

**New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends**

InfoShare

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Editor, Paul Busby, paul@nyym.org

New Worship Group in Wheeler

A new worship group has been started just outside of Wheeler, N.Y., between Kanona and Prattsburgh. The location is near Bath (about 35 min. northwest of Corning, 45 min. east of Alfred, 1 hr. 20 min. south of Rochester, 1 hr. west of Ithaca). We meet at 4:00 P.M. on the fourth Sunday of each month for worship and sharing afterward. It is a very small group with variable attendance. We meet with Winnie Romeril and David Schenck. Nadine Hoover and Vicki Cooley attend regularly in support of the local group. The location is a lovely hilltop surrounded by Amish farms, and the worship is deep and refreshing.

At Alfred Monthly Meeting for business March 9, 2003, we minuted: "Alfred Monthly Meeting will support the group in Wheeler as they experiment in beginning a Worship Group." If we continue through the fall, we will bring an announcement to Fall Gathering of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

For further information contact Winnie Romeril at 607-522-7678;
wromeril@empacc.net.

Nadine Hoover, Alfred Monthly Meeting

Staffing and Structure Report

The Ad Hoc Committee on Staffing and Structure expects to send its final report to monthly meetings at the end of June. This committee's task, as defined in Minute 63 of Yearly Meeting Sessions 2001, is "to test with monthly and regional/quarterly meetings the recommendations and suggestions . . . of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Function of NYYM . . . [and] to revise the recommendations with a view to achieving greater unity about the steps to be taken to serve the renewal of the Yearly Meeting."

The committee's summary report, written in April 2003, is on the NYYM Web site at <http://www.nyym.org/committees/ss/>

Joanna Komoska, clerk, Ad Hoc Committee on Staffing and Structure

NYYM Sessions at Silver Bay, July 20-26

Information for 2003 NYYM Sessions at Silver Bay is on the Web site at <http://www.nyym.org/silverbay>. May *Spark* is also posted, at <http://www.nyym.org/spark/2003.5.shtml> .

Copies of the May *Spark* are also available from the New York Yearly Meeting office.

Junior Yearly Meeting Needs Staff at Silver Bay

Junior Yearly Meeting is looking for a few more people to round out the JYM staff this year at Silver Bay. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve NYYM's young people, please contact Kara Lander, karafaerie@mac.com.

Invitation: Worship Sharing Group Leaders for Silver Bay

Would you like to lead a worship-sharing group at Silver Bay this year? Here's your opportunity. If you wish, you can probably share the leadership with another person. Worship-sharing groups will meet from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. Monday through Friday.

There will be a meeting of worship-sharing group leaders at 5:00 P.M. Sunday at Silver Bay.

For further information contact Deborah B. Wood at 914-747-0245. She will send you information and guidelines.

Film Biography of Rufus Jones

Last winter PBS showed the film *Rufus Jones: A Luminous Life*. This biographical film and its companion booklet will be available for examination at the H.H. Mosher Fund book table at Silver Bay this year. Information will be available on how to order a copy for your meeting.

Calling All White Elephants

Please support the Sharing Fund by bringing items to Silver Bay for the White Elephant Sale. The sale will take place during the Fun Fair, and all proceeds will go to the Sharing Fund. This is an easy way to support the Yearly Meeting's witness work.

Opportunities for Young People to Serve

High school and college students with a desire to serve others have a splendid chance to live out their dream through workcamps provided by the Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP). YSOP was created by Quakers in 1983, and it "engages students in hands-on service to people in need under the guidance of adults committed to volunteer service." YSOP launched a program in Washington, D.C., in April 2003.

Some of the participants in the past have said:

"It was more than I expected. I was surprised by the organization of YSOP and getting many organizations involved in this project."

"The homeless people and others taught me more than I expected. It was amazing!"

"I didn't expect to receive as much as I gave. This was an awesome experience!"

"I was not expecting much or planning to get close to the group, but this changed. I was moved by talking to and seeing homeless people; real people just like me who once had homes."

To help celebrate its 20th anniversary YSOP is launching the YSOP Fellows Program, a year-long leadership-development program building on their success with Vista AmeriCorps and religious volunteer programs. They have funding for two Fellows starting this August. If you're interested, contact YSOP at 15 Rutherford Pl., New York NY 10003; 212-598-0973; ysopnyc@ysop.org; www.ysop.org.

Intern Wanted for Youth Project

The New Directions Youth Project (NDYP) in Newark, N.J., is seeking a student intern this summer to assume both administrative and program duties.

We offer an interesting position with young people who have either had a "brush with the law" or have been identified by a guidance counselor as someone heading in that direction, and supporting them in finding new directions for their lives. We offer a small stipend and reimbursement for public transportation or parking and lunches.

We are looking for a student who could use the experience for course credit, to satisfy the community-service requirements of a college, or as a challenging

educational experience. College level preferred.

The intern must be interested in and willing to work with the values of the American Friends Service Committee and should have: good listening and communication skills; good writing skills; excellent interpersonal skills; computer skills including Internet, e-mail, MS Word, and using a database.

Responsibilities include: helping the project coordinator to connect and build relationships between the 17 NDYP youths and 12 mentors; accompanying the youths and mentors on program trips; assisting the project coordinator in visiting youth work sites.

For more information contact Anne E. Wright, assistant to the regional director, AFSC NYMRO, 212-598-0951; awright@afsc.org.

Pendle Hill High School Youth Camp, July 6-13, 2003

This week will be a time for students ages 15-18 from all over the country to unite in exploration of Quaker service and community life in profound ways. It is a time to be with old friends and make new ones, to grow spiritually, to raise your consciousness about social issues, and to affirm core commitments. Activities include: a workcamp involving work with local residents; group discussions of community, spirituality, service, and Quakerism and social concerns; meaningful service projects at Pendle Hill; meeting for worship and journaling; art projects, games, a campfire circle, a swimming field trip, and other activities.

Contact: Blake Lipsett, Pendle Hill Youth Programs, 338 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford PA 19086-6099; 800-742-3150/ 610-566-4507, ext. 149; youthprogram@pendlehill.org; www.pendlehill.org/youth_programs.html.

Young Friends Summer Seminar 2003

Young Friends Summer Seminar will be held at William Penn House June 20-23, 2003. The theme will be That of God in Everyone, which is the basis of the Quaker testimonies of peace, community/gospel order, simplicity, equality, and truth/integrity.

The Young Friends Summer Seminar is for all high school age students from incoming freshmen to graduating seniors. We will provide meals on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday plus linens and towels. Our accommodations are dormitory style with several students in each room.

We will gather after 5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 20, and complete our last session at noon on Monday, June 23. The students will need to make their own arrangements to and from the airports, train station, or bus depot.

William Penn House is on Capitol Hill, five blocks east of the Capitol, Library of Congress, and Supreme Court and within an easy walk of the Smithsonian Museums and the national monuments. Sightseeing will be included in the weekend activities.

The cost is \$50 per student. Each student will need to bring their own spending money for snacks, Metro (subway) and any other needs.

Further information: William Penn House, 515 East Capitol St. SE, Washington DC 20003; 202-543-5560; fax: 202-543-3814; dirpennhouse@igc.org; www.Quaker.org/penn-house.

ArtQuake Returns to Fifteenth Street

ArtQuake, the New York City Quaker art festival, will take place on June 13 and 14 at Fifteenth Street Meeting. We are trying something new this year—Friday and Saturday sessions. Don't miss it! Friday 6:30 to 9:00 P.M.; Saturday noon to 4:30 P.M.

If you wish to participate in the ArtQuake exhibition or want more information, contact Cynthia Large, 212-229-2193; klarchen@aol.com. If you wish to participate in the performances, contact Larry Otway at 212-228-5147; inobu@aol.com.

The meetinghouse is at 15 Rutherford Place, near the Union Square stop on the N-R-L-4-5-6 lines.

Gary Sandman, Fifteenth Street Meeting

Friendly Gangstaz Invasion Coming to Brooklyn

The Friendly Gangstaz Committee is a troupe of reverently irreverent young Friends who perform standards from the FGC Hymnal, like "Amazing Grace" and "In the Garden," plus their own peace- and change-oriented songs, in a unique blend of punk and hip-hop styles. This is definitely not your parents' "George Fox Song"!

They will be appearing, along with Evalyn Parry, at Brooklyn Friends Meeting, Sunday July 6, 2003, at 7:30 P.M. The meetinghouse is at 110 Schermerhorn

St., near the Boro Hall subway stop.

The Gangstaz burst on the scene at the 2001 Blacksburg Friends General Conference Gathering. Back in force in 2002, they packed the hall with 250 of their peers (and some still-astonished elders) for an electrified concert that brought down the house. Now they are preparing for their first tour. After opening in Brooklyn, they will head to Pendle Hill, then farther south, winding up in North Carolina. More information and MP3s at www.friendlygangstaz.com.

Evalyn Parry is a Canadian Quaker singer/songwriter/comedian/radical lesbian who is rapidly carving out a successful career as a musician and performer. Her performances at the last several FGC Gatherings have drawn ever larger, more enthusiastic crowds. She'll be joining the Gangstaz in Brooklyn and at Pendle Hill. Meet Evalyn Parry online at: www.evalynparry.com.

For more information contact Chuck Fager, 910-322-6590; chuckfager@aol.com.

The Gathering of Spirits

Carrie Newcomer is a Quaker from Bloomington, Ind., who walks cheerfully about the earth, singing as she answers to that of Spirit in every one. I had the privilege of hearing her sing recently at a small club in New York City. Some of the proceeds from the performance went to AFSC. I had listened to Carrie's most recent CD, *The Gathering of Spirits*, so I expected a beautiful voice, superb singing, and brilliant poetry. But I was totally unprepared for the power and luminosity of her presence.

Carrie sings for peace, sings about love and grace—but never *against*. There's no animosity or anger; she exhibits what Alternatives to Violence Project folk call Transforming Power. In a time of war and hatred, she bravely lives out the words of one of her songs: "I'm right here inside my shoes, saying, 'I will not be moved.'" (from "I'm Still Standing.")

In another song, "I Heard an Owl," she sings:

Don't tell me hate is ever right or God's will
These are the wheels we put in motion ourselves

...

The only peace this world will know
Can only come from love.

. . .
. . . the only word is "Courage"
And the only answer "love"

She goes on to remind us that God "makes no separation/Just fiercely loves us all."

She encourages us to be aware of sacredness as "hymns of geese fly overhead" and to notice "redemption everywhere I look" and "the shade of unexpected grace." Carrie Newcomer is the kind of singer—the kind of person—who gives us the courage and spirit to carry on in the Light.

All songs copyright © 2002 Carrie Newcomer, BMI. For more information about Carrie Newcomer, go to www.carrienewcomer.com.

Paul Busby, Fifteenth Street Meeting

National Policy in a Time of Crisis: How Do Quakers Respond?

Fifteenth Street Meeting is hosting a Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) event, Quaker Witness in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, June 29, 2003, at the Fifteenth Street meetinghouse. The event begins at 12:30 P.M., after rise of 11:00 A.M. meeting for worship

Come meet Kathy Guthrie, field program secretary of FCNL, and Tim Barner, national director of area campaigns. Discussion will center on Quaker responses to Iraq and the Mideast, the effort to restrict civil liberties, and other current issues of national interest.

15th Street Meeting is on Rutherford Pl., between 15th and 16th Sts. and across from Stuyvesant Square and 2nd Ave. Nearest subway: 14th St. stations of N/R/Q/W/6, and Third Ave. station of the L train. The Peace Committee of 15th Street Meeting is hosting this presentation. For more information contact the clerk, Christiana Sutor, csutor@sutor.com, (212) 662-8977.

The FCNL Web site is www.fcnl.org

Stopping War Where It Begins Organizing against Militarism in Our Schools

American Friends Service Committee is sponsoring a workshop on Organizing against Militarism in Our Schools, June 27-29 in Philadelphia, for activists and

others interested in liberating our schools from the Pentagon's assault on young people.

The deadline for registration has been extended to June 14, 2003. Further information is available from youthmil@afsc.org and at <http://www.youthandthemilitary.org/home.htm>.

Coming to Peace Is Theme of FGC Gathering

Friends General Conference (FGC) will hold the 2003 Gathering of Friends at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pa., June 28-July 5, 2003. The theme is Coming to Peace.

"In a time of uncertainty and fear, we will look at ways Friends can come to peace within themselves, within their meetings, within their communities, and throughout the world," explains Gathering Committee coclerk Von Keairns.

South African Friend Duduzile Mtshazo, former clerk of the Africa Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation, will offer a keynote address on Sunday night, June 29, leading the Gathering in its understanding of Coming to Peace. Monday evening, Vanessa Julye and Christopher Sammond will model responses to queries on personal peace within, and Gathering attenders will be asked to consider each query for themselves.

Music making, singing, yoga, contra dancing, folk dancing, and other movement opportunities will occur throughout the Gathering. Friends' creativity will be displayed, performed, and celebrated again this year in the Lemonade Art Gallery.

For further information go to <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/index.html>.

Rise Up and Sing Our Blues!

Audre Lorde said that unless we acknowledge our privilege we have no hope of being able to share it with others. If we don't acknowledge our racism, in ourselves and in the Society of Friends, we cannot hope to have any real relationship with anyone who is not as privileged as we are. In Memphis a few weeks ago a pastor invited me to attend services at St. Paul's Baptist Church. About as far from a Quaker Meeting as you can get. They even played the piano right through the pastor's sermon! I want to acknowledge the privilege of sitting in that church and worshiping with them. Of being the only white face in the

room. Of being treated like family. Didn't feel condescending at all. I really felt welcome. *Really* welcome. Not Quaker nice welcome, but "Sit down, child, and take a load off" welcome.

And I thought of the Presbyterian church service I attended the week before, all white. And of my Quaker Meeting, with just three black people. And I don't know how my meeting can do the same welcoming thing unless they honestly feel it, and I don't think it's there now. Not honestly felt. Not deep down, play-it-through-the-sermon welcome. Not that we wouldn't welcome black people. But it just doesn't feel the same. It's too Quaker nice. It wouldn't play in Memphis. We gotta get hold of our own Quaker idolatry, and open ourselves up to the Spirit, and not be ashamed of a little music in our souls, playing behind the person who rises in meeting to speak. Can we sing more of the blues in meeting for worship? When we rise up to speak, do we do it from the same place that gave rise to the blues? Can our souls sing the blues of being different? Can we speak to the Society of Friends and say, "Being Quaker isn't about being nice to everyone"? Boy Scout Quakerism, I call it. "Scuse me, ma'am, but can I help you to cross over to holiness?" Being Quaker means taking our testimonies seriously and letting our lives testify. Not speaking truth, but *being* truth. My truth may not be your truth or God's truth. But I am convinced that my blues is a tune you can hear and that your blues is a tune I can hear. And that until we understand it's not about the words, we'll continue to pretend to be nice to each other and miss the real welcome we might give each other. Sometimes Quaker-speak doesn't come from the Spirit, but from fear of being real.

As a Quaker I really value silence. But as a gay man, I can sing the blues with the best of them, and appreciate you more when you sing your version of the blues. Black, brown, white, each a different blues. But God, how I love to hear it shared. How I wish it were shared more in my meeting. How important it is for those who attend our FLGBTQ worship service to hear it shared.

"Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home."

Now *that* would be welcoming.

Joe Franko, Orange Grove Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting

(Friends sharing these concerns will be interested in the Friends of African Descent Web site at <http://ffad.quaker.org/>. Friends for LBGTQ Concerns has a Web site at <http://www.quaker.org/flgc/>. FLBGTQC meets twice a year, during

midwinter and at FGC in July. Their newsletter is available from Joe Franko, 7649 Airlie Dr., Tujunga CA 91042, for a contribution of \$10 ["more if you can afford it, less if you can't."]. FLBGTQC stands for Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Queer Concerns.)

Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Gathering

The ninth Gathering of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent will be held August 7-11, 2003, at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga. All people of color and their families are welcome. The program includes daily worship, youth programs, and workshops.

For information contact Gathering Committee, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102; <http://ffad.quaker.org/Gathering2003.html>.

Powell House Needs Skilled Volunteers

Powell House needs the volunteer services of a licensed plumber and a licensed electrician. Powell House is the conference and retreat center for NYYM. Their mission for all ages is to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Quaker testimonies in the world. Donate your skills for a couple of days in the beautifully rolling farmland of upstate New York. Enjoy interaction with the staff community as you use your skills to enhance the functioning of our buildings. Free lodging and lunches with the staff are provided while you are on the job.

To volunteer, Contact Liseli Haines, Powell House volunteer coordinator, at (518) 794-8811 ext. 12 or e-mail Liseli@powellhouse.org

Powell House Youth Summer Conferences

June

20-22: Marvelous Me, Wonderful You: *Jr. High*. A chance to name the marvelous wonderful things in ourselves and others.

July

10-13: Unwinding 2003: *Sr. High*. All-night movies, magic, munchies, and more.

August

8-10: HeartSong: *Jr. & Sr. High*. Sing your heart out at this summer music festival

15-17: Here Comes the Sun: *special event for grades 4-6*. Singing Beatles songs

and create songs of your own

For more information on the youth programs contact Powell House at 524 Pitt Hall Road, Old Chatham NY 12136; 518-794-8811 ext. 13; chrisandmike@powellhouse.org; www.powellhouse.org.

Other Powell House Events

Peace Within and Without, with Michael True June 13-15, 2003. A retreat/workshop on the relationship between personal transformation and social change and interconnections between healing and nonviolence.

Living from the Divine Center, contemplative weekend with Linda Chidsey June 20-24, 2003 (through Tuesday lunch). What does it mean to live a contemplative life, a life centered in God? Where might the integrity of contemplation and action be found?

Spread Your Wings, singing weekend with Annie and Peter Blood-Patterson, Aug. 15-17, 2003. Singing instills hope, conquers fear, transforms consciousness, builds community, draws families closer together, quickens the heart, and enriches the soul. Come spend a joy-filled intergenerational weekend with the very best song leaders we know.

Work Exchange Week-Vacation Week at Powell House, Aug. 18-23, 2003 (Monday lunch through Saturday lunch). Bring your family to Powell House for vacation in a room or in the campground. All of our facilities are open and available. If you want to earn money toward PoHo conferences or retreats, you can do work exchange. Possible projects: roofing, painting, office jobs, tree work, gardening.

Lucretia Mott: Liberal Quaker Theologian, led by Chuck Fager, Sept. 12-14, 2003. Lucretia Mott was more than a pioneering feminist and abolitionist. She was also a seminal Quaker theologian. We'll explore in depth why her reading, thinking, and preaching shaped (and still shape) the religious thought (theology) and practice of liberal (FGC-style) Quakerism.

Fall Work Weekend, Contra Dance, and Storytelling, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2003. Digging, gardening, raking leaves, trimming bushes, cutting firewood, roofing, painting, sewing, cooking/baking, contra dancing, story telling. Sound like fun? Enjoy a challenge? Bring your favorite tools, old clothes, and hearty appetites.

Food for Women's Souls, led by Rosalind Zuses and Ann Davidson, Nov. 7-9,

2003. Women! Goddesses! Gaia-ites! Crones! Virgins! Come to PoHo the first weekend in November to share the energy of our beings. We will share Spiritual Practices That Feed Our Souls, spiritual healing techniques for self-care as well as for other-care, a fireplace get-together, recipes, songs, stories, etc

A Life of Prayer, led by the Spirit, with Louise Wilson and Frank Massey , Nov. 14-16, 2003. (This is the annual Friends in the Spirit of Christ weekend.) Come for the weekend relying on the Spirit to lead us as we focus on sustaining a life of prayer. Through sharing our faith stories, small-group work, and responding to queries, we will learn how others have deepened their relationship with Jesus through prayer. Our desire is to experience the deep abiding love that is known only from Jesus (Christ; the Inner Light; the Divine).

Recognizing, Honoring, and Acknowledging Diversity (with an emphasis on race), Niyonu Spann, facilitator, Nov. 21-23, 2003. In this workshop we will create a space for sincere searching, honest dialogue, challenging assumptions, and exciting movement. Working on the individual, group and systemic levels, we will identify ways of responding to diversity, particularly racial diversity, that block our abilities to connect.

For information on any or these events: Powell House, 524 Pitt Hall Rd., Old Chatham NY 12136; 518-794-8811; info@powellhouse.org; www.powellhouse.org.

Position Available: Dean of Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill, a Quaker center for study and contemplation in Wallingford, Pa., invites applications for the position of dean, starting in 2004. The dean has overall responsibility for the administrative, spiritual, and financial health of Pendle Hill's educational programs and reports to the director.

The primary focus of the dean is on the resident community and the programs for which the resident community is the vessel. The dean must not only live on campus but also be involved in what happens on campus.

Application deadline is October 3, 2003. For a complete job description and application materials contact the Dean Search Committee, Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford PA 19086; bscott@pendlehill.org. Further information about Pendle Hill is available at www.pendlehill.org. Pendle Hill is an Equal Opportunity Employer.