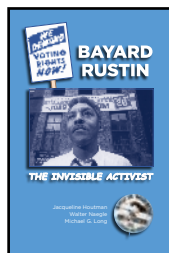
**ASSOCIATE
SECRETARY**

Walter Naegle coauthored a book for young people on the life and work of his late partner and Fifteenth Street Meeting member Bayard Rustin, an important and often overlooked civil rights leader.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSOCIATE**

Aging Resources, Consultation and Help continues to lead the way into the ministry of aging concerns. With training workshops and retreats, Coordinators Callie Janoff, Anita Paul, and Barbara Spring continue to expand and strengthen the network of ARCH Visitors based in local meetings.

ARCH



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Yearly Meeting Committees

The work of this committee has gone viral: in addition to the seven workshops this year for our own meetings, members have done workshops at the annual gathering of Friends World Committee for Consultation—Section of the Americas, held this year in Sacramento and High Point, North Carolina. They published an article in *Friends Journal* and produced a film of their workshop titled *When Conflicts Arise: Crisis or Invitation?*, available at nyym.org.

**CONFLICT
TRANSFORMATION**

The Committee sponsored a weekend at Powell House on *Nurturing Friends, Young, Old, and Everyone in Between*

and plans a program with Melinda Wenner Bradley, a trainer for *Godly Play*® and *Faith and Play* workshops.

Earthcare Working Group played an important role in organizing participation in the People's Climate March. Their Connectors travel all over the Yearly Meeting with the earthcare message.

**EARTHCARE
WORKING
GROUP**

Working with the Powell House Youth Directors, the Youth Committee is preparing Youth Institutes, forums for sharing what's working and what's difficult, and for training in *Godly Play*®, curriculum development, spiritual formation for youth, and service-learning programs.

**YOUTH
COMMITTEE**