

**Dear Friends,**

First, let me introduce your Interim Field Secretary team: Emily Provance and Jillian Smith. We are covering for Gabi's medical leave until she returns. Let's all send lots of love and Light to Gabi and her husband John Savory-Bailey along with their daughter Maddie and growing son Isaac!

What you will find here are events and worship groups. Consider this newsletter an invitation. Just like when you make an ice cream sundae and you select your toppings, when you plan your calendar year please consider adding these spiritual experiences that will not only benefit you but you will also give so much to each event! Please save these websites, and remember that you can always do more research! You may feel called to begin your own events like a book group or a community service group... that's all possible. Let your Light shine! Feel free to reach out to Emily [epro Vance@hotmail.com](mailto:epro Vance@hotmail.com) or Jillian [jilliankianasmith@gmail.com](mailto:jilliankianasmith@gmail.com) with all of your ideas and passions if you don't see them here. Also try not only going to your Meeting for Worship but also try going to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business'; our community is an experience so learning the style will only happen in the room.

Joyfully yours,

Jillian and Emily

P.S. We are both going to FWCC in PERU! Wanna see more about our Quaker trip? Try this website! <http://www.fwcc.world/>



# WHY AM I?

## An Exploration of Authenticity, Integrity, and Courage

You are invited to Fifteenth Street for a one-day retreat focused on finding and illuminating your heart's Truth. Together, we will make active connections between our inner and outer selves, considering the intersections and gaps between our Faith, our dreams, and our realities. Through worship, fellowship, learning sessions, and games, we will dig deep into the big questions of why we are here and what we are being called to do. Join us to explore these questions and what it means to live out our visions, callings, gifts, and ministry with authenticity, integrity, and courage.

**Who is invited?** Friends ages 15-35ish or anyone led to participate

**When is this happening?** Saturday, December 12, 2015— 9:30am-4:00pm

**Where will this be happening?** Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting

15 Rutherford Place

New York, NY 10003

**Will there be food?** Of course! Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided. Please let us know if you have any food-related allergies or dietary restrictions.

**Is there childcare?** If you need it! Please request childcare by Saturday, December 5

**Is there a cost?** Suggested donation of \$15 per person to cover the day's costs. Pay what you are able!

**How do I RSVP?** Email Emily Provance at [eprovince@hotmail.com](mailto:eprovince@hotmail.com) by Wednesday, December 9!!

### About Your Facilitator

Marissa Badgley is a birthright Friend with a passion and calling for bringing people together to inspire both personal and societal change. In her work, she offers consultation to NYC public schools and programs on ways to advance quality, improve partnerships, and reimagine education for urban youth. She believes in the transforming power of love and pursues opportunities to help others find, explore, unveil, and celebrate their Light. She looks forward to another inspiring journey with Friends.

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**News from POHO for Young Adults!**

-Powell House Youth Program Conference for Older Teens and Young Adults

February 26 to 28, 2016

This is our third, and now annual, bridge weekend – crossing the imaginary line between high school and beyond. Our hope is to continue to create a space for learning from one another’s experiences and in the process establish new and deepen existing connections among us. During the Planning 2015 weekend, a number of older teens expressed interest in learning life skills for navigating college and living on one’s own – who better to offer advice than those of you in the midst of the transition or recently arrived on the other side? At the end of the last bridge conference several great suggestions for future conferences came up. This retreat will hopefully combine both of those streams. Specific conversations and themes will arise from the group gathered but could include: how it feels to grow up, handling finances, gap year options, finding yourself, self-care, intimacy and relationships, what it means to be a young adult Quaker. The blurb below went out in the new Youth Program brochure.



**Getting Older.....11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade & Young Adults**

We all do it. In different ways. At different speeds. There are new responsibilities and new opportunities. Successes and failures along the way. There’s no single recipe for getting it right but there may be some basic ingredients and skills that help. We’ll spend the weekend cooking mostly healthy, sometimes decadent, food together and sharing recipes for moving into adulthood and creating a full and good life there. **Fee: \$125**

[www.Powellhouse.org](http://www.Powellhouse.org)

Oh, and...you can look at the website and see if any adult weekends interest you!

Here is the link to the calendar: <http://powellhouse.org/index.php/our-calendar>

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**Got privilege?**

This is a quote from NYM Fall Sessions: “2015-11-26. Judy Meikle (Wilton), reporting for the Yearly Meeting Task Group for the White Privilege Conference (April 14-17, 2016, Philadelphia), invited us all to participate actively in the conference, of which NYM is a host. She told us the many ways many communities of faith are connecting in support of racial justice. She reminded us of our own yearly meeting’s work on this issue. Next April, Judy said, we can continue to put our words into action by getting on the bus and attending the White Privilege Conference. She summarized the workshops of past conferences, giving us a taste of what may happen in April. The conference theme is “*Let Freedom Ring – Reimagining Equity and Justice in the United*” – you will find like-minded people to talk to and explore issues, especially since about two thousand people attend. Judy asked us to consider if we are led to attend and be part of the 100 participants promised from NYM. The conference is a joyful occasion. Spread the word. Registration opens on Monday, January 18, 2016 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day). Friends spoke to their support and appreciation of this work.”

If you want more info please check out <http://www.nyym.org/?q=Minutes-2015FallSessions>

Or even just [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org)

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## Mini retreat on December 12<sup>th</sup> in NYC: WHY AM I?

Jillian: "What is **Coordinating Committee** weekend any way?"

Emily: "Coordinating Committee weekend is a time when the largest four New York Yearly Meeting committees meet. It's a great opportunity to committee-hop and learn more about the workings of New York Yearly Meeting. How does the NYYM body practice collective witness? How does the yearly meeting nurture its Friends and its institutions (such as Powell House and ARCH)? How do we maintain our budget and steward our finances? Learn all of this and meet awesome Friends - and you don't actually have to join a committee!"

When: January 29-31, 2016 Where: at Powell House:524 Pitt Hall Road, Old Chatham, New York, USA, 12136-3410

Please register by calling Powell House 518-794-8811 or going to [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org)

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**The Young Adult Concerns Committee (YACC)** is a committee of NYYM. this committee is one way that YAF can find voice in the yearly meeting. YACC is also interested in the spiritual nurture and care of Friends between 18-35ish.

YACC is interested in hearing from you and welcomes ideas and participation from all YAF. We are looking at hosting an event or two in 2016 and are preparing for Summer Sessions. We are also looking to connect with other long lost YAFs in the area. If you know someone or are looking to connect with other YAFs feel free to contact YACC. (The current clerk is Glen Josey his e-mail is: [gjosey95@gmail.com](mailto:gjosey95@gmail.com). He would love to hear from you!)

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### **Meeting for Discernment**

**Saturday, February 27, 2016**

*(9:00am coffee and light breakfast, 9:30 worship begins)*

Westbury Meeting, 550 Post Rd. Westbury, NY 11590

*Meeting for Discernment is a chance for extended worship among New York Yearly Meeting Friends, a chance to hear and experience what is rising in our meetings and in our selves. It is a way to bring our meetings together and to get to know each other better. Come and let your voice and your spirit participate. The meeting will have two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with lunch provided in between. The snow date is Saturday, March 5.*

**Queries:** *What is alive, engaging, exciting in your meeting? What is alive in you?*

*We want to hear where Friends are alight, led, and enthusiastic. Where is the spark of Spirit in our meetings? In ourselves?*

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**Joyful Wednesdays** are at 15th Street in Manhattan. (Email [eprovince@hotmail.com](mailto:eprovince@hotmail.com) if you want to receive the weekly e-mails and themes. Come one, come all! Every Wednesday folks gather for an alternating schedule of with worship or discussion. 6:30 pm till 8:00pm.

**December 9th** Hymn singing, then Worship (possibly with a query)

**December 16th** movie night showing Joyeaux Noel with treats!

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**Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Young Adults** have a potluck the 3rd Saturday of every month! They host it at the home or apartment of one of the members in the community. For more information or to be on the mailing list, contact Mauricio Alexander or Elena Callahan at [brooklynnyaf@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynnyaf@gmail.com) and/or [facebook.com/brooklynnyaf](https://www.facebook.com/brooklynnyaf) Join our new Facebook Group online! [BROOKLYN YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK](#)

**BTW:** this idea is not patented. It's free to copy for entire meetings to hold monthly potlucks hosted at homes, or for other Young Adult groups to do the same. Do you wanna?

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Want or need a copy NYYM's **Faith and Practice**? It's for sale! If you need a copy mailed to you, it'll cost \$10. Simply email Helen Garay Toppins: [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org)

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**Albany** area Young Adult Friends: 'Capital District Young Adult Friends (Quakers)' is a group on Facebook. They have potlucks and gather out in the community. The next event is Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Albany meeting house located at [727 Madison Ave, Albany, NY 12208](#) <https://albanyquakers.wordpress.com/>  
Please e-mail David Oehl [oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au) with interest and questions.

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<http://www.pendlehill.org>

## Pendle Hill: Education for Beloved Community

Originally conceived as a Quaker "school for prophets," Pendle Hill today offers education programs that support members of the Religious Society of Friends and other spiritual seekers to:

- **Experience divine love, presence, and guidance in their lives;**
- **Understand, serve, and challenge their faith communities;**
- **Work with their neighbors to foster peace, social justice, and sustainability in the wider world.**

We do this with an educational approach that encourages student engagement, dialog, community, compassion, curiosity, creativity, humor, joy, insight, growth, responsibility, and faithfulness. We invite you to look over our current [educational offerings](#) and consider which ones might serve you. Our offerings include a pamphlet series, lectures, special events, weekend workshops, short courses, conferences, month-long institutes, and residential and online certificate programs. We also offer extended individual educational residency opportunities for people wanting to do creative work while grounded in a spiritual community with a daily rhythm of worship, work, and study. Partial and full scholarships are also available for several of these programs, and most of our programs also include access to Pendle Hill's 23 ecologically diverse acres, and our remarkable Library and Arts and Crafts Studio. For more information, please contact [Steve Chase](#), Director of Education, at 610-566-4507, ext. 123 or [John Meyer](#), Education Coordinator, ext. 129.

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