

New York Yearly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends

**InfoShare**

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**Silver Bay**

**Get Your Silver Bay Registrations In!**

Registrations for Yearly Meeting sessions at Silver Bay are coming in fast. Please send your registration form, with the appropriate fee, to the Yearly Meeting as quickly as you can. All the information about Silver Bay, along with registration forms, is in the May Spark and on the Web site at <http://www.nyym.org/silverbay>. The direct links for registration forms are: for adults, <http://www.nyym.org/silverbay/regfrm04.pdf>; for JYMers, <http://www.nyym.org/silverbay/jymregfrm04.pdf>.

**Changes in Study and Interest Groups**

The Afghan Education Program presentation, listed in May *Spark* as SG1, will actually be an interest group, with one session meeting on Friday. Its number is IG8. If you registered for SG1, please e-mail us at [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) to let us know of your wishes.

Bruce Birchard, general secretary of FGC, will lead an interest group, IG9, **What's in FGC for You?** Anyone who wants to register for Afghan Education Program interest group or for IG9, please e-mail us and let us know.

**Accompanist Needed for Silver Bay Choir**

We are reviving the choir at Silver Bay (Study Group SG3), but as of now we are without an accompanist.

We look forward to some joyous and challenging music, which will require the participation of a skilled pianist with some experience in accompanying choral

groups. The music is available for study in advance. If you can undertake this rewarding work, or you know someone who has the ability and might be interested, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail to [tomr@tnrmediate.com](mailto:tomr@tnrmediate.com).

*Tom Rothschild, Brooklyn Meeting*

### **Items for the Agenda at Silver Bay**

May *Spark* and the NYYM Web site provide information about the NYYM sessions at Silver Bay, July 25–31, 2004. (See [www.nyyym.org/silverbay](http://www.nyyym.org/silverbay).)

If you have agenda items for the business sessions, contact Noel Palmer or Beatrice Beguin for Ministry and Counsel; Paula McClure for General Services; Sarah Faith Dickinson for Nurture; Anita Paul for Witness; or Linda Chidsey, NYYM clerk. All these Friends are listed in the *Yearbook*. You may also contact the Yearly Meeting office, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York NY 10003; 212-673-5750; [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org).

### **Future Volunteer Coordinators Needed at Silver Bay**

In planning for Silver Bay sessions, coordinators are responsible for such activities as audio-visual and sound, microphone runners, food service, letters to absent Friends, reports to Friends' publications, interest/study groups, displays, and campus transportation.

If you would like to begin training for a future slot, please contact Claire Simon, clerk of Sessions Committee. Her contact information is in the NYYM *Yearbook*. Financial assistance is available for anyone who serves the Yearly Meeting in one of these positions.

*Claire Simon, clerk of Sessions Committee*

### **Worship-Sharing Leaders Needed**

Leaders are needed for worship-sharing groups at Silver Bay. Friends interested in leading a worship-sharing group please contact Joe Garren, [joegarren@2ndstreetcafe.com](mailto:joegarren@2ndstreetcafe.com); 718-768-2969.

## **Golf Carts at Silver Bay**

Have you ever wanted to drive a golf cart? If you're over 21, a licensed driver, and a member of NYYM, here's your chance. The Sessions Committee will rent golf carts to help folks with mobility difficulties get to meetings and worship groups. To volunteer contact Claire Simon, [claire@orb.sh](mailto:claire@orb.sh). Matt Contois will be coordinating golf carts at Silver Bay.

## **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(d) Fair, and all proceeds will go to the Sharing Fund. This is an easy way to support the Yearly Meeting's witness work. I would also like to hear from Friends who are willing to work on the day of the sale. Contact me at [sing2b@msn.com](mailto:sing2b@msn.com).

*Anne E. Wright*

## **Central Finger Lakes Friend to Begin Federal Prison Sentence**

Shirley Way, of Central Finger Lakes Monthly Meeting, will begin a three-month sentence at the federal prison camp for women at Danbury, Conn., on June 22. Shirley "crossed the line" at the U.S. army's Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC), formerly known as the School of the Americas (SOA), on Sunday, November 23, 2003. (See the article in *Spark* at <http://www.nyym.org/spark/2004.5.shtml#test>.) On January 26, 2004, she was sentenced to three months in federal prison

Shirley states, "Every Thursday evening at 7:00 P.M., people around the world remember the victims of the SOA/WHISC and the SOA/WHISC prisoners of conscience. I extend that to include the victims of all wars and oppression and all prisoners.

"I am feeling well supported at the moment. The [*Spark*] article includes action I'd like folks to consider taking. That's all." The article is available on the Web at <http://www.nyym.org/spark/2004.5.shtml#test>.

Now she writes, "Please consider writing a letter to your congressional representative asking him or her to cosponsor HR 1258 to close the SOA/WHISC or if he or she is a cosponsor a thank you note or call is helpful.

To learn more and to view the list of cosponsoring representatives, please visit [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org). Click on 'Take Action.' "

### **National Guard Prisoner of Conscience Sentenced**

When Camilo Mejía came home from Iraq on leave, he determined to seek conscientious-objector status, and he refused to return to Iraq. "I am saying no to war," he said. "I went to Iraq and was an instrument of violence, and now I have decided to become an instrument of peace."

In March Camilo turned himself in to military authorities and asked for conscientious objector status. (See April *InfoShare* article at <http://www.nyym.org/spark/is2004.4.shtml#ng>.)

According to published reports, in his application for CO status, Camilo provided details of the torture and abuse of detainees that he witnessed at Al Assad in early May 2003—long before the current revelations.

Camilo was court-martialed May 19–21, 2004, and sentenced to one year in prison, reduction in rank to private, and a bad conduct discharge.

Amnesty International has adopted Camilo as a prisoner of conscience. To read their statement, go to <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engamr510942004>.

CodePink, a women-initiated grassroots peace and social-justice movement, has been supporting Camilo. They ask that we support him in the following ways:

1. Write a letter to Camilo to show him that he is not alone and to show the military that he has a lot of outside supporters. His address is: Pvt. Camilo Mejía, Bldg. 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill OK 73503.
2. Write a letter to General William G. Webster Jr., Commanding General, Ft. Stewart, 42 Wayne Pl., Ft. Stewart GA 31314, asking him to show clemency and reduce the sentence to time served (Camilo has already spent two months of confinement at Ft. Stewart). You non also request that he expedite the transcript of the court-martial trial that took place in Ft. Stewart so that an appeal can proceed. Please send a copy of your letter to Camilo's attorney Louis Font, Font & Glazer, 62 Harvard St., #100, Brookline, MA 02445. More information is available at [http://www.codepinkalert.org/National\\_Actions\\_CO.shtml#oped](http://www.codepinkalert.org/National_Actions_CO.shtml#oped).

## PoHo Youth Program's Busy Summer

The Powell House Youth Program looks forward to a full summer. There will be a conference for each age group, an Adirondack camping trip, and a high school service trip to Honduras. Youth going into 7th grade may attend either the 4th–6th grade or the 7–9th grade weekends. As of late May, there is space in both of those. The camping trip and Unwinding have waiting lists already. The Honduras trip registration is closed, but we hope to do more such trips in coming years.

A PoHo youth retreat is a time to reflect and rest. It is a place to be safe and open. It is a group in which to feel deep relationships. You bring yourself and not much else: a commitment to respect and be present for the other attendees, a willingness to be open to the experiences that present themselves, and anything that the confirmation letter mentions. It is a weekend to step back from the busy world and leave behind the stuff that clutters our busy lives.

Registration is by snail mail (the old fashioned way). A blank registration form may be printed off the Web site ([www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org)) or requested by calling 518-794-8811. Here are the descriptions of the summer programs still open:

**June 18–20: Wonderful Water—4th, 5th, & 6th grades**

**June 25–27: Share the Love—7th- 9th grades**

**July 15–18: Unwinding 2004—10th -12th grades**

**August 8–12: Putnam Pond Camping Trip—7th–12th grades**

Details of our summer programs are available at  
<http://www.powellhouse.org/cgi/pohocalendar.cgi>.

### Other Powell House Events

**June 18–21: Living from the Divine Center**, with Linda Chidsey

**June 25–27: Joined in God's Spirit**, with Mickey Edgerton & Peter Blood-Patterson

**Aug. 13–15: Spread Your Wings: A Singing Weekend**, with Annie & Peter Blood-Patterson

**Aug. 16–20: Work Exchange Week–Vacation Week**, with Powell House staff

**Oct. 15–17: Fall Work Weekend, Contra Dance, and Storytelling**, with staff

**Oct. 22–24: Hundred-Year Lamb's War**, with Chuck Fager

**Oct. 29–31: Diversity** (details to be announced)

**Oct. 29–31: A Journey Toward Wholeness: Racial and Ethnic Diversity**, with

Ernie & Vince Buscemi

**Nov. 12–14: Exploring the Empowerment of Spiritual Giftedness**, with Jan Wood

**Nov. 19–21: The Light behind the Walls** (for those working in prisons or supporting that work)

For information and to register: Powell House, 524 Pitt Hall Road  
Old Chatham NY 12136-3410; 518-794-8811; [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org).

### **A Few Summer Internships Are Left with AFSC/NYMRO**

The American Friends Service Committee's New York Metropolitan Regional Office still has a few summer internships available, in the New York City and Newark offices.

Interns may work in the Conflict Resolution, Immigrant Rights, or Criminal Justice Programs, including working on voter registration in the Newark office. A \$1,000 stipend is paid.

Interested people are encouraged to visit [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) to learn about AFSC, its mission, and its projects, then e-mail [NYMRORecruit@afsc.org](mailto:NYMRORecruit@afsc.org) or write to AFSC Internships, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York NY 10003.

### **Pendle Hill High School Youth Camp July 11–18**

From Pendle Hill: We are currently seeking high school students (ages 15–18) to participate in our weeklong Youth Camp this summer, July 11–18. This will be our eleventh year for the High School Youth Camp, which brings together young people from diverse backgrounds across the country to participate in service learning and leadership building in a Quaker context. Quakers and non-Quakers are welcome!

Activities planned for this summer's Youth Camp include a workcamp in West Philadelphia, a book-packing and criminal justice workshop with Books through Bars, an art project, a swimming field trip, a campfire, service projects, and discussions on community, spirituality, service, and social concerns. It's going to be a lot of fun!

The cost of the Youth Camp is \$390/person, \$350/person if registering with friends, \$330/person with siblings. Matching scholarships and financial aid are available! For more information and an application/registration form for the

High School Youth Camp, check out our Web site at [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) under Opportunities for Youth or contact Barbara Johnson, 610-566-4507, ext. 149; [youthprogram@pendlehill.org](mailto:youthprogram@pendlehill.org) .

### **Counter-Recruitment Conference June 25–27**

The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY) is holding a counter-recruitment conference June 25–27, 2004, at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St. in Philadelphia. This gathering, open to all who work against the militarization of young people, will focus on strengthening the network that was formed at the Stopping War Where It Begins: Organizing against Militarism in Our Schools conference that took place in June 2003.

It is possible to register online at NNOMY's Web site. Limited financial assistance is available. Information: NNOMY, c/o AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102; 215-241-7176; [NNOMY@afsc.org](mailto:NNOMY@afsc.org); [www.youthandthemilitary.org](http://www.youthandthemilitary.org).

### **Memorial for Evelyn Dane July 18**

Evelyn Dane, a member of Old Chatham Monthly Meeting, died on April 7, 2004. She was in her early eighties. Evelyn and her late husband, Paul, were well-known in the Yearly Meeting for their years of service on the staff and committee of Powell House and as beloved members of Old Chatham Meeting.

The memorial meeting will be held at Powell House on Sunday, July 18, at 2:30 P.M. and will be followed by light refreshments. All are invited to attend.

*Spee Braun, clerk, Old Chatham Monthly Meeting*

### **Children's Peace Week at Albany Meeting, August 16–20**

Children's Peace Week at Albany Meeting offers young people an opportunity to explore peace and peacemaking by engaging in a community that practices listening, communication, caring, cooperation, and conflict resolution. Kids explore and discover their ability to experience peace as individuals, family members, neighbors, and citizens of a global community.

The program is for children grades 2–8 (entering fall 2004). For information write to Children's Peace Week, c/o Friends Meeting House 727 Madison Ave. Albany NY 12208-3301.

## **Downtown Manhattan Outdoor Meeting Resumes**

On Thursday June 3, 2004, the Downtown Manhattan Outdoor Meeting met for the first time this year. Outdoor Meetings will be held each Thursday from 6 to 7 P.M, from June through September. Look for the gathering of Friends near the Labyrinth footpath in the northwest corner of Battery Park. Anyone interested in attending or convening the outdoor meetings may visit our new Web site, [www.downtownmeeting.org](http://www.downtownmeeting.org), for directions, information, meeting dates, and the ability to sign up to convene on line.

This year's meeting place is changed to Battery Park due to newly seeded grass at the previous location, Bowling Green Park. The new meeting place is very close to last year's meeting place and equally lovely.

Friends are asked to bring a light chair or cushion, and if possible an extra one for someone who does not have one.

For further information please call Sally Campbell, communications clerk, 212-787-3903; [scampbel@portone.com](mailto:scampbel@portone.com).

## **New West Queens Worship Group**

A group of Friends in New York City has begun an informal worship group in the western part of the borough of Queens. The group plans to gather for a meeting for worship in a home in west Queens once a month. The first meeting was held June 10, 2004.

Convener Gary Sandman, of Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, notes that a number of Friends live in west Queens and worship at meetings relatively far from their homes. There may also be Quakers nearby who do not attend any meeting.

He says that the first meeting of the group was "a real delight! Five Friends from Fifteenth Street and Flushing Meetings attended." He adds, "We plan to gather July 15 at 8 P.M., at a site to be announced. We will also be contacting west Queens Friends from the various NYC Meetings to invite them to join us."

If you are interested in participating in or hosting a meeting of the West Queens Worship Group, please contact Gary Sandman at 718-728-7372; [gsandman@mfire.com](mailto:gsandman@mfire.com).

## **News from Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering**

### **Report from a Young Friend**

From May 21–23, 2004, 190 Friends from central and western New York gathered at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush for the 32nd annual Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Spring Gathering. Friends of all ages gathered for supper on Friday, followed by intergenerational games and singing led by the teens group. Later in the evening Shirley Way of Central Finger Lakes Meeting gave a presentation and showed a short film on School of the Americas Watch, a group that is working to shut down the school (renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, or WHISC, in 2001) by protesting and raising public awareness. She led a workshop on the SOA/WHISC, intended for teens but open to all, in preparation for a group trip to the vigil this fall. (See the article elsewhere in this issue about Shirley's witness.)

On Saturday morning after the early bird walk, morning meeting for worship, and breakfast, Friends gathered in the main building for a presentation by Ted Mills of Buffalo Meeting entitled What Happens in Quaker Meeting? Individual and Group Process from a Sociologist's Perspective, focusing in large part on the experience of George Fox and other early Friends. At the end there was a time for questions, after which came a general discussion starting from the themes of the presentation. Eight workshops were offered in the afternoon on a wide variety of subjects of interest to Friends. In the evening there was a very pleasant contradance with the Newton Street Irregulars, a band consisting of guitar, hammered dulcimer, and fiddle players.

On Sunday morning Friends gathered for Meeting for Worship at 9:30, followed by a morning business session, during which the youth program was reaffirmed and its continuation provided for. Friends gathered again after lunch for the remainder of the agenda. Mac Larsen of Ithaca Meeting brought a minute from his meeting in support of those who were repairing and refurbishing the Friends Meetinghouse in Ramallah, Jordan, and of their intention to make it a center of peacemaking in that city when it is ready.

*Zachary Hoyt, attender, Syracuse Monthly Meeting*

### **Wilton Meeting Peace Committee Is Active**

The Peace and Service Committee of Wilton Monthly Meeting has engaged in a

variety of activities over the past year.

We recently held a silent auction to support the work of our committee and raised more than \$2,000.

We are planning a tag sale to benefit AFSC's school-building initiative in Afghanistan.

We are doing voter registration in local public libraries and the Community Action Program agency. We are hoping to be able to go into the high schools.

We dissolved a large fund left to the committee some years ago and distributed sizeable amounts to local charities and Quaker organizations.

One member is very involved in conscientious objector counseling.

One member hosts a public-access TV program that addresses many issues of the environment, peacework, and social justice.

A small contingent has paid many visits to our local Congress representative about the war in Iraq.

A few members attend the Purchase Quarter Peace and Social Concerns Committee, which supports a variety of activities.

*Virginia Auster, clerk, Wilton Peace and Service Committee*

### **Philipstown Hosts Discussion on Draft**

On Tuesday evening, May 25, 2004, the Philipstown Worship Group hosted a public meeting, with Rosa Packard, on the reinstatement of a military draft and the requirements for conscientious objection. The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, in Cold Spring, N.Y. More than 40 people, including 13 teenagers, attended.

Rosa spoke about the two bills currently being considered in Congress, gave a brief history of and update on conscientious objector status, answered many questions, and gave out resource materials and contacts for follow-up.

House Bill 163 and Senate Bill 89 are identical bills introduced in Congress in 2003 to propose a universal draft. The text can be obtained at the Library of Congress site at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Search for HR 163 or S 89. This proposed draft would require both women and men from 18 to 26 to perform two years

of service. College attendance would not provide an exemption. Conscientious objection and alternative service are mentioned, but specifics are left to the president to delegate.

Under existing Selective Service regulations, should a draft be reinstated by Congress, there are two sets of proposed regulations both of which allow a very short window of opportunity to file for exemptions for conscientious objection. Only the informed and prepared will be able to respond before the opportunity to apply will be deemed waived. Congress could also include women and could also allow for a separate draft of healthcare workers up to age 55. More information is available on the Web site of the Center on Conscience and War at <http://www.nisbco.org>.

*James O'Barr, Philipstown Worship Group*

### **Peace Tax Campaign Launched in New York City**

An unprecedented Taxes for Peace campaign has been launched in New York City, where the City Council is now considering Resolution 367, calling upon Congress to enact and the president to sign H.R. 2037, known as the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act. H.R. 2037 would enable those who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war because of their religious, moral, or ethical principles to have their federal taxes placed in a peace tax fund, which could be used only for nonmilitary purposes. New York City Council Resolution 367, which was introduced by Council Member Bill Perkins on May 19 and initially cosponsored by Council Members Miguel Martinez, Margarita Lopez, and Charles Barron, is the first such resolution to be proposed in the United States.

For further information see the Web site of the New York City Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, <http://www.peacetaxfund.org/nyc>. For details on H.R. 2037, see <http://www.peacetaxfund.org/The-bill.htm>.

### **Ideas Sought for Promoting Peace**

The Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren in central Indiana are planning a Peace Festival in Indianapolis on July 17. We will be featuring food, games, music, educational programs, etc.—all designed to help people to think peace. We invite all participants to list their ideas for what each (adult and child) of us can

do to promote peace—in big ways and in very little ways. Examples: help to register new voters, volunteer at a tutor, participate in a peace-advocacy organization, save energy, recycle, etc. We plan to make a huge list of these big and little ideas, maybe paint it into a mural, and distribute the list. Send ideas for what each of us can do to contribute to peace to [zarowin@mindspring.com](mailto:zarowin@mindspring.com).

*Stanley Zarowin*

### **Reminder to Committee Clerks**

Committee clerks, please remember to send your committee meeting minutes to the Yearly Meeting office. All minutes are kept for a time in the office, then sent to Swarthmore for the archives. Send minutes to the Yearly Meeting office, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York NY 10003 or e-mail to [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org).

### **New Coordinator for Friends Board Consulting**

Friends Services for the Aging has hired Bonalyn Mosteller, Ed.D., as the new coordinator of its Friends Board Consulting project. Having worked in the field of group process and organizational development for over 20 years, Bonalyn also manages Mosteller and Associates, which helps organizations operate more effectively around people-related and culture-related issues.

Bonalyn is a member of Radnor Meeting (Philadelphia YM) and clerks a PYM-sponsored project, Making New Friends, supporting the growth of meetings.

To talk with Bonalyn about any Quaker board or organizational issues, please contact her at [BonalynMost@att.net](mailto:BonalynMost@att.net) or call her at 610-415-0748.

### ***Indian Progress* Is on the Web**

According to their Web site, "Since 1869 the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs has shared the Christian faith, principles and teachings with Native American communities."

The May issue of their publication *Indian Progress* is posted on the ACFIA Web site, [www.acfiacquaker.org](http://www.acfiacquaker.org).