

InfoShare

New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends

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Notes & Announcements

- [Free Powell House Retreat for New Members](#)
- [Like NYYM in Facebook!](#)
- [NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary Returns from Maternity Leave](#)
- [Book Suggestion- Living with Conflict: A Challenge to a Peace Church](#)

Job Opportunities

- [Executive Director of Powell House Retreat Center](#)
- [Executive Director of Penington Friends House](#)
- [Communications Officer in the Africa Ministries Office](#)

Upcoming Events

- [Friends of Earthcare Events](#)
- [Meeting for Discernment at Old Chatham Meeting](#)
- [ARCH Visitor Training in Syracuse, NY](#)
- [Playing in the Light: Godly Play. Faith & Play Training for Quakers](#)
- [15th Street Arts Committee Performance of Charles Sirey Plays](#)
- [Peace & Planet NPT Mobilization](#)
- [Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology](#)
- [NYYM Summer Sessions](#)

Staff Calendars

- [ARCH Coordinators](#)
- [General Secretary](#)
- [Young Adult Field Secretary](#)

Notes & Announcements

Free Powell House Retreat for New Members

We would like you to be aware that Powell House will give each new adult member one free weekend at Powell House for an adult/family Powell House program (not sojourning or MM retreats). This offer is made to all new members of your Meeting and is intended to be used within the first 12 months of membership.

We have become aware that this benefit hasn't been widely known, so we would like to ask your help. Is it possible for you to let us know who has become a member of your Meeting in the last 18 months? We will be in touch with them to encourage them to use this benefit this calendar year. Contact: Ann Davidson <ann@powellhouse.org>

Like New York Yearly Meeting on Facebook!

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook, where we publish news, events, and other items that can't wait for the publication of the next *InfoShare* or *Spark*. But to get our notifications, you have to Like us. So, on your own Facebook page, enter "New York Yearly Meeting" in the blue banner ribbon at the very top of the page, and select NYYM's page. Then click the Like button in the big page banner on our page. Now everything we publish on our Facebook page will appear on your Timeline. And welcome!

NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary Back from Maternity Leave

Hello Friends!

I am back to work after my maternity leave. Isaac Heron Bailey Savory was born on October 31, 2014. He was born at a healthy 8 pounds, 15 ounces. He is doing great and Maddie, Jon and I are enjoying him and getting to know him better. Isaac is looking forward to meeting his extended Quaker family as we travel throughout NY Yearly Meeting. My travel schedule evolving, but here it is as of this moment, it may change.

I am eager to visit monthly meetings, and also schedule Mini retreats. If your meeting would like me to visit, and/or host a mini retreat, please let me know! My email is nyym.yafs@gmail.com.

Book Suggestion- *Living with Conflict: A Challenge to a Peace Church*

I would like to suggest that Quakers read *Living with Conflict: A Challenge to a Peace Church* by Susan Robson [Scarecrow Press 2014]. The book explores the

evolution of the Quaker peace testimony, and compares it to the experiences of other peaceful churches, in their relationships to the wider world and how they handle congregational conflicts. Although Robson concentrates on Quakers in Great Britain (where she resides), her discussion on how Quakers deal with conflict, and how other peace churches – including the Mennonite Church USA – do it, makes thought-provoking and interesting reading for Quakers everywhere. There is also an informative website: <http://livingwithconflict.net>. The book would be a terrific candidate for discussion groups. A longtime Friend, Robson has served in various Quaker capacities, and is a trustee of the Quaker Peace Studies Trust at Bradford University, U.K. (Isa North, Croton Valley Meeting)

Positions Available

Executive Director of Penington Friends House

Penington Friends House, (www.penington.org) a residential Quaker Community located in New York City, seeks a full-time Executive Director to oversee its spiritual life and physical operations. One bedroom apartment and salary provided. Position to begin Spring 2016. If interested, please send cover letter and resume, or questions, to peningtonhouse@googlegroups.com

Executive Director of Powell Retreat Center

Elsie K. Powell House (www.powellhouse.org), New York Yearly Meeting's (www.nyym.org) retreat center and an outreach arm of NYYM for adult and youth spiritual nurture, seeks a full-time Executive Director to oversee its spiritual life and physical operations. Position to begin Spring 2016. Required experience: Active member of a Quaker monthly meeting and on-going service and engagement in Quaker organizations (especially Yearly Meeting organizations) and business process. Deep grounding in the Spirit. Five years prior organizational leadership, e.g., non-profit executive director, pastor, etc. Experience supervising staff. Experience in designing Quaker programs (e.g., First Day School or Adult Education). Relevant graduate degrees a plus, e.g., MDiv, Master Retreat Center Management, MBA. Please submit resume, references, and cover letter to searchcommittee@powellhouse.org no later than June 1, 2015.

Communications Officer in the Africa Ministries Office (FUM)

Friends United Meeting announces the opening of a new position of Communications Officer in the Africa Ministries Office (Kisumu, Kenya). The job description found at www.fum.org/jobs details the qualifications and duties of this position, which is designated for a North American candidate. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

For more information and to submit a resume and cover letter, contact:

Eden Grace, Director of Global Ministries, Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond IN 47374, edeng@fum.org, 765-962-7573

Upcoming Events

Friends of Earthcare Events

February 27 - 7:00-9:00 pm *Public Transition Environmental Movement Talk*, Montclair, New Jersey. Contact: Pamela Boyce Sims <pbs9@georgetown.edu>

February 28 - Day-long *Transition Workshop Intensive*, Montclair, New Jersey. Contact: Pamela Boyce Sims <pbs9@georgetown.edu>

Sunday, March 1, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm: Friends Center, Philadelphia, PA, Mid-Atlantic Transition Neighborhoods Workshop Intensive is Friends and Mid-Atlantic Transitioners from the New York metropolitan, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Central New Jersey and Baltimore areas are invited for an in-depth exploration of the Transition movement's worldview, development, and pragmatic resilience-building application in the Mid-Atlantic region. (*Meeting for worship on site is part of the schedule.*) Free of charge. Information: (646) 241-8386

Monday, March 2, 7:30-9:30 pm – Pendle Hill Retreat Center, Wallingford, PA, First Monday's Series, talk and discussion: *Transition in the City: The Transition Movement in the Mid-Atlantic Megacity Corridor* How is the Transition movement developing in the densely populated Mid-Atlantic megalopolis corridor, which stretches from New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, and Washington, down to Richmond? Pamela Boyce Simms, Lead Trainer Transition US, Convener will facilitate the conversation. Free of charge. Information: 610-566-4507, ext. 12.

Meeting for Discernment – Old Chatham Meetinghouse, Saturday, March 7, 2015; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Meetings for Discernment are a time when the Yearly Meeting gathers for extended worship without the weight of an agenda for business, but with prepared queries discerned to help elicit what is rising and tender in our monthly meetings and worship groups. Because Meetings for Discernment offer an occasion for the Yearly Meeting community to hear what is rising up among us, monthly meetings and worship groups are asked to send at least one person to participate. Appointees are not asked to bring prepared messages, but rather to speak to the queries as moved in the moment by God, by the Inward Light of

Christ, by Spirit. By meeting this way, we may hear that which might not be heard in the midst of committees and attending to business.

This Meeting for Discernment will focus on the following queries. As preparation, we invite Friends to consider the queries in light of the life of your monthly meeting or worship group.

What is happening in your monthly meeting that the rest of us need to hear?

What is happening in your monthly meeting that the rest of us might hold?

Registration for day attendance is still open. Please complete the registration form available on the New York Yearly Meeting website (www.nyym.org). Please then email the form to dianne.leung@fairpoint.net. *Please come prepared to pay a registration fee of \$15 per person, to help defray the cost of childcare, a simple lunch, and other necessities. We ask everyone to contribute something, even if they cannot afford the full \$15. The Old Chatham meetinghouse is located across from Pitt Hall Road and the sign to Powell House, at 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham, NY. For directions, go to <http://www.oldchathamquakers.org>.*

Winter weather advisory: *If the weather seems questionable, please check your e-mail on Friday, March 6th (if you have provided us with your e-mail address).*

ARCH Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH)

ARCH's mission is to cultivate a community of well supported aging Friends. Becoming a part of the ARCH Visitor network connects you with other Friends around NYYM who share your experiences, who struggle just as you do to find balance, and who find they are able to do these things better because they do them together. Please join us March 20-22 for our weekend training retreat in Syracuse. This weekend is offered at no cost to anyone in the NYYM through a grant from the Friends Foundation for the Aging. For more information contact Barbara Spring at bkspring70@gmail.com or 518-441-6405 by March 5, 2015.

Playing in the Light: Godly Play/ Faith & Play Training For Quakers

Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29 At Powell House

This powerful way of being with children can transform your First Day School or Friends school classroom, and nurture your own spiritual life. Learn and practice skills to help children explore the existential limits of their lives through wonder, play, and core stories from the Bible and Quaker faith and practice.

These stories are scripted and tested to work well with multi-age groups of children, as well as in multi-generational settings. A certified trainer will model stories, and you will have an opportunity to practice them with your peers.

Workshop facilitator Melinda Wenner Bradley, a member of West Chester Friends Meeting (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting), is the clerk of the Faith & Play

Working Group and an accredited Godly Play® trainer who works with Quaker meetings and Friends schools around the country. For registration details visit

15th Street Arts Committee Performance of Charles Sirey Plays

The 15th Street Meeting Arts Committee is planning a series of readings of new plays by members of our community at the Meeting House, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY. If you're interested in reading, please meet us at 1:30 pm after meeting on March 22nd so we can hear you. On March 29th, we will have a rehearsal. On April 5th the 15th Street Arts Committee will perform four Charles Sirey plays at the Meeting House, 15 Rutherford Place at 1:30 pm, please come. All are welcomed.

Contact for the Arts Committee: smithhoffmanr@gmail.com

The Arts Committee Blog: <http://quakerarts.blogspot.com/>

Peace & Planet Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Mobilization -

The Peace & Planet Mobilization will bring thousands of people from across the United States and around the world to the United Nations in New York to call upon the parties to the NPT to use the 2015 Review Conference to immediately, without delay, develop a timetable to ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons, as required by Article VI of the treaty. For those who can't be in New York, a "Global Wave" of public actions will circumnavigate the globe to symbolically "Wave Goodbye to Nuclear Weapons." We will also present millions of signatures to UN and NPT officials and government delegations. Recognizing the interconnected human and moral imperatives of abolishing nuclear weapons, ending and preventing wars, ensuring economic and social justice and reversing climate change, our events will explore the linkages in order to build broader, more issue-integrated movements for the long term. Read our Call to Action [here](#). We also invite you to [Endorse the Peace & Planet Mobilization here](#).

Please also joins us as you can in our:

- [International Conference April 24 & 25 in New York](#)
- [Rally, March, Festival](#) and [Interfaith Service](#) April 26, also in New York
- [Global Peace Wave](#) (around the planet)
- [Petition campaign](#)
- [Fact Countdown](#) (social media campaign)
- Like us on [Facebook](#) and Follow us on [Twitter](#).

For more information visit www.peaceandplanet.org or email info@peaceandplanet.org. Together for a nuclear-free, peaceful, just and sustainable world! Jackie Cabasso, Joseph Gerson, and Kevin Martin on behalf of the [International Planning Group for the Peace & Planet Mobilization](#). To volunteer contact Stephen Polk, AFSC Disarmament Associate, at SPolk@afsc.org.

Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology - Since 1943, the **Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology** has gathered to explore themes that appeal to the growth and development of the inner life, with a specific focus on Jungian psychology. FCRP currently meets over Memorial Day weekend (this year, May 23-26, 2015) in beautiful Central Pennsylvania on the campus of Lebanon Valley College. A guest speaker develops the Conference theme in four plenary sessions over four days. Within a retreat-like environment, participants open to the speaker's message and its personal resonance in their lives. Participants also participate in an Interest Group to process and integrate insights. Each morning there is Meeting for Worship. Throughout the weekend, community builds at meals and in the evening diversions.

This year the theme for the Conference is "The Archetypes of Aging: Cultivating and Satisfying the Wise Spirit" with Plenary Speaker Alden Josey, PhD. More details and registration information are available at fcrp.quaker.org. Please join us, and help us publicize this event.

NYYM Summer Sessions

Dear friends:

2015 will be the 320th anniversary of the creation of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. 2015 is also the 60th anniversary of our becoming a united yearly meeting, approved at Summer Sessions 1955. And finally, 2015 will be the first calendar year during which we will consider and worship on our shared Leadings and Priorities, approved at the 2014 NYYM Summer Sessions. (Find the full text of the Leadings and Priorities online at nyym.org)

Given these three historic events, NYYM's Session Committee has chosen to work them together into a theme for the 2015 Summer Sessions, being held July 19-25, at Silver Bay Association. Along with our two anniversaries, the first two envision statements from our Leadings and Priorities are; "We Envision A Yearly Meeting Deeply Grounded In The Practice Of Our Faith" and "We Envision A Yearly Meeting Made Up Of Strong, Vital Monthly Meetings." And while we are all encouraged to consider the six envision statements as one piece, our theme will be; **320 Years, One Faith --- 60 Years, One Meeting --- Today, One Vision.**

We invite all f/Friends to consider this theme as a starting point for every level of their Quaker work and worship throughout the entire year. For instance, the NYYM Communications Committee dedicated the January Spark to these first two envision statements. The articles provided "food for thought" and prayer and action. Perhaps your Meeting could host discussion groups to consider the

envision statements and the Spark articles. Perhaps your committee could consider its work with the envision statements in mind – how does our work further the practice of our faith and strengthen our Meetings? Certainly, First Day Schools and Youth Groups need a strong foundation in understanding Quakerism and a strong Meeting to support them as they discover their own faithful gifts.

We hope you will join us in celebrating New York Yearly Meeting, which is, after all, nothing without our Faith and our Meetings. We are 320 years strong because of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,
NYYM Sessions Committee

Staff Travel Calendars

ARCH Coordinator, Callie Janoff

February 28 15th St. Monthly Meeting for NYC ARCH Visitors Gathering

March 20-22 Syracuse for ARCH Visitor Training

April 10-12 to Poughkeepsie for Spring Sessions

ARCH Coordinator, Barbara K Spring

February 21- March 3 Traveling in Arizona and Montana

March

6- Stories of Racism with Albany Meeting

7- Discernment Day at Old Chatham

14- Pastoral Care workshop at Powell House

April

10-12 Spring Sessions at Oakwood

24-26 Life Story Festival with Rochester Meeting

General Secretary, Christopher Sammond

February

6-8 Attend FGC Spiritual Deepening Consultation, Atlanta, GA

18 Meet with Powell House Youth Program Co-director, Old Chatham, NY

21 Visit Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting, Auburn, NY

March

6-7 Support Meeting for Discernment, Old Chatham, NY

15 Visit Albany Monthly Meeting, Albany, NY

27-29 Participate in the Advancement Committee/ Spiritual Nurture Working Group/Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee consultation, Stony Point Retreat Center

April

10-12 Attend NYYM Spring Sessions, Oakwood School, Poughkeepsie, NY
17-20 Support NYYM/NEYM Pastors Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
22-25 Attend FUM General Board and North American Ministries Committee meetings, Richmond, IN

Young Adult Field Secretary, Gabrielle Savory Bailey

February 27-March 1-- Powell House Creativity Weekend

March

6-7 --Old Chatham MM for Meetings for Discernment, Old Chatham, NY

8-- Visit to a MM, TBD

27-29 Consultation at Stony Point

April

10-12 Spring Sessions- Oakwood School, Poughkeepsie, NY

May

2 YAF Mini Retreat, Adirondack MM, Glens Falls, NY

3 Worship with Adirondack MM

15-17 Farmington Scipio Spring Gathering