



# SPARK

New York Yearly Meeting  
*The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

Volume 52, Number 3

15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

May 2022

## Messages from NYYM Friends



*Equality* by Todd Drake, linoprint, 2021. Todd shares, "my own artwork is deeply shaped by Quaker values. My tagline name is 'the equalist' (we are all equally human): [www.the-equalist.com](http://www.the-equalist.com). This linoprint asks the question, 'Is equality on fire, or going up in flames?' I plan on producing a series of letterpress-printed quotes from Quakers to inspire and share with the wider community."

### A Love Letter to My European American Brothers and Sisters

Jeff Hitchcock  
Rahway-Plainfield Meeting

Race is a loaded issue in our society, and people have many feelings about it. It's personal and impersonal, complex and simple. Race in our society denies us things we need in our lives, while at the same time cultural difference often affirms our experience. So what happens when white people and people of color come together "at the table" over matters of race?

Many white people feel a strong

*continued on page 5*

### Two New York City Quaker Housing Histories

*In the later part of the 20th century, New York Quarterly Meeting was instrumental in establishing two successful housing projects, Friends House in Rose Hill and Cedars/Fox Hall, for low-income people in New York City. Over the years there's been some misconceptions about these projects. Neither project was ever intended to provide housing for Friends.*

#### Friends House in Rose Hill

Jim Morgan  
Brooklyn Meeting  
*with assistance from Margery Cornwell, John Maynard, and Carol Jackson*

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### Reflections on Anti-Racism Trainings

Over the past few months, dozens of NYYM Friends have attended anti-racism trainings arranged by the NYYM in support of the discernment of the draft Statement on Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community. Trainings were provided by the groups **Roots of Justice** and **Crossroads**. The statement and other resources are available at [nyym.org/anti-racism-statement](http://nyym.org/anti-racism-statement). Below are some Friends' reflections on the trainings they attended.

#### Mary Pugh Clark Montclair Meeting

I attended the Roots of Justice training February 18-20, 2022, and found the training most valuable. As someone with little knowledge of the Bible I gained a new perspective thinking about the relevance of Bible stories to anti-racist work. I appreciated how activities were varied to make the long times on Zoom purposeful and engaging. Definitions were clear and definite, which was useful. That they were also nuanced resonated with me. The sincerity of all the trainers impressed me. I am glad for the availability of resources.

The analysis underscores the primacy of racism and White supremacy culture in shaping the

*continued on page 4*

Being Changed  
Living Faithfully

SUMMER SESSIONS  
JULY 24-30, 2022

Registration for Summer Sessions is now open! To register, visit [nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022). Please register by **June 1**.

NYYM Summer Sessions 2022 will take place both online and in person at Silver Bay on Lake George, NY. We gather together every year to create a Blessed Community in which to discern and carry out the work that the Divine leads us to. This will be the first time we are gathering in person since the COVID pandemic began.

#### New: COVID Protocols

As part of our mutual community of care, **everyone over 2 years old will be required to wear medical grade (not fabric) masks in indoor spaces**, except when in their own rooms. Please keep in mind that masks are not just for your own protection, but also for the protection of others. There may be Friends among us who are especially vulnerable to serious disease.

*continued on page 7*



Messages from Friends

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Summer Sessions

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## Notices

### New Members

**Jean-Daniel Bourgeacq**—  
Manhasset

**Julia Buregeacq**—Manhasset

**Jim Pierson**—Saratoga

### Transfers

**Eliza Brown**, from Arch Street  
(PYM) to Cornwall

**Armen Godwin Fisher**, from  
Poughkeepsie to New Paltz

**Cynthia Jackson Fisher**, from  
Poughkeepsie to New Paltz

**Margaret Jenkins**, from  
Rahway-Plainfield to Sandy  
Spring Friends Meeting  
(BYM)

**Hans-Jürgen Lehmann**, from  
Ridgewood to Member At  
Large

**Mike Schatzki**, from Brooklyn  
to Chatham Summit

### Deaths

**Joyce Marshall**, member of  
Rahway-Plainfield, on April  
25, 2022.

**Anne Wauhope Smith**,  
member of Jericho, on March  
7, 2022.

**Morley Lyford Smith**, member  
of Jericho, on March 3, 2022.

## NEWS

### Annual Reports Due

Each year, NYYM committee clerks and other role-holders are asked to write a report on their work and the current status of their committee. This year's reports are due by **May 31, 2022**. Please email them to your coordinating committee clerk or to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org).

### NYYM Anti-Racism Statement

A draft NYYM Statement on **Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community**, written by a multi-racial and multi-generational task group, was presented at Summer Sessions 2021 for Friends' reflection and the initiation of an extended period of discernment. You can find the statement and related queries and resources at [nyym.org/anti-racism-statement](http://nyym.org/anti-racism-statement), or by requesting a copy from the office at 212-673-5750.

### Do You Receive the Weekly NYYM Email Update?

Each Friday an email newsletter from NYYM is sent out to over 1600 people. Past editions are available at [nyym.org/weekly-updates](http://nyym.org/weekly-updates). To subscribe, email your name and

## Around Our Yearly Meeting

email address to [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org). If you think you're on the list but haven't received any emails, please check your spam folder.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Summer Sessions

July 24-30, 2022. See pages 7-8.

### Fall Sessions

December 2-4, 2022, Online.

### POWELL HOUSE WORKSHOPS

Powell House is the retreat and conference center for NYYM. Visit [poho.org](http://poho.org) to see the full list of upcoming events and to register.

### Second Thirds: Connections for Friends Ages 35-59ish

*a partnership between Powell House and NYYM's ARCH program*

The culminating in-person gathering will take place **May 20-22**. Let's get together in real time and space, to talk, share, laugh, eat, DANCE! Visit [www.powellhouse.org/second-thirds](http://www.powellhouse.org/second-thirds)

### Where the Words Come From: a Workshop on Vocal Ministry

*A Virtual Powell House Workshop with Christopher Sammond*

**May 27, 7 p.m. to May 29, 11 a.m.**

Vocal Ministry—making ourselves available for the Divine to speak through us—is a key element of our distinctive form of worship. Yet many of us feel uncertain about this part of our practice, feeling our way by trial and error, with little, if any, feedback. As vocal ministry led by the Divine almost always happens in the context of a gathered meeting, we will begin by creating a community of depth and trust, learning to open to that place where deep worship, discernment, and vocal ministry all originate. From that place we will explore practices which make us more available to the promptings of the Divine for us to speak out of worship. Our work will be immediate and experiential, and grounded in love and affirmation.

### Water of Life Retreat: A Refreshing Dip Into Practices for Spiritual Renewal

**June 17, 6 p.m.-June 19, 2 p.m.**

This in-person retreat includes Quaker and other time-tested ways to deepen our spiritual lives. There will be times of prayer, of learn-

ing, of healing, and of silence. The daily rhythm also includes times of solitude for individual reflection, work (if each participant welcomes it), and rest. In creating a retreat environment, Barbara Shulamith Clearbridge builds an atmosphere of stillness, spaciousness, acceptance, prayer, healing, and love.

### YAY!

### An in-person FGC gathering for Young Adults & Youth

**July 6-10, 2022, Radford, VA**  
FGC's Junior Gathering, High School, and Adult Young Friend Committees have joined together for a new adventure this summer: YAY! This in-person event for Young Adults & Youth will take place Wednesday, July 6 through Sunday, July 10 at Radford University in Radford, Virginia. The committees have discerned a leading to center the needs of families, children, youth & young adults to be in community in-person.

YAY will have separate sessions for each of these communities: Junior Gathering (birth-rising 9th grade); High School (rising 10th-graduating seniors); Adult Young Friends (ages 18-37); and Parents & Sponsors (parents & sponsors of youth & children ages 0-18 at the event.) The Young Adult and Youth Committees will open registration in May for this event: visit [www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/yay/](http://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/yay/) for more information.

### The 2022 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

*"...and follow me."* The week-long 2022 FGC Gathering will be held **online** from **July 3-9, 2022**. Registration will open in late May. For more details, visit [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)

### Friends United Meeting's Stoking the Fire Retreat: Your Life a Candle, This Day a Match

**June 3-5, 2022**

### At Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN, and Online

This annual retreat is for those afire with the Holy Spirit, who seek deeper faith and bolder witness. Through worship, learning, and fellowship, we will open ourselves to Christ's presence, and allow the Spirit to work within us as we seek God's power. This year's Stoking the Fire will be a hybrid event, with in-person and virtual options. Visit

[www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/stoking-the-fire](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/stoking-the-fire)

### Quaker Institute for the Future's 2022 Summer Research Seminar

August 8-12, online via Zoom. QIF Summer Research Seminars create a venue for spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. More information is available at [quaker-institute.org](http://quaker-institute.org), including videos of past presentations.

QIF is offering \$300 stipends to applicants aged 18 to 35 years old to make a presentation on research that resonates with the QIF mission of advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice, and ecological integrity. For further details and to register for the SRS or apply for a stipend contact Gray Cox at [gray@coa.edu](mailto:gray@coa.edu) or 207-460-1163.

### Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) 2022 Annual Conference: Finding Our Footing on the Path Ahead

**August 12-14, 2022, Online and In-person at Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC**

Topics will explore the shapes of ministry and the new kinds of programming and resources for

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home and meeting/church that connect with Friends of all ages and open faith and faithful living to them. Registration opens soon; visit [quakerrecollaborative.org/](http://quakerrecollaborative.org/)

## FOR YOUNG ADULTS

**"YAY!" an FGC Gathering –** see details in "Upcoming Events."

**Powell House Conference:  
Gonna Make This Garden Grow  
Young Adult Event**

**July 8, 6 p.m. - July 10, 1 p.m.**

Inch by inch, row by row. A garden is a beautiful thing. At this conference we'll get our hands dirty planting and weeding in the Powell House garden. We will also think about the ways our community is like a garden. How do we want this garden to grow? Expect joy, connection, and maybe some food projects at this nourishing weekend. Register at [poho.org](http://poho.org).

## FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

**Upcoming Powell House Youth Conferences**

**CAMPING IN THE MAZE for  
6th-8th Grade**

**June 10-12, 2022**

Let's get wild! The natural world is blooming with possibility and excitement. The maze at Powell House is no exception, with tangled vines, twisting paths, beautiful birds, and interesting critters. At this conference, we will connect with this magical space by pitching tents and camping through the weekend. Get ready to learn wilderness survival skills and play fun,



### Planting Day at Sohagpur Friends School

A big planting program was held at the campus of the Friends Girls School, Sohagpur, in the beginning of March 2022. The program was organized as part of the "Ankur Abhiyan" (Sprout Campaign) of the Madhya Pradesh State Government. Between March 1st to 5th, a total of 51 Indian Teak plants were planted by guests, teaching staff, and

children. A photo of the event was uploaded to the local government portal. Photos of the growing plants will be uploaded 30 and 180 days after being planted. School Principal Dr. Sanjeev Shukla stated that within 20 years these plants will become big trees and great assets for the school.

*News from Sohagpur Friends School in India comes to us via Jayant Singh, Associate Clerk of Bethpage Preparative Meeting; his mother and sister attended the school.*



outdoorsy games. Find this event on [poho.org](http://poho.org) to register.

**"YAY!" an FGC Gathering –** see details in "Upcoming Events."

**Albany Friends Young Peacemakers Week**

Albany Friends Meeting is again planning to have our annual Young Peacemakers Week, from August 22-26, 2022, at the AFM Meeting-house. We welcome children in grades 2-8, from 1:30-5:30, followed by a simple meal shared with our families. Our daily activities will reflect our witness to the Quaker Peace Testimony, i.e., a commitment

to nonviolence and reconciliation in all spheres of life. The theme will be addressed in typical camp activities such as arts and crafts, music, drama, non-competitive games, and nature-centered projects. There is no specific charge; instead we ask that people contribute whatever they feel is fair. We are looking for volunteers and paid staff, and welcome any applicants! For more information please contact Anita Stanley at 518-441-7722 or [meridiancomm@earthlink.net](mailto:meridiancomm@earthlink.net).

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Many Quaker organizations have multiple job openings.** Visit these websites for current listings:

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** has several job openings in Philadelphia, including Director of Quaker Engagement, Regional Controller, and Grants Manager; visit [www.afsc.org/job-center](http://www.afsc.org/job-center)

**Pendle Hill**, outside of Philadelphia, is seeking Housekeeping and Guest Services Associates, a Cook, an Annual Fund Officer, a Director of Operations, and a Director of Finance: [pendlehill.org/explore/employment](http://pendlehill.org/explore/employment)

**Friends Committee on National Legislation**, in DC, is in search of an Associate General Secretary for Policy and Advocacy: [www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni](http://www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni)



### Editor's Note

As I'm writing these words the sun is shining and the cherry blossoms are in bloom. Many thanks for Todd Drake for lending us his linocuts to illustrate this issue, and to all the Friends who wrote articles and poetry. You are encouraged to share your reactions by writing a letter to the editor. The next NYM event is our largest annual gathering: Summer Sessions, being held in person for the first time since 2019. This will be NYM's first big hybrid event; please be patient and hold all participants in the Light. With humor and centering we will make it through.

**Upcoming Spark themes:**

**September: The Life Cycle of Meetings**, guest-edited by **Emily Provance**.

What is the natural life cycle of a meeting, and what happens when it's time to lay a meeting down? The September issue of *Spark* will focus on these and related questions. Articles should be 400-600 words. Before writing your article, please send a brief proposal (3-4 sentences) to guest editor Emily Provance ([eprovince@hotmail.com](mailto:eprovince@hotmail.com)), explaining your intended topic. The final submission deadline is **July 25**, but we'd be delighted to receive articles sooner. Visual submissions (photos, drawings, comics, etc.) are also warmly welcomed.

Please also send shorter news and announcements to share with the rest of NYM. Email those submissions to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org).

You can also email your meeting's news for inclusion in the NYM weekly update email. If you'd like to join NYM's weekly email list, email [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org) or visit [eepurl.com/gf3E5b](http://eepurl.com/gf3E5b).

NYM is on **Facebook** (NewYorkYearlyMeeting), **Twitter** (NYMTweets), and **Insta** (newyorkyearlymeeting).  
—Sarah Way, NYM

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**[NYM.org/donate](http://NYM.org/donate)**



Photo of the Shrewsbury Meeting's 350th anniversary banner, hanging on the exterior wall of their historic meeting house. The banner reads, "1672: meeting organized first meeting house George Fox visit." Thanks to Steve Ross for the photo.





# Messages from NYYM Friends

## Report from Spring Sessions 2022

Sarah Way  
Brooklyn Meeting

*The following summary of Spring Sessions business reflects my personal perspective and sense of the proceedings. For the official, approved minutes, please visit [nyym.org/content/nyym-sessions-minutes](http://nyym.org/content/nyym-sessions-minutes).*


Friends gathered online for New York Yearly Meeting's Spring Sessions on April 1-3, 2022. During meeting for business on Saturday morning, a report was presented that updated Friends on the antiracism trainings that several dozen NYYM Friends have recently taken. It was also announced that the Draft Statement on Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community would **not** be brought to the meeting for approval at Summer Sessions 2022, as had been previously stated. Vocal ministry followed. Some Friends felt the anti-racism statement process didn't follow proper Quaker procedures. Many who had attended the trainings spoke about how they found them to be powerful and enlightening. A Friend asked whether antiracism training would be necessary if we were truly living our faith and uniting with each other in that which is eternal. The fact that Friends of Color have been harmed and continue to be harmed in our community was acknowledged; many feel that action, not just love, is necessary to change this. Some Friends wish to shift our mindset toward being "for" something instead of "anti" something. It was implied that antiracism training itself was divisive. Many Friends believe antiracism training is a necessary tool for us to use to get closer to becoming a Blessed Community. Friends will continue the movement, energy, and focus on antiracism and the uprooting of white supremacy in the yearly meeting in the months ahead.

On Saturday afternoon, the NYYM financial statement from 2021 was presented, as well as the budget for the current year. NYYM ended 2021 with a budget surplus. The discussion of the current budget led into a report on the

Lindley Murray Fund, a sizable and long-standing trust fund that is part of NYYM's budget. As a charitable trust, the Fund must disburse 5% of its assets per year. Friends Fiduciary will help manage this disbursement.

Sessions Committee reported on plans for Summer Sessions, which will be held both online and in person with some combined, hybrid activities. The procedure to follow in case of a technical glitch was discussed: if there is an internet or power outage during a meeting for business, we will suspend business for 10 minutes. If the problem hasn't been resolved within 10 minutes, the clerk will decide how to move forward. Scheduling a called meeting to complete business at a later time is one option.

On Sunday, the gathered Friends approved a slightly amended version of a Minute for Redirecting Nuclear Funding to Climate Change brought forward from the Climate Change Working Group and previously approved by the Witness Coordinating Committee. The minute will be signed by the NYYM clerk and general secretary and sent to the administration in Washington DC. A minute on Mindful Eating and Compassion for Animals was read and ministry was offered. The body could not unite with the minute in its current state; the bringers of the minute were asked to undertake further discernment and bring back the minute once it's been refined. (A future issue of *Spark* may focus on this topic.) Fred Dettmer presented an update on the lawsuit that is attempting to reinstate the Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting's Quarterly Meetings. Having been denied in district and circuit court we are now petitioning the case to the US Supreme Court. The key question is, to what extent should a prison be allowed to impinge on an incarcerated person's — or an outside religious group's — free exercise of religion? Fred will continue to provide updates on this case at future Sessions.

The next gathering of New York Yearly Meeting will be Summer Sessions, July 24-30, 2022, being held online and in person at Silver Bay, NY. I hope to see you there. 

## Reflections on Anti-Racism Trainings

*continued from page 1*

history and institutions of the US (with hints of global significance as well). I accept this as an accurate and useful interpretation. People are, however, complicated, and have several, often conflicting, identities. Providing some vehicle for people to untangle their parts and see how racism affects them in particular would, I think, deepen people's understanding. Doing so might also help people buy into anti-racist work. Perhaps a hand-out could supplement what is presented during the training itself.

Personal narratives often are at the core of people's identities. I think finding a way to access them and build upon them could be enriching and help people work in the various circles they find themselves in. In our training John brought up his desire to relate his experience among construction workers to the analysis. For me I find I continually have to acknowledge my anger at the patriarchy right along with my various privileges. Confronting those parts and the tension produced by having both is a challenge. Identifying as queer and as someone over 75 further affect how I approach doing anti-racist work. I value knowing when and where people enter into "history."



*Hope (This is Life)*, 2020, linocut, Todd Drake, from the "Rising" series, [the-equalist.com](http://the-equalist.com)

As a historian by training I believe it is important to recognize that there are many, and often very opposed, histories. From the great men of history to looking from the bottom up. Or one can note there are histories that focus on a theme or an aspect. The 1619 Project is a wonderful contribution to our understanding. It is a thematic history that challenges the popular success story accounts I was given in the 1950's. It substantiates its thesis with pertinent details ("facts") that support the conclusions of the project. As an aside, we would benefit from a comprehensive account of White women working for women's rights that did not leave out their racism or eugenics.

It has helped me to explore and clarify my thinking by writing these reflections. I am excited about how I am connecting dots. Hopefully I will be able to share insights with my local Quaker meeting and people in my other circles.

## Regina Baird Haag Old Chatham Meeting

I attended the Roots of Justice sponsored training in February 2022. I can say that it was difficult, painful, and emotionally draining. I can also say that it was tremendously valuable, and that I will reap positive changes in perspective. I also plan on participating in systemic and individual actions resulting from this training that will influence for good the communities to which I belong.

## Regina St. Clare Shrewsbury Meeting

I attended the three day Roots of Justice training.

I have done anti-racism work for decades. Nothing comes close to the training and the care I felt through the three days.

Dealing with American karma directly at the root is not easy, especially for White people.

Even sincere antiracists.

Since the training, I have had the opportunity to use my deeper understanding with a comment that made a lot of sense. This comment came from a Black woman who asked me to be her mother.





*Dismal Swamp Dream*, 2020, Linocut, Todd Drake, from "Rising," a series of paintings and linocuts that bring together Todd's memories of growing up along the coast of North Carolina with his adult concerns for Global Warming. Todd currently serves as Co-Director of Operations - Outreach of Penington Friends House, an intentional Quaker community in New York City.

What an honor. I have no children. I immediately took on that responsibility as my opportunity to give back, give up, and sometimes throw up. I truly felt sick during much of the training.

Her comment, which has deepened my understanding, is simply this: when White people use the word "slaves," it is disrespectful to Black people.

Why? Because Black people are citizens from Africa who were enslaved.

Rather than saying "Washinton had many slaves," say "Washington enslaved Africans on his 50,000 acres of crop-giving land. Jefferson enslaved 600 Africans over his lifetime."

Yet both men are considered among our top five presidents for many other reasons.

This perhaps subtle change in English changes my perspective and frees me a bit of unconscious racism.

## Anne Liske Albany Meeting

Participation in antiracism training reinforced for me the critical need to recognize historical and structural deep roots of racism in the foundation of our nation, inclusive of some Quakers. Being open to learning and using new lenses and tools for personal and community change is uncomfortable. At times it made me question so much of

what was missing from the history I've been taught growing up with lifelong connections to Friends. At the same time I am grateful to be in partnership with others to do this work.

## Judy Meikle Wilton Meeting

I have attended two antiracism trainings arranged by NYYM—an analysis training from Crossroads and a follow up on education and organizing from Roots of Justice. Both trainings have increased my capacity to identify, name and dismantle institutional racism within NYYM and be ever aware of my own role in systems of oppression. I appreciate that both organizations shared with us common language and definitions and urged us to cooperate as faithful Friends in the spiritual work ahead."

## Stuart Bartram Genesee Valley Meeting

The convenors of the anti-racism workshop I attended (Roots of Justice, February 18-20, 2022) said several times that if we are not uncomfortable we are not doing the work. They included themselves in discomfort, and so we could work together. I found plenty there that made me uncomfortable. But it seemed clear to me that they were leaving, even trusting, me to find my

own discomfort. My own discomfort is where my needed work is.

This is in contrast to a prior workshop I did years ago, in which I felt I was being told why and where to be uncomfortable. This made me angry and resentful. I think that workshop was wrongly led. It prepared me to appreciate this one.

To be uncomfortable is to have work to do. It does not have to mean being in the wrong. Confusion ought to be a temporary condition. Anti-racism work ought not to leave us at a loss. I'm afraid it often has that effect. There are not unsolvable problems to being White; there are challenges and responsibilities that can be dealt with.



## A Love Letter to My European American Brothers and Sisters

Jeff Hitchcock  
Rahway-Plainfield Meeting

*continued from page 1*

need for relationships with people of color. In broad strokes, we are looking for love and affirmation of our shared humanity. This is the very thing race denies us. White identity, historically and presently, depends on separation and contrast from people of color. Many white people feel this separation and want to heal that wound within ourselves.

Countless writings and spoken testimonies by people of color tell us that relationship with white people is not the most compelling reason bringing people of color to the table. Surely, people of color often want to share relationships across racial lines, but they receive affirmation of their humanity from the rich cultural experiences in which they already partake. People of color want justice. This may be equality; it may be a level playing field; it may be recognition and action on issues such as police brutality and economic discrimination. White people can be significant allies in the struggle to achieve racial justice. So what happens when we come to the table? White people find ourselves in relationship with people of color. We receive the acceptance and love that so deeply motivate us. We are affirmed. But coming to the table

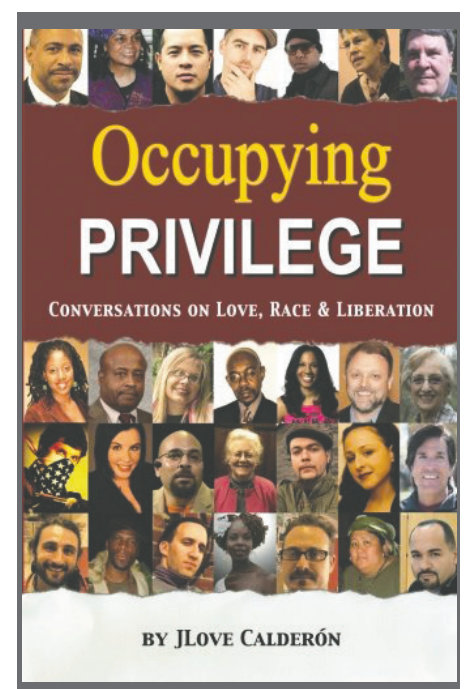
does not in itself bring justice to people of color. At best it is a promise of future action — a promise that often is not kept.

Over the years I have seen white people often confused on this matter. Relating to people of color becomes an end in itself, almost like a drug. We can't envision any other goal or any other method. Sometimes white people will shape their lives around relating to people of color, but if you ask them to work with other white people (as people of color often do ask them) they reject that work. Those of us who honor that request to work with our fellow white people—and this request goes back at least to Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, and Bayard Rustin—often find some of our white brothers and sisters cannot remove themselves from the immediacy of interracial relationship to help us work for racial justice where it counts most, in our own white community, in the present. Love without justice is superficial at best. People of color working for justice are often accused of being "divisive," but a community bound by love that allows systemic injustice to go unchallenged is a community that will permit anything, including slavery and economic exploitation. In effect, it is not a true community at all.

With Love,

Jeff Hitchcock

*This letter originally appeared in the book Occupying Privilege: Conversations on Love, Race & Liberation by JLove Calderon, published 2012.*







# Messages from NYYM Friends

## Two New York City Quaker Housing Histories

*continued from page 1*

A concern for addressing the issue of homelessness in NY Quarter existed since the 1960s when Friends went on patrols to help those in need. In 1968 or 1969, members of 15th Street Meeting, including Margery Cornwell, began going out into the neighborhood to distribute food and blankets to those they found huddled in doorways. They soon recognized that only permanent housing for these benighted souls would effectively mitigate the problem.

In Autumn 1988, when the ad hoc NYQM Committee to House the Homeless first met, New York City was engulfed by two social crises, each apocalyptic in its own way: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS; and homelessness. It is now hard to recall just how profoundly New York City was overwhelmed by these plagues. On top of that, they were interrelated. It was distressingly common that young gay men, at that stage the primary victims of this still mysterious disease, were thrown out into the street by their families, adding to the numbers of de-institutionalized mentally ill and intellectually challenged people, among others, already there. It was said, in those days, that perhaps as many as three thousand individuals were living in the bowels of Grand Central Terminal. It was a stunningly grim moment in our municipal history.

As a fairly recent attendee at Brooklyn Meeting, when I (Jim Morgan) heard that NYQM had set up an ad hoc committee to consider how it might help to deal with the very visible presence of unhoused citizens, I made sure to join them. Carol Jackson's selfless servant-leadership was what kept us together and focused. Even so, it took eight and a half years of worshipful collaboration, and Betty Williams's firm commitment to caring for those afflicted with AIDS guiding us, to open the doors of a newly renovated building at 130 East 25th Street to house fifty about-to-be-formerly homeless people living with AIDS—not just HIV. The price

of admission, administered by the NYC Human Resources Administration, to that lovely haven was painfully high.

There were, in the 1980s, a significant number of NYQM members and attenders suffering from HIV/AIDS and many others who were serving as their caregivers. The pain and anguish coursing through our community affected all of us. So there were Friends who, given that criterion, might well have been candidates, when the doors of Friends House opened in April, 1997. However, as far as I can recall now, there was no one of them who was homeless. Even if there had been someone in our midst who might have qualified, we the sponsors of this residence would have had to have made a special request of NYC/HRA for a Friend to be given preference as a potential tenant. We were, it should be said, appreciated by the agency as a religious sponsor of such housing that welcomed gay men. By the way, I'm pleased to say that Friends House, now known as CitiLeaf Housing, is still providing that service.

There is a misconception that Friends House, through efforts by non-Friends on its board, was "stolen" from us about ten years ago. I prefer to say we were out-manuevered by folks who hoped to gain access to a valuable piece of property. The City ended that ambition by subsequently imposing a twenty-year lease extension that requires Friends House to be used only for low-income tenants with special needs. The community is still benefiting from a service we established but NYQM has been spared many hours of discussion about how to keep it running. I say that's a blessing.

Friends with questions about this article can contact me directly at 347-727-8732 or [iagomorgan5@gmail.com](mailto:iagomorgan5@gmail.com). In Friendship, Jim Morgan

### Cedars/Fox Hall

**Carol Jackson, Margery Cornwell and John Maynard** (15th St Meeting), *as told to Elizabeth Gilmore*

Cedars/Fox Hall, in the Longwood section of The Bronx, is a develop-

ment of supportive and affordable housing in the city. The house was never intended or expected to provide any sort of housing for Friends unless they fit in an income or special needs category.

It began with a small group of Friends, including Carol Jackson, Steven Monroe Smith, Frederica Azania Clare, Patty Frascatore, Maureen Healy and John Maynard, with Tony Shitemi serving as the principal architect. This group of Friends formed Friends in the City, Inc. (since laid down, in 2019), which planned for a project involving energy-efficient geothermal heating and cooling, the rebuilding of a run-down community landmark building, a community garden, and the planting of insulating greenery on the roof. They worked in conjunction with the Lantern Group, which is an experienced non-profit developer and manager of permanent housing for homeless and low-income New Yorkers as well as a provider of social services to formerly unhoused and inadequately housed

people of New York City communities. Groups who receive housing and supportive services from the Lantern Group include individuals and families living with AIDS, mental illness, addictive illnesses, and youth aging out of foster care.

Lantern Group managed the development—including the public financing applications, construction, and renewal of public service contracts—for Cedars/Fox Hall. As the project lives on under non-profit control by the Lantern Group, it continues to receive substantial and essential public funding. No project using government funds can offer special housing and service privileges to groups with religious or other private affiliations.

Cedars/Fox Hall is a handsome facility, now providing much needed housing and services. Once again, as in the case of Rose Hill, Friends spearheaded a housing project that continues to serve many in need without bearing the burden of continuing supervision and support.



## Gold and Indigo

**Cai Quirk**

golden strands woven in indigo darkness  
the smooth cool night a warm embrace  
balancing lustrous gleaming filaments

metal and silk settle against my skin  
tonight I am the world, the sky and stars,  
flowers and fish, sun and twilight

stars sparking a nighttime glow  
meteors darting like needles through  
the supple blanket encircling earth

gold and indigo walk hand in hand  
through beds of citrine and amethyst  
through oceans laced with glittering fish

as the sky turns towards twilight  
asters and goldenrod twine together  
glowing in the fading sun

like roiling clouds with rippling lightning  
I am indigo with touches of gold  
dancing in my depths

*Cai Quirk (they/them) is the current artist-in-residence at Pendle Hill where they are creating a series called 'Beyond Pink & Blue' which uses poetry and photography to explore aspects of gender through metaphors of color. They will give two talks online in early June at the end of their four months at Pendle Hill. To see details, register for upcoming events, and sign up for Cai's listserv to hear about future art, visit [CaiQuirk.com](http://CaiQuirk.com).*

## New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions • July 24-30, 2022

In Person at Silver Bay YMCA, Lake George, NY, and Online via Zoom Videoconference

### STEPS TO SUMMER SESSIONS (how to register)

- **If you will be attending online**, you can skip these steps and head to registration at [www.nnym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nnym.org/summer-sessions-2022). You will receive a confirmation email after you register.
- **If you will be attending in person**, start with deciding on your arrival and departure dates. **The full week is July 24-30, 2022.** You can also attend for a half week or single day(s); view the "Week at a Glance" on page 8.
- Determine who you will be rooming with, if possible. Please note that children under 18 must room with a parent or in an adjoining room.
- Choose your housing preference using the building and room rate list at [nyym.org/lodging](http://nyym.org/lodging). The list includes the different Pay As Led rates you will be asked to consider.
- Parents of children ages 5-18: Read the **Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)** section on the right side of this page.
- Parents of children ages 0-4: Read **For children under 5 years old** within the JYM section on the right.
- Read the **Participant Expectations and Agreements** on the [nyym.org/sessions-committee](http://nyym.org/sessions-committee) page, as registering indicates that you agree to follow them.
- **Register online at [www.nnym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nnym.org/summer-sessions-2022)**. If you cannot register online, or need assistance, please email [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) and provide your phone number and times that we can call you. If you don't have email, please call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750.
- You will receive a confirmation email after you've registered.
- Within two weeks, once you've been assigned to a room, you will receive an email with the Pay As Led rate options and a link to make a payment. If your local meeting, regional meeting, or committee will be financially supporting your attendance, you should request that now, and factor in that amount when determining which rate you will pay.
- Parents will receive a follow-up email that will include any additional forms they may have to fill out for their children. Parents and children will also receive information from their JYM group.



A group of young Friends heads out to hold worship on the lake using kayaks borrowed from Silver Bay, 2018. (This seems like a very COVID-safe way to worship in person—take note!)

*continued from page 1:*

Friends are encouraged to take a COVID test before leaving for Silver Bay and to stay home if they test positive. Friends are also encouraged to be fully vaccinated and boosted as they are eligible.

Please note that we will be sharing some spaces on the Silver Bay campus, including the cafeteria, with guests who are not part of the NYYM community. There are screened-in and outdoor dining areas attached to the cafeteria, and take-away meals should be available. The other Silver Bay guests and employees will be subject to Silver Bay's COVID restrictions, which follow the current NY State COVID protocols.

### You Are Invited!

Everyone, regardless of your level of experience with Quakerism or the yearly meeting, is invited to attend Summer Sessions. At Summer Sessions, Friends gather to worship, play, discern, chat, discuss, learn, and simply BE together with other Quakers. There's a children and youth program for those attending in-person. Separate online and in-person worship sharing groups will be formed. Meetings for business and the plenary will be hybrid, both in person and online. We hope to offer Community Worship as a hybrid experience as well. Interest groups and committee meetings may be offered in person or online.

Updates, reminders, and further information will be emailed to the NYYM list and posted online at [nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022). Remember, the fee for Sessions is Pay as Led, which is designed to enable Friends of differing financial situations to attend and relies on generosity from those who can pay more. The deadline for registrations for those attending in person is **June 1**. If you register after that date, we can't guarantee that there will be a room available for you, and lower Pay as Led rates may not be available. So please register as soon as you can!

**What is NYYM Summer Sessions?** New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), the organization that encompasses the Quaker congregations in NY State, northern NJ, and southwestern CT, gathers together for a weekend in spring and in fall and for a week in summer. This annual summer meeting is what gives us the name "yearly meeting". In addition to meeting for business, Friends worship, share experiences, and create a sense of community together. This year, Summer Sessions will be "hybrid," both online and in person. The location for in-person Summer Sessions is Silver Bay YMCA, a campus of buildings that includes other activities and amenities on Lake George in the Adirondacks. The 2022 Sessions theme is **"Being Changed, Living Faithfully."**

### Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)

**Junior Yearly Meeting** is the program for children ages 5-18 attending Summer Sessions in person. Groups are arranged according to grade, and meet every morning, Mon.-Fri., from the rise of Community Worship to lunchtime at 12:15 p.m. JYM volunteers plan a community-building week of activities for the children, including games, discussions, art projects, and more. JYM is a time for young people to experience a community based on Friends' testimonies and practices. Age-appropriate, experiential Quaker content is part of the program, and groups will spend some time in quiet worship or worship sharing every day.

**For children under 5 years old**, Silver Bay offers childcare through their Silver Camp on Monday through Friday mornings from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Parents do not pay for this; NYYM covers the cost. If you might use Silver Bay's morning childcare, you should complete the NYYM-Silver Bay camp form, which will be emailed to you after you register.

**Can my child go to Silver Bay without me?** Yes! If your child is under 18, they may attend Silver Bay with an adult chaperone. They must room with the chaperone if possible and appropriate; otherwise they should be in adjoining rooms. The chaperone must be designated by the parent/guardian on their registration forms, and must be at least 10 years older than the young Friend they are chaperoning. The chaperone and the child should know each other reasonably well. The parent/guardian must provide a signed note giving the chaperone the authority to care for their child, to be presented at JYM registration.





### Week At a Glance (WAAG)

Below is the Week At A Glance (or WAAG) schedule for Summer Sessions, as of April. This schedule is subject to change and lists all in-person events, some of which are hybrid or have online alternatives. Those details are still being worked out at press time.

Note that the full length of each meal time is listed in case people wish to stagger their use of the cafeteria to avoid crowds or accommodate the eating habits of young children.

### A Preview of the Week

Summer Sessions begins on **Sunday** with check-in at the Inn, then settling into your room before dinner. After dinner is the introductory opening worship, at which the roll call is held and children are introduced to their Junior Yearly

Meeting (JYM) groups. **Monday-Friday**, there's a new morning schedule that begins with community worship, an interactive worship for all ages; afterward, children go to their JYM groups until lunch, and adults attend meeting for worship with a concern for business, followed by worship sharing, before lunch.

On **Monday afternoon** committee meetings and the first set of interest groups are held. Monday night is the plenary panel, "Living faithfully invites us to be changed." **Tuesday** is the day for Meetings for Discernment, extended periods of worship on a set of queries, with time in between for community worship, worship sharing, and bible study. **Wednesday afternoon** is the Fun(d) Fair, with playful activities run by JYM groups, and the Tagless Tag Sale, followed by

Coordinating Committee Meetings. **Wednesday night** is the contra dance with a live caller and another set of interest groups to choose from. **Thursday afternoon** will have another meeting for business, and the all-ages talent show known as Café Night is that evening. **Friday afternoon** offers more time for committee meetings. After dinner on **Friday** we gather to hear the epistles from the JYM groups and hold a culminating meeting for business while the JYMers hold a bonfire with s'mores at Slim Point. **Saturday** is the day to travel home, after breakfast and a last meeting for worship.

We can't wait to see you, whether you'll be in person or on a screen. Register **by June 1** at: [www.nym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nym.org/summer-sessions-2022)

2022 NYYM SUMMER SESSIONS WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE July 24 - July 30										
Being Changed, Living Faithfully										
	JYM program runs from 9:30 am - 12:15 pm, Monday-Friday									
	Sunday 7/24	Monday 7/25	Tuesday 7/26	Wednesday 7/27	Thursday 7/28	Friday 7/29	Saturday 7/30			
6:00 AM		Early swim at Bay Beach (6:30 am); Coffee, Communion, & Conversation on Auditorium Porch (6:00 am)						6:00 AM		
6:30 AM								6:30 AM		
7:00 AM		Boathouse Worship/ JYM Volunteer Meeting Morse Hall/ Hymn Singing at Hughes Chapel						7:00 AM		
7:30 AM		BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30 am (continental, 7:00 - 7:30; full breakfast served 7:30 - 9:00 am)						7:30 AM		
8:00 AM								8:00 AM		
8:30 AM		Community Worship 8:45-9:15 am					Vacate Room by 11am	8:30 AM		
9:00 AM								9:00 AM		
9:30 AM		Meeting for Business 9:15-10:45 am	Meeting for Discernment 9:15-10:45 am	Meeting for Business 9:15-10:45 am			Closing Worship 9:30-11:00 am	9:30 AM		
10:00 AM								10:00 AM		
10:30 AM								10:30 AM		
11:00 AM		Worship Sharing 11:00 am - 12:00 pm					Safe Travels!	11:00 AM		
11:30 AM								11:30 AM		
12:00 PM		LUNCH 12:15 - 1:00 pm (cafeteria serves lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm)						12:00 PM		
12:30 PM								12:30 PM		
1:00 PM		Rest & Relaxation 1:00-2:00 pm		R & R	Rest & Relaxation 1:00-2:00 pm			1:00 PM		
1:30 PM				Fun(d) Fair & Tag Sale 1:30- 3:00 pm			1:30 PM			
2:00 PM		Committee Meetings 2:15 -4:00 pm	Meeting for Discernment 2:15-5:15 pm	Coordinating Committee Meetings 2:15-5:15 pm	Meeting for Business 2:15 -5:15 pm	Committee Meetings 2:15-4:00 pm	2:00 PM			
2:30 PM							2:30 PM			
3:00 PM							3:00 PM			
3:30 PM		Interest Groups 4:15-5:15 pm				Coordinating Committee Meetings 4:15-5:15 pm	3:30 PM			
4:00 PM	Check-in on Inn Porch 4-5:30 pm							4:00 PM		
4:30 PM								4:30 PM		
5:00 PM		5:00 PM								
5:30 PM	DINNER 5:30 - 6:30 pm (cafeteria serves dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm)						5:30 PM			
6:00 PM							6:00 PM			
6:30 PM	Opening Worship 6:45 - 7:45 pm	Bible Study 6:45-7:30 pm				JYM Epistles & Meeting for Business 6:45-9:15 pm	6:30 PM			
7:00 PM							7:00 PM			
7:30 PM		Plenary 7:45-9:30 pm	Reflections on Meeting for Discernment 7:45-9:00 pm	Contra Dance & Interest Groups 7:45-9:00 pm	Café Night 7:15-9:00 pm		7:30 PM			
8:00 PM	JYM intro 8pm							8:00 PM		
8:30 PM								8:30 PM		
9:00 PM							9:00 PM			
9:30 PM								9:30 PM		
10:00 PM	12-step program 10-11pm						10:00 PM			
10:30 PM							10:30 PM			
11:00 PM	QUIET TIME starts at 11:00 pm						11:00 PM			
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			