



# SPARK

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

Volume 55, Number 2

15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

May 2025



## Lives of Remarkable Friends

*At Quaker memorial meetings we celebrate the lives of amazing Friends through the stories and ministry shared by those present. This issue is an opportunity to share those stories beyond those who were present at a memorial meeting.*



Bill Vickrey's Nobel Peace Prize. Photo by Susan Weisfeld.

### A Golden Reminder of a Remarkable Friend

**Susan Weisfeld**  
Scarsdale Meeting

When I came to Scarsdale Friends Meeting over 25 years ago, seeking to find a spiritual path compatible with my beliefs, I found many wonderful mentors. Among them were Bill Vickrey and his wife Cecile, who we all called Cile. They were never too busy to answer my myriad of questions and we had many interesting discussions on a number of topics. I knew Bill was a professor of economics at Columbia, but had no idea he was world famous. Cile was a wonderful warm and supportive f/Friend, and member of an inter-

*continued on page 4*

### Joe & Louise

**Susan Tannehill**  
Buffalo Meeting

Every late August and early September, I remember my first Quaker meeting in Buffalo—the third Sunday in September 1993. I only know it was 3rd Sunday because I was invited to stay for potluck which was always held third Sunday. I declined, but left knowing I'd found my spiritual home.

This morning, I woke up thinking about the Quakers who were there in 1993 and was inspired to share some stories about them. Louise Anzalone was my first thought, and her husband Joe was my second. Louise was a kindergarten teacher and Joe was a school librarian. Both of them challenged and stretched my idea of what a Quaker was, and what ministry might look like.

In 1993, multiple piercings were uncommon, but Louise had pierced earrings all the way up the outer rim of both ears. Each one different. She and her husband were Bills / Sabres/ Bandits fans, and on game Sundays they came to meeting wearing matching team sweatshirts. The same went for every holiday. Halloween, Thanksgiving; always two theme-based sweatshirts.

Louise taught me about food ministry. Each potluck, she brought multiple dishes in avocado green

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### What Does "Remarkable" Mean?

**Margery Cornwell**  
15th Street Meeting

When the editor first mentioned the idea for a *Spark* issue based on recollections of "remarkable" Friends, I responded with enthusiasm. At first I thought I knew just whom I would write about. However, as I considered the concept of "remarkable" over the past few months, I have come to define the word in different ways.

I have been a member of Fifteenth Street Friends Meeting in New York City for sixty-five years, arriving in the early '60s when I became a convinced Friend as a young adult. I sat in worship with Bayard Rustin, Barrington Dunbar and Rachel DuBois. These were indeed "remarkable" Friends, leaders in many ways, whom I admired from afar as did many others. I did not know their personal likes and dislikes, joys and sorrows. These were "remarkable" Friends, figure-heads, those whom I learned from but only interacted with occasionally. I especially remember, however, one First Day when I walked across the meeting room to introduce my newly adopted, biracial toddler son to Barrington. He put his hand, a

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**Dare to Hope!  
Dare to Heal!  
Dare to Witness!**



**SUMMER  
SESSIONS  
2025**

**Summer Sessions  
July 25-30, 2024**

**At Oakwood Friends School  
and Online (Hybrid)**

Summer Sessions is the largest annual gathering of New York Yearly Meeting Friends and is the reason why our group is referred to as a "Yearly Meeting." We gather to worship, play, learn, conduct business, and have fellowship. A Quaker community is created during our time together, and many find this to be a powerful and joyful experience. Summer Sessions is open to anyone who is Quaker or Quaker-curious in NY, CT, NJ, and beyond.

**In-Person Location is  
Oakwood Friends School**

NYYM will again meet at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, NY, for Summer Sessions. Oakwood is part of our yearly meeting; a Quaker boarding school for grades 5-12

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**Remarkable  
Friends:  
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**Summer Sessions:  
pp. 5-8**

## Notices

### New Members

Peter Butterfield, Schenectady  
Thomas (Bix) Crossman,  
Manasquan  
Valerie (Val) Crossman,  
Manasquan  
Sweet Miche Hunter Fitoden,  
Brooklyn  
Monica Heavey, Buffalo  
Richard Perry Mattocks, Pough-  
keepsie  
Michelle Rodriguez, Brooklyn  
Naledi Semela, Morningside  
Carl Trost, Buffalo

### Transfers

Leo Pickens, from Annapolis  
Meeting to Saranac Lake  
Meeting

### Deaths

Marylou Charles, Poplar Ridge,  
on Aug. 28, 2024  
Susan Perkins, Manasquan, on  
Jan. 26, 2025)  
Nathaniel Hubbard, Bethpage  
Preparative, on Feb. 3, 2025  
Patrick Joseph Finn, Buffalo, on  
Feb. 17, 2025  
Elaine Chamberlain, Buffalo, on  
Mar. 9, 2025

## NEWS

### Sign up for the Weekly Update

An email newsletter is sent to NYYM Friends each Friday. Past editions are available at [nyym.org/weekly-updates](http://nyym.org/weekly-updates). To subscribe, fill out the brief form at [nyym.org/subscribe](http://nyym.org/subscribe).

### Wear Orange for Gun Violence Awareness on June 8th

Wear orange to raise awareness and to honor victims and survivors of gun violence! Simply wear something orange, take a picture at your meeting of those participating, and email it to Peter Murchison at [pdmurch@gmail.com](mailto:pdmurch@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Transforming Quaker Culture: Building Authentic Spiritual Community

June 13-15, 2025 at Powell House

Time after time, early Friends returned to meeting for worship because of their direct experiences of transformation and the loving support of their community. We will build on our skills of supporting one another, addressing harm, and spiri-



## Around Our Yearly Meeting

tually navigating conflict to hear our collective truth and leadings. [www.powellhouse.org/event-list/](http://www.powellhouse.org/event-list/)

### Summer Sessions: July 25-30, 2025, Online and at Oakwood

Summer Sessions 2025 will be at Oakwood Friends School and online from dinnertime on Friday, July 25, to lunchtime on Wednesday, July 30. See pages 5-8 of this issue for more and find updates at [nyym.org/summer-sessions-2025](http://nyym.org/summer-sessions-2025).

### Friends General Conference Young Adult & Youth Gathering (YAY)

July 2-6, 2025 in Clarkston, MI  
YAY is an intergenerational Quaker event for children, youth, and young adults (0-35). We come together for play, connection, laughter, spiritual practice, learning and rest with family members and event volunteers of all ages.

YAY puts young people at the center while celebrating the gifts that each generation brings to our community.

[www.fgcquaker.org/yay/](http://www.fgcquaker.org/yay/)

### Faith-Based Reparative Justice: A Tool for Racial Healing

July 10 - 13 at Pendle Hill, PA  
Join faith leaders and congregants in an in-depth conference to learn about the multiple dimensions of reparations and reparative justice. Discover how you can invite your congregation deeply into this work in a multi-faith movement for reparations, with a vision for deep truth-telling, repair, and wealth redistribution with the faith community moving toward this work as a spiritual calling and moral imperative. [pendlehill.org/events/](http://pendlehill.org/events/)

## FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Check Children, Youth and Young Adult Community Director Beth Kelly's list: [nyym.org/yaf-events](http://nyym.org/yaf-events)

### Continuing Revolution 2025: Queer Liberation and Spirit-Rooted Justice

June 12-14, 2025, Friends Place on Capitol Hill (DC), and online  
An annual gathering of young adults (ages 18-35) seeking to connect their spiritual, political, and interpersonal lives. This year's retreat, coinciding with the World Pride celebration in Washington, DC, focuses on queer liberation. Participants will explore where their spiritual practice intersects with the collective pursuit for queer liberation.

### Origin Stories & Super Powers Young Adults (18+)

In-Person at Powell House  
August 15-17, 2025.

The mythical heroes of the world — from Hercules to T'Challa to Katniss Everdeen—have stories that explain how they came to have the powers and concerns they possess. What does it mean to consider our own origins? What superpowers—or Kryptonite—do our own pasts give us? Let's spend a weekend exploring the mythologies of our own lives and build community based on our strengths! [www.powellhouse.org/event-list/](http://www.powellhouse.org/event-list/)

## FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

### Powell House Youth Conferences

Visit [powellhouse.org/event-list/](http://powellhouse.org/event-list/) to register or call 518-794-8811.

### Nature & Me — 4th-5th Grade

June 13-15, 2025  
A lot of people think of themselves as separate from nature. The truth is that we are as much a part of nature as any living being. At this conference we will explore what connects us to nature and how it feels to be in nature. You can expect games and plenty of time in the woods around Powell House.

### Make This Summer Unforgettable at Young Peacemakers Week!

August 18-24, Albany, NY  
From August 18-22, kids in grades 2-8 will embark on a one-of-a-kind summer adventure. Rooted in the values of peace and community, YPW is a joyful experience full of art, music, drama, nature, and connection.

Through hands-on activities, thoughtful discussions, and playful role-playing, kids explore what it means to resolve conflict peacefully, build bridges across differences, and grow into compassionate leaders.

Hosted at the welcoming Albany Friends Meetinghouse, this long-standing summer tradition helps kids explore their creativity, express their voices, and build lasting relationships.

Cost is what feels right for your family. No one is ever turned away due to inability to pay.

Register and find out more at: [www.youngpeacemakersweek.weebly.com](http://www.youngpeacemakersweek.weebly.com)

Questions about registration?

Contact Nancy Mattice at [nmattice99@gmail.com](mailto:nmattice99@gmail.com)  
All other inquiries: Anita Stanley, 518-441-7722 or [meridiancomm@earthlink.net](mailto:meridiancomm@earthlink.net)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Quaker Job Openings

**Friends General Conference:**

[www.fgcquaker.org/work-at-fgc/](http://www.fgcquaker.org/work-at-fgc/)

**American Friends Service**

**Committee:** [afsc.org/careers](http://afsc.org/careers)

**Friends Committee on National Legislation:** [www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni](http://www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni)



### In Need? Apply Now to the Stevens and Nathaniel Smith Funds

These two small funds are held by NYYM Trustees to assist members of New York Yearly Meeting who, through age or disability, may be in need. These Friends may be pastors, ministers, or other members of New York Yearly Meeting who have been of service to our yearly meeting.

Decisions will be made by the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee **by the end of June** and are based on need. A link to the application is at [nyym.org/content/nyym-financial-resources-individuals-and-meetings](http://nyym.org/content/nyym-financial-resources-individuals-and-meetings)



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## A Letter and Minute On the Treatment of Immigrants and Refugees

*Conscience Bay Meeting has sent a letter concerning the treatment of immigrants and refugees to the Suffolk County Executive, the members of the Suffolk County Legislature, the Supervisor and members of the Town Council of the Town of Brookhaven, and the Supervisor and members of the Town Council of the Town of Smithtown. The text of the letter follows:*

Conscience Bay Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was established in St. James in 1961. Most of us live in western Suffolk County and have deep ties to the area. On 3/9/25, we met in a meeting for worship with attention to business and considered the circumstances currently faced by immigrants and refugees in our country. After prayerful consideration, we approved the following minute:

Conscience Bay Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is united in the centuries-old Quaker convictions that every person has that of God/Spirit within them, that all are equal in dignity and worth, that all are deserving of compassion and fair treatment. With this understanding of how we can live together in peace, we have a deep concern

for the well-being and rights of all. Therefore, we issue this public call for support and protection, without regard to their immigration status, of all immigrants and refugees in our extended community of Suffolk County, New York. We call upon our County officials to advocate and create policies that protect all individuals from unwarranted arrest, detention, or deportation.

We ask that our County police remain in compliance with their central mandate to "Serve and Protect." In fulfilling that vital and honorable role, there is no justification for our County or local police departments to act as surrogates for Federal Immigration (ICE) or associated agencies. We commend the ongoing efforts by individuals, organizations, and local governments to provide essential services, advocacy, and safety for immigrants and refugees.

It is our hope that you will do all that you can to protect the rights of everyone within your jurisdiction and that you will fulfill the duty of every elected official to live up to the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the United States.



### Editor's Note

Hello Friends.

There's a new team planning Summer Sessions this year and they're bringing fresh energy and ideas. Look at the new "Week at a Glance" (WAAG) schedule on page 8; you'll notice a **full-day** Junior Yearly Meeting (youth) program and extended periods of community-building activities. The planners are considering nature-watching walks, games and craft projects, water play for kids, and trips to nearby sites. That's in addition to the Cafe Night talent show, the contra dance with live band, and the family-friendly opening and closing meetings for worship. You and your family are truly welcome and invited to attend.

*Spark* accepts article submissions of 400-600 words, artwork, poetry, shorter news items and announcements, and letters to the editor. Please share your gifts with the rest of NYYM. Email submissions to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org).

### Upcoming *Spark* themes: September 2025

Every year Friends experience a lot during the summer, whether it be Sessions, a protest, travel, camp, etc. And every year we receive many un-themed articles at this time of year. This summer, please share your writings on contemporary concerns, including your reports from Summer Sessions 2025, with the rest of New York Yearly Meeting.

Submit your contributions to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org) by **August 15**.

Send your meeting's news to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). If you'd like to join NYYM's weekly email list, visit [nyym.org](http://nyym.org)/subscribe.

NYYM is on **Facebook** (NewYorkYearlyMeeting) and on **Instagram** (newyorkyearlymeeting).  
—Sarah Way, NYYM  
Communications Director  
[communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org)

**Support New York  
Yearly Meeting:  
[NYYM.org/donate](http://NYYM.org/donate)**

## Epistle from the 2024-25 Cohort of Participating in God's Power

To all Friends everywhere,

The 2024-2025 cohort of School of the Spirit's "Participating in God's Power" program sends you its loving greetings. We are led to share with other Quakers some of the insights from our work together:

Relationships in community matter. Living connection to Spirit matters. Loving action in the world matters.

Over five long-weekend gatherings and four day-long Zoom calls, we have developed an intentional community of mutual support and accountability. This support in our seeking has led us to a deeper connection to the Divine Spark, beyond that which we have experienced before.

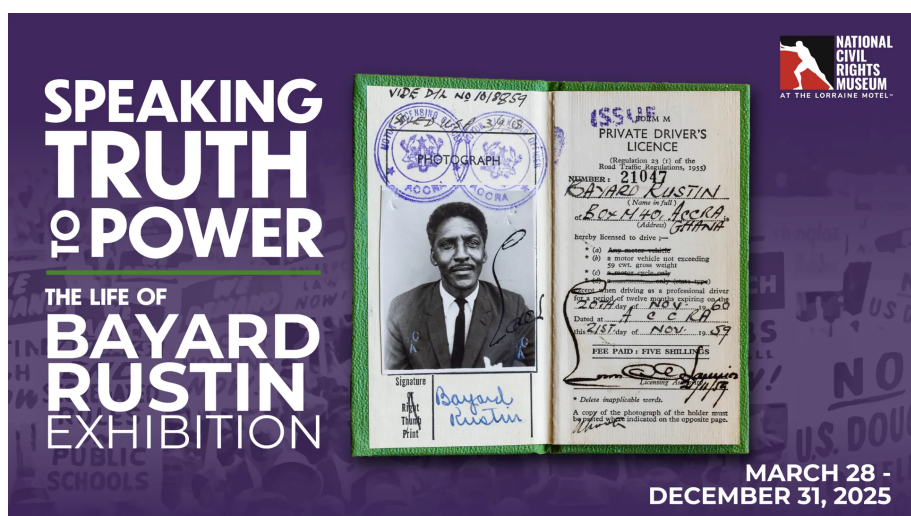
We know this connection to the divine to be primary, the first condition necessary for work in the world. Without it, our work is subject to the wounds of our ego. With it, we can see the way to be active in the healing work the world needs. Our experience together is that outward action is sustained by divine connection—and divine connection is strengthened by outward action.

We need Meetings that are committed to learning how to do both of these together. We have learned that our cups can runneth over if we work to keep the cup full and let God help. We need each other, and we need God through one another. We are committed to learning how to keep asking for what we need.

We know finding unity of spirit together can feed the power of our action in the world. We know we cannot force change on another. True change-making connection can only happen when we listen with care, respond with compassion, and keep love and care in our hearts regardless of outcome.

We have found that we equip ourselves best for clear action by committing to a daily discipline—a practice for connecting with the Divine. We seek to listen for Spirit in each moment, each interaction, each action. We know the sacred in the world shows up uniquely; that is, we each can make change in the context, at the scale, among

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## Bayard Rustin Exhibit at Civil Rights Museum

"Speaking Truth to Power: The Life of Bayard Rustin" is on display until December 31, 2025 at the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN. The first exhibit to examine the breadth of Rustin's activism features documents, artwork, music, and video clips that chronicle his growth from a radical Quaker pacifist to a global human rights

advocate. Items include rare papers from the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and flyers from his early work with the American Friends Service Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. For more information, visit the museum's website: [civilrightsmuseum.org/exhibition/speaking-truth-to-power/](http://civilrightsmuseum.org/exhibition/speaking-truth-to-power/)

—Walter Naegle





# Lives of Remarkable Friends

## A Golden Reminder of a Remarkable Friend

Susan Weisfeld  
Scarsdale Meeting

*continued from page 1*

esting Quaker group that followed the philosophy of Carl Jung. She was part of my clearness committee when I became a member of Scarsdale Friends Meeting.

Bill's messages in meeting often concerned wage equality, ideas on how to make full employment a reality, and remembrances from Florida Avenue Meeting in Washington DC. But what I didn't know was that congestion pricing was pretty much his idea—I wonder what he would think of the controversy now happening in NYC! EZ-Pass is also the result of his ideas to ease travel congestion. Bill also formulated the idea behind ranked choice voting, also known as *Quadratic voting*, now becoming more popular throughout the U.S.

Imagine my shock while driving to hear on the radio that Bill Vickrey, who had just won the Nobel Prize in Economics with co-economist James Mirlees, had a heart attack and died on the side of the road while returning from a conference.

My friend—dead? Nobel Prize? Bill Vickrey?? Cannot be true—but it was. All of us were in shock and rallied to help Cile through this sad time. Bill's good friend, C. Lowell Harris, another Columbia economist, went to Sweden and accepted the prize in Bill's stead and brought the Nobel medallion home to Cile.

Years later, Cile sold her house and had an estate sale with another accomplished and supportive Friend, Bill Seltzer, as executor. After the sale he brought me the heavy beautiful golden medallion and said "Cile feels you would know what to do with it." That was incredibly moving, but the responsibility was somewhat daunting. But way will open, and it did: I knew about the Swarthmore Quaker Historical Library and called the librarian, who said her husband would meet me in Manhattan to get the medal. Before that I brought it to NYYM Sessions twice to show Friends,



Bill Vickrey.

because Bill was one of us and here was a chance to see something beautiful and memorable.

And then Covid came, and I couldn't get the medal to Haverford. Last summer I went to FGC Gathering at Haverford and met both librarian curators for the Quaker collections. NYYM papers and memorabilia are at Swarthmore and all Friends are welcome for a personal tour to see our history and to do any research on Friends in the US. And there you can see the gold medal that reflects the world's recognition of this wonderful man's accomplishments.

Writing this, I miss Bill all over again, but I am also so honored to have been given the responsibility of this part of his legacy.

## What Does "Remarkable" Mean?

Margery Cornwell  
15th Street Meeting

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very large and comfortable one, on Bartholomew's head, and I felt we had both been blessed by this "remarkable" man.

One "figurehead" Friend I did know quite well was Lawrence Apsey. (Virginia, his wife, always called him Lawrence, as did I.) I worked with Lawrence at the Quaker Project on Community Conflict in the basement of 218 E. 18th Street in New York in the '60s. While I was a young and fairly new Friend, Lawrence supported me completely as I organized nightly

patrols to minister to the homeless population in the neighborhood of the meetinghouse. This initiated a shelter program that took many forms over the years, culminating in the 1980's in an established overnight shelter at 15 Rutherford Place which only recently closed.

Ross Flanagan also worked out of that office, organizing the Yearly Meeting's actions in response to the Vietnam War (and causing the U.S. Treasury Department to examine our budget!), and Lawrence developed his innovative dream which became the Alternatives to Violence Project. He was determined, firm, but inclusive, and was never dismissive of those younger and less experienced.

When Lawrence and Virginia moved into Manhattan, I adopted their collie dog. This dog was a gorgeous creature, a former show dog named Future Horoscope of Wimbourne. He was a beauty in looks, but he was most impressive because of his kind and generous personality, receiving petting from everyone with gentleness and enthusiasm. Similar and special qualities in "remarkable" human and animal companions.

I have been describing the leaders, the well-known "remarkable" Friends. But there is also that Friend whom one takes as a mentor and teacher to whom one relates with admiration, the Friend who is not famous but "remarkable." What are those qualities which enrich this guide? They are not self-promoters; on the contrary, they are includers. "I see your attributes. I support you and care about you." They have often done brave or creative acts, but one only learns about these acts from others. I raise up Bob Wightman, Asa Watkins, Eileen and Arthur Waring, Elizabeth Edminster, and Bobby Gonzalez as examples. And the women who taught me about being both loving and strong, worshipful and activist: Rose Wood, Rachel Wood, Henrietta Carey and Virginia. These Friends, all of whom are no longer with us, would probably be surprised to find themselves considered "remarkable", and that is just the point!

And now I come to my peers, people I have acted with and worshiped with over the years, people of my age who are my confi-

dants, supporters, antagonists, dear friends who know my strengths and weaknesses as well as I know theirs. These are those who have shared a deep spiritual insight, performed an outstanding act of support, ministered to a great need, remembered an important date, extended a great reach of love. And they will be noted by younger Friends as "remarkable" mentors. I hope they know who they are!



## Joe & Louise

Susan Tannehill  
Buffalo Meeting

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countertop cookers—I still remember her mashed potatoes with cheese. She began baking Christmas cookies and freezing them in October, winding up with 30+ different kinds of cookies. People still remembered her cookie exchange parties from years gone by. She collected nativities and had over 1000 of them.

Louise told stories about the kindergarten children in her inner-city school. My favorite was the jellybean story. A woman brought jellybeans to celebrate Easter. She handed the bag to Louise saying, "Don't let my son eat the black ones. They cause cancer." This story always made Louise chuckle. I thought Friends didn't really celebrate holidays, nor go in for lots of jewelry, but Louise changed that notion.

Joe had an eidetic memory—he remembered everything. Every Sunday after meeting he would go to the downtown library, pick up 5-6 books, and read every single one. I still have a neatly typed (yes, typed) slip of paper he brought me one Sunday with information about George Tannehill, an officer in the war of 1812. He thought I might know who he was. He remembered what you said, he remembered what he read and would regularly share some tidbit about YOUR interest found in his reading.

They traveled extensively, driving all the way to Mexico over Easter break. Summers were reserved for travel abroad. When my son was learning the bagpipes, Joe brought

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him a Gaeta—a Spanish bagpipe that he and Louise had gotten on their travels. It's still on Abe's bedroom wall.

Joe and Louise had at least one Quaker story that they shared as a couple: they always said that Joan Baez (a famous folk singer, now in her 80s) sang at their wedding. She did. She was 9.

I don't remember either of them offering vocal ministry, but Joe's perspective as Quaker historian, and Louise's cooking and her humorous, slightly cynical, outlook and the way they hung together added much to our meeting. Louise died first, and Joe seemed lost without her.

So were we.

My point in writing this is that it's a big table—there's room for everyone and their ministry—whatever it is. We need to stand with curiosity, wonder and gratitude for the myriad ways we all "do" human—and Quaker. 

## Martha Murdock

### Members of the family, including Faith Brzostoski

Martha Allen Murdock was called home to the mountains December 17, 2024.

Born In Asheville, North Carolina, she spent her childhood summers living with her family in a canvas tent at the Daniel Boone Boy Scout Camp. Her father, Alfred Allen, helped build and run the camp for many years. It was her time there that sparked her love for nature and taught her the names of all plants and animals. Martha also achieved an NRA Marksmanship certification during her time there. She loved to camp and was adept at starting campfires in the rain.

She attended North Carolina Women's College, University of Illinois, Chicago, and Pratt Institute where she received her Masters Degree in Library Science.

It was at University of Illinois where she met and married Chad Murdock, whom she had two sons with. In 1957 Martha and Chad moved to Pearl River, NY.


Martha had a passion for folk music, and could often be found leading songs around the campfire.

She became involved with the Pearl River Library when it was in the original building on S.Main Street and later went on to become both a Research Librarian and the library's Art Director for many years.

Martha was an active and adored member of Rockland Friends Meeting. Her home was always open to children of all ages.

She loved leading the children from her neighborhood on nightly walks in the spring where they would find frogs and identify them by their songs.

A part of Martha's heart always remained in the Appalachian Mountains, where she often visited her sister's family in Swannanoa, NC.

Martha is survived by sons Keith and wife Shaoli, Neil and wife Faith, her grandchildren William and Maia, and her sister Harriet Styles' children Allen and Dede. 

## Around Our Yearly Meeting

### Epistle from the 2024-25 Cohort of Participating in God's Power

*continued from page 3*

the people, and doing the thing that matches our innermost gift.

We know we may not yet fully know what our gifts are, and we know they can change. It's often hard to discern our own gifts. We need others to help us name them and to reflect them back to us.

To do the work we are called to, we have to be responsive to and follow the leadings given to us. We are convinced that now is the time to live fully into our calling. Living in this society, we cannot avoid being complicit.


Non-action poisons our souls.

We know we have what we need to be able to act.

We know we can only do what has been given us to do.

We know that only actions grounded in love can create the transformation the world needs.

In God's love,

*The 2024-2025 cohort of Participating in God's Power* 

**Dare to Hope!**  
**Dare to Heal!**  
**Dare to Witness!**



## Summer Sessions 2025

*continued from page 1*

with a green, compact, suburban campus with dorms, library, theater, a dining hall, and many hotels within a five minute drive. This year, Summer Sessions features a full day youth program and will begin with a weekend focused on intergenerational community building. Check out the new "Week-at-a-glance" schedule on page 8.

### Attending Online

Many Summer Sessions events will be hybrid—available on campus and online via Zoom—such as the plenaries, worship sharing, Bible study, meetings for worship and for business, and meetings for discernment. Online participants will be able to see and hear and speak at these events. Closed captioning will be available for meetings on Zoom.

### Online-only Events July 22, 23, and 24

Three online-only Summer Sessions events will precede the hybrid Sessions.

**Online Interest Groups** will be offered on Tuesday, July 22, 7:00-8:30 pm.

**Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business:** On the evening of Wednesday, July 23, the first business meeting of Summer Sessions 2025 will be held online. Meeting for business before the start of in-person Sessions allows us more time to offer multigenerational community-enriching activities at Oakwood.

**Meeting for Discernment Newcomers and Elders:** a gathering of those new to or interested in serving as an elder for meetings for discernment will take place on Thursday, July 24, 7:00-8:30 pm.

### Worship at Sessions

NYYM Summer Sessions provides many opportunities to worship and

share with the Peaceable Community. Everyone is invited to attend opening worship on Friday evening, meeting for worship Sunday morning, meeting for discernment on Monday, meetings for worship with a concern for business, and closing worship on Wednesday, all of which will be hybrid events. Evening prayers will be offered at the end of each evening's activities. Worship sharing groups will meet every morning Saturday-Wednesday.

### Business Meetings

At Sessions you are asked to lend your attention to meetings for worship with a concern for business. These meetings will begin with a period of worship to help spiritually center ourselves. The clerk leads us through an agenda of items, including reports of Friends' works and issues that require discernment or action on the behalf of the gathered body of Friends.

### Meeting for Remembrance

On Sunday afternoon, a hybrid Meeting for Remembrance will be held to recognize and hold in the Light Friends we have recently lost. At the meeting, names and their meeting affiliation will be read. For those who were active in the yearly meeting we will read brief excerpts from their memorial minute (if it has been transmitted to the NYYM office and clerk; email them to [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) and [clerk@nyym.org](mailto:clerk@nyym.org)). There will be time for Friends to speak in remembrance as they are led.

### Special Events

#### Plenary

In response to Friends' concerns the plenary this year may be a training on civil disobedience and other ways to respond to authoritarian situations. The plenary has not been decided as of press time but will be announced to the NYYM

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Opening worship in Oakwood School's Theater, Summer Sessions 2024. Photo by Sarah Way





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# SUMMER SESSIONS 2025

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email list; visit [nnyym.org/subscribe](http://nnyym.org/subscribe) to join.

## Bible Study

A Bible Study leader has not been chosen at press time but will be announced to the NYYM email list. Quaker Bible study tends to be more analytical than a traditional Bible study. The stories in the Bible are open to Friends' interpretation and discussion. You are invited to share your perspective.

## Meetings for Discernment

Meetings for Discernment are periods of extended, waiting worship and deep listening to discern leadings and strengthen connections in our yearly meeting. The Summer 2025 Meeting for Discernment will be held in three sessions in-person at Oakwood Friends School and on Zoom on Monday, July 28. There will be a Zoom meeting on the evening of Thursday, July 24, at 7:00 p.m. for anyone new to the Meeting for Discernment or interested in holding space as an elder.

## Community Events

**Hybrid:** On Monday evening, the senior high school group will emcee Café Night, an all-ages talent show during which hats are passed to collect donations. Café Night will be streamed on Zoom and online performers are invited to participate. Bring your instruments and props!

**On Campus:** The afternoons of the opening weekend, Saturday and Sunday, will largely be devoted to intergenerational activities, possibly including games, field trips, volunteer work projects, and more. On Tuesday afternoon, Junior Yearly Meeting presents the Fun(d) Fair, a fundraising fair that includes games, crafts, and refreshments. At the same time, there is a "Tagless" Tag Sale, at which you can "pay what you wish" for items donated by Friends. Please consider bringing used items in good condition to Oakwood so they may be sold at the tag sale. Money raised will be donated to the NYYM Sharing Fund and Powell House. In addition, there will be a contra dance for all ages on Sunday evening.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Friends of all ages are invited to the beloved, formerly Junior Yearly Meeting-centered campfire. Expect singalongs and s'mores for everyone, together.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** An ice cream social for EVERYONE will take place after dinner on Saturday, followed by games or a movie.



Sheree Cammer and young Friend, Summer 2024. Photo: Julie Rudd

## Interest Groups

Interest groups will be offered online on Tuesday evening, July 22, and hybrid on Tuesday afternoon, July 29. If you'd like to share a leading, educate on a topic, or facilitate an activity for other Friends—in person or online or both—please contact [interest-group-coordinator@nnyym.org](mailto:interest-group-coordinator@nnyym.org).

## Attending In Person at Oakwood

Oakwood School is in Poughkeepsie, NY, at the end of the Metro North Rail Line and just off Rt. 9 on the east side of the Hudson River. We will meet in person from Friday afternoon, July 25, through Wednesday lunch, July 30.

The areas on campus that we will use are largely accessible. If you have mobility concerns, please contact [registration@nnyym.org](mailto:registration@nnyym.org) or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750.

## Meals

Meals are served in the Oakwood Dining Hall. Please sign up for meals on your Summer Sessions registration form and specify your dietary preferences and restrictions.

### Meal costs:

Breakfast: \$10; Lunch: \$14; Dinner: \$17  
 \$16/day for children under 12

*Note that if you're staying in a hotel, your stay may include breakfast.*

## Overnight Accommodations

**On campus**—Each dorm room has two twin beds. The charge will be \$70 a night per room for one bed, \$80 a night per room for two beds. Linens (sheets, pillow, blanket, towel, hand towel, washcloth) for each bed are included in the room price. Note that on-campus housing is "first come, first served," and will probably fill up; please register early if you want to stay on campus.

**With Friends**—There is a limited number of home hospitality offers from Friends in the area. You can indicate your interest in either of these options—staying on campus or with local Friends—on the registration form.

**Off Campus**—NYYM has reserved a block of rooms at a reduced rate (\$129+tax/night) at the nearby Residence Inn Poughkeepsie, 2525 South Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To reserve a room at the NYYM rate, call the hotel at (845) 463-4343, select option #1, and ask to reserve a room in the NYYM room block. You can also reserve online using a direct link on [nnyym.org/summer-sessions-2025](http://nnyym.org/summer-sessions-2025). Note that rooms will be released to the public on June 27 and are subject to availability after that, though the reduced rate will be honored if rooms are available. There are many other hotels in the area. There are also campgrounds nearby—you can see a list of recommended local campsites at [nnyym.org/summer-sessions-2025](http://nnyym.org/summer-sessions-2025).

Remember, if you're staying at a hotel or campground you must make your own reservation separate from your NYYM Sessions registration.

## COVID Concerns

Masks will be optional. Friends are encouraged to take a COVID test at home before coming to Oakwood. If you feel unwell, please stay home, regardless of COVID test results. If you feel ill at Oakwood you will be asked to take a test.



High schoolers at singalong, Summer 2024. Photo by Spee Braun

## In-person Nurture and Support Accessibility Concerns.

All the areas on campus that we will use during Summer Sessions are accessible, including the first floors of the dormitories. You will be able to request an accessible room and other accommodations on the registration form. Golf carts will be available to assist movement around campus. One way to help our community is to offer assistance to Friends who may need help getting around or carrying trays in the dining hall.

Live closed captioning will be available during Zoom meetings. Those attending Sessions in person may find closed captioning to be helpful when sound is quiet or garbled. Closed captions will be visible on the screen to the right of the stage.

**12-Step Meetings** will be held every day at 8:15 a.m. for 30 minutes for those on campus during Summer Sessions. Meetings will be coordinated by Cathy Ramey. Please contact Cathy at [12-step-coordinators@nnyym.org](mailto:12-step-coordinators@nnyym.org) if you are able and willing to facilitate a meeting or two.

**The Healing Center.** As in years past, the Healing Center will be a sacred space for Friends during Summer Sessions. The Healing Center operates on a temple model, not on a spa model. Seekers cannot expect to come for an appointment as if they were paying for services. Rather, seekers enter a sacred space where everyone present contributes prayerfully to the spiritual energy. Seekers can hold space, receive work, or join a meeting for healing—whatever is offered at the time.

**Whisper Buddies** is a joyful way to meet and connect with Friends who have a different amount of Quaker decision-making experience than you do. Through this program, Friends who are new to Quaker business meetings (or new to how New York Yearly Meeting holds them) can pair up with Friends who are more experienced and are willing to answer questions as they arise—by whispering, passing notes, or talking informally together after a committee meeting or Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. The introductory meeting for Whisper Buddies will take place at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 26.

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## Intergenerational Community Building

Our times of joyful, intergenerational community building are still being planned. Options include field trips to nearby sites, big group games (last year we played kickball), volunteer work projects, and more. There may be birding, bugging, moth-ing, and other nature walks; environmentally friendly crafts, peace rocks, and Quaker living activities. Friends are encouraged to help facilitate activities. Can you help? Please indicate your interest on your registration form.

## Children and Youth Programs

Our new **Family Center** will be open for children aged five and under to be cared for by experienced, paid childcare providers and supervised by JYM coordinators every day from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. In addition, on Monday and Tuesday, Family Center childcare will be available between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. This will enable parents to attend adult programming.

**Junior Yearly Meeting** is the program for children ages 5-18 attending Summer Sessions in person. Groups are arranged according to age or grade, and meet every day, Saturday through Tuesday, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This will enable parents to

attend afternoon programming or hang out with their children—see the Week-at-a-Glance Schedule on page 8.

Junior Yearly Meeting volunteers plan a community-building program 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. The JYM communal sing will take place on Tuesday morning. JYM groups will present their epistles to the rest of NYYM on Wednesday morning.

On Saturday and Sunday there will be intergenerational programming from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for all ages!

**High School Group:** The high school program will include a housing cluster, a lounge, and a full program of special activities throughout the day! Details and a schedule of high school activities will be available soon.

**Can my child go to Summer Sessions without me?** Yes! If your child is under 18, they may attend Summer Sessions with an adult chaperone. They must room with the chaperone if possible. The chaperone must be designated by the parent/guardian on their registration forms, must be at least 10 years older than the Friend they are chaperoning, and must bring a note



Face painting at the Fun(d) Fair, Summer 2024. Photo by Sarah Way signed by the parent/guardian to JYM check-in.

## Young Adult Friends

Young adult Friends (YAFs) form a community together at Summer Sessions. They can choose to join a YAF housing cluster if staying on campus—be sure to select that option on your registration form. Sessions will begin with a gathering to get to know each other and make plans for the rest of our time together. There will again be a nightly social time and epistle writing, and probably at least one workshop about how the yearly meeting functions and how young adults can participate. YAFs can also connect before, during, and after Sessions through a WhatsApp group. Please email Beth Kelly (bethk@nyym.org) with any questions.

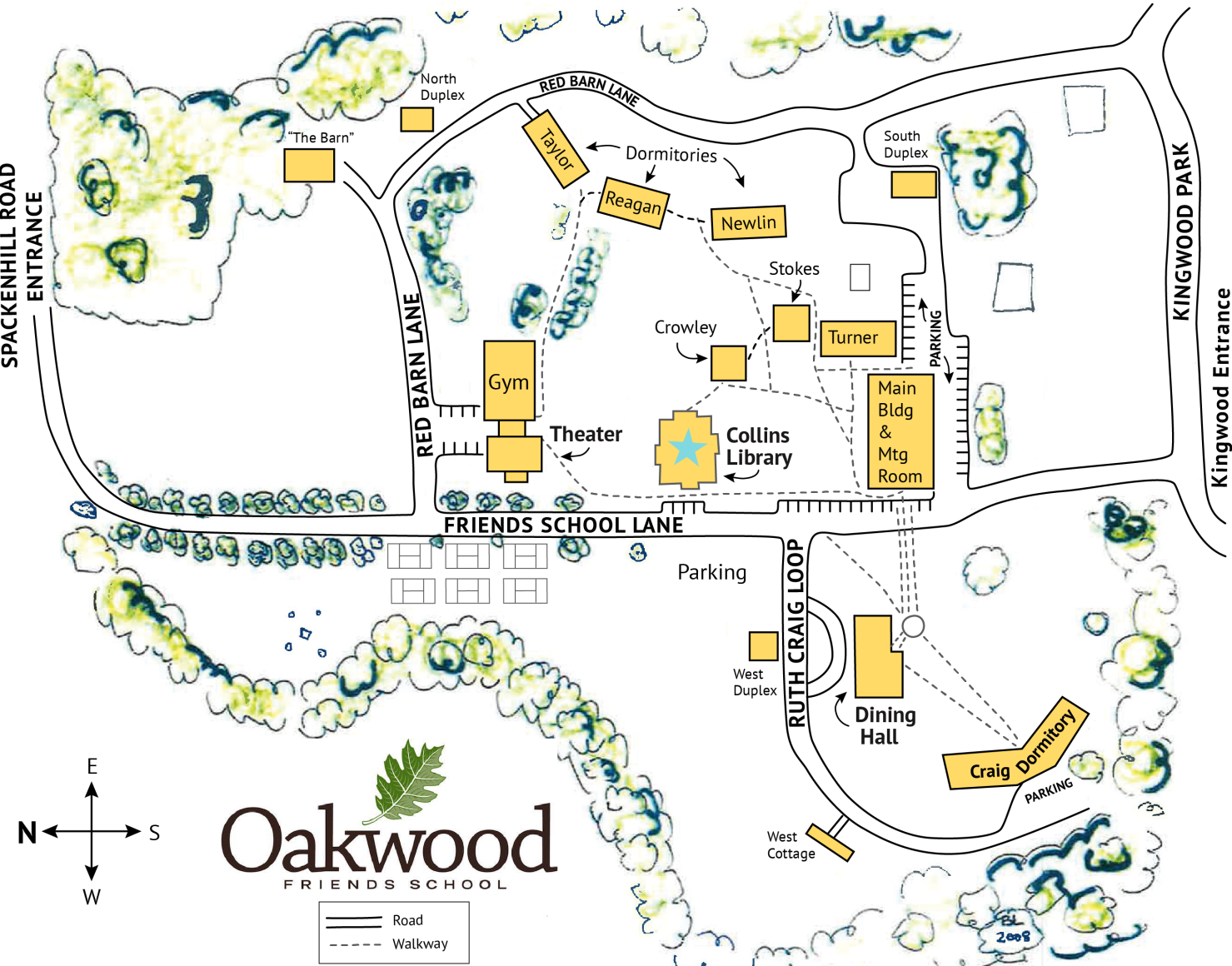
## Things to Consider Bringing

- clothes & shoes for warm days and cool nights
- refillable water bottle
- sunblock, hat, sunglasses, bug spray
- umbrella and rain gear
- swimsuit & towel (there are swimming and water-play possibilities)
- musical instruments or other props for the Café Night talent show
- if staying on campus, consider bringing a fan for your room, an extra blanket, a small lamp, and a bathrobe and shower shoes for the showers
- a laptop or device to access documents during business meetings.
- money to donate at Café Night, Fun(d) Fair and Tag Sale

## Transportation

The address for Oakwood School is 22 Spackenkill Rd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. The train station in Poughkeepsie is served by Metro-North (new.mta.info/schedules) and Amtrak (amtrak.com). Taxis are available at the

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train station to take you the 4 miles to Oakwood. The Sessions Committee plans to arrange for at least one van pick-up from the station on Friday and on Saturday; please indicate your interest on the registration form.

**Carpools:** Drivers who can offer rides and Friends who wish to find a ride can use the online Carpool Board at [www.groupcarpool.com/t/nxztst](http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/nxztst).

**Arrival:** Check in will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Please check in at Collins Library in the center of campus when you arrive. You will receive a name tag, your dorm room key if staying on campus, and a detailed program schedule. For those staying on-site, check-in will continue until 8:00 p.m. If arriving later, please make other arrangements for that evening or notify the Registrar before 5:00 p.m. on the arrival date by calling 212-673-2285.

## Pay as Led

Pay as Led is designed to enable newcomers and Friends of differing financial situations to attend Sessions together. After registering you will receive a follow-up email or letter with your

suggested Pay as Led rate options. The three options are: the standard rate, which covers the costs NYYM owes to Oakwood; the full rate, which helps others attend; and the supported rate, for those who would consider not attending due to cost. The Pay as Led plan relies on generosity from those who can afford to pay more.

If you need help paying for your transportation or off campus housing costs, please contact [registration@nyym.org](mailto:registration@nyym.org) or call the NYYM office at 212-257-5750.

## Ways to Help

**Work with children.** If your gifts lead you to contribute to the work of the yearly meeting through guiding the children, consider this your opportunity. We need resource people and group leaders; art people, games people, experienced old hands and newcomers. What we will have in common is delight in sharing time with children while at Summer Sessions. We expect to share much joy together. Contact Polly Duke and Lauren Scott at [jym-coordinators@nyym.org](mailto:jym-coordinators@nyym.org).

Indicate on your registration form if you'd like to help in one of these ways:

- **Drive a golf cart** around campus. If you are at

least 21 years old with a valid driver's license.

- **Staff the Healing Center.** Modalities may include energy work, massage, craniosacral therapy, and spiritual counseling.
- **Carry a microphone.** Help Friends hear each other during meetings.
- **Provide technical help.** Friends experienced with Zoom meetings are needed to assist Friends at home and on site at Oakwood.
- **Build community** by facilitating an intergenerational activity.
- **Help** with the Tagless Tag Sale, childcare during the Plenary, or facilitate a worship sharing group.

## REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

Registration is completely online. If you are unable to register online, please ask someone you know to assist you, or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750. Volunteers are ready, willing, and able to provide online registration assistance.

Updates and additional information will be emailed to the NYYM list and posted at [nyym.org/summer-sessions-2025](http://nyym.org/summer-sessions-2025). Not on the NYYM email list? Sign up at [nyym.org/subscribe](http://nyym.org/subscribe).



**Visit [nyym.org/summer-sessions-2025](http://nyym.org/summer-sessions-2025)**

## Summer Sessions 2025 WAAG (Week At A Glance) Schedule – *subject to change*

The two columns on Saturday-Tuesday show the JYM/youth activities happening during adult activities. Events with a bold, blue border are hybrid.

	Friday 7/25	Saturday 7/26		Sunday 7/27		Monday 7/28		Tuesday 7/29		Wednesday 7/30	
		Adults	JYM	Adults	JYM	Adults	JYM	Adults	JYM	Adults & JYM	
6:00 AM		Coffee and Communion/Early Worship, 6:00 - 7:00 am		Coffee and Communion/Early Worship, 6:00 - 7:00 am		Coffee and Communion/Early Worship, 6:00 - 7:00 am		Coffee and Communion/Early Worship, 6:00 - 7:00 am		Coffee and Communion/Early Worship, 6-7 am	
6:30 AM	Tues. July 22, 7:00-8:30 pm: Online Interest Groups										
7:00 AM											
7:30 AM		BREAKFAST 7:30-9:00 am		BREAKFAST 7:30-9:00 am		BREAKFAST 7:30-9:00 am		BREAKFAST 7:30-9:00 am		BREAKFAST 7:30-9:00 am	
8:00 AM		Whisper Buddies: 8:00 am									
8:30 AM		12 Step Meetings: 8:15-8:45 am		12 Step Meetings: 8:15-8:45 am		12 Step Meetings: 8:15-8:45 am		12 Step Meetings: 8:15-8:45 am		12 Step Mtg	
9:00 AM	Wed. July 23, 7:00- 9:00 pm: ONLINE Business Meeting 1	Worship sharing, 9-10	JYM 8:45 am-12 pm	*Worship sharing, 9-10	JYM 8:45 am-12 pm	Worship sharing, 9-10	JYM 8:45 am-12 pm	Worship sharing, 9-10	JYM 8:45 am-12 pm	Worship sharing, 9-10	
9:30 AM		Worship 9:30-10, Meeting for Business 2 10:15-11:55		Meeting for Worship 10:15-11:30		Meeting for Discernment 1, 10:15-11:55		Worship 9:30-10, Meeting for Business 3 10:15-11:55		JYM Epistle and Closing Worship 10:15 - 11:55 am	
10:00 AM											
10:30 AM											
11:00 AM											
11:30 AM											
12:00 PM	Thurs. July 24, 7:00-8:30pm Mtg for Discernment Newcomers & Elders	LUNCH 12:00-1:30 pm		LUNCH 12:00-1:30 pm		LUNCH 12:00-1:30 pm		LUNCH 12:00-1:30 pm		Lunch will be brown bag to grab & go	
12:30 PM											
1:00 PM											
1:30 PM											
2:00 PM		Intergenerational activities		Intergenerational activities and service		Meeting for Discernment 2, 1:30-3:30	JYM and Family Center, 1:30-3:30	Interest Group, 1:30-2:20, repeated 2:35-3:30	JYM preparing for Fun Fair and Tag Sale	Pack up & Departure -- Safe Travels!	
2:30 PM											
3:00 PM											
3:30 PM						Rest time	Intergenerational community building activities, 3:30-5:30	JYM Fun(d) Fair and Tag Sale, Dare to Witness Fair: Meet Committees and Orgs 3:30-5:30			
4:00 PM	Check in begins at 4:00 pm in The Hub/Collins Library	Plenary Speaker 3:30-5:30	JYM and Family Center, 3:30-5:30	Meeting for Remembrance 3:30-5:00	JYM and Family Center, 3:30-5:30	Reflections on Meeting for Discernment					
4:30 PM											
5:00 PM											
5:30 PM	DINNER 5:30 - 7:00 pm	DINNER 5:30 - 7:00 pm		DINNER 5:30 - 7:00 pm		DINNER 5:30 - 7:00 pm		DINNER 5:30 - 7:00 pm			
6:00 PM											
6:30 PM		Sat-Tues:		Bible Study / Singing on the Porch 6:30 - 7:15 pm							
7:00 PM	Welcome, Singing, 7:00-7:30pm										Meeting for Worship and for Business 4 — time/day to be announced
7:30 PM	Opening Worship, 7:30-8:15 pm JYM Intros 8:15-8:30	Ice Cream Social 7:30-8:00 pm				Café Night* 7:30-9:00 pm		Campfire 7:30 - 9:00pm			
8:00 PM		Game Night 8:00-9:30	Movie 8:00-9:30	Contra Dance, 7:30-9:30 pm							
8:30 PM											
9:00 PM			Evening Prayers		Evening Prayers				Evening Prayers		
9:30 PM											
10:00 PM				*Worship Sharing groups or 9:15 am							
10:30 PM				Worship with Manhattan Friends							
11:00 PM	QUIET TIME is 11:00 pm to 7:00 am										