

# InfoShare

## New York Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Editor: Sarah Way

February 2017

### Introduction and Info about Spark and Social Media

Welcome to February InfoShare, the email newsletter of New York Yearly Meeting. Read on for announcements, events, job opportunities, and news from Friends. A printable version is attached—please print out and bring to your meeting to share with Friends who don't use computers. Onward!

**Write for Spark! Announce your meeting's news!** The March issue, which contains information about Spring Sessions, is already in progress. The following issue of Spark is the May issue that contains information for Summer Sessions. The theme for articles that month is DISCERNMENT. Please submit articles on that topic, or any other topic that has inspired you, to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). Meeting clerks and others: please submit announcements and news from your meeting or committee. The rest of our Yearly Meeting wants to hear from you. The deadline for May Spark submissions is April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Keep up-to-date with NYYM events!** NYYM staff members update the Facebook page frequently with timely event announcements and Quaker-related links. Join the New York Yearly Meeting Facebook group, or read without a Facebook account here: <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting/>

I share short, timely messages and links via Twitter. Follow the account @NYYMtweets or you read NYYM's tweets here: <https://twitter.com/NYYMTweets>

Thanks, with love to all,

Sarah Way  
Interim Communications Director

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### Notes & Announcements

#### Gather Together at Spring Sessions, March 31-April 2

**Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY; Registration info to come at [nyym.org](http://nyym.org)**

Dear Friends,

We gather for Spring Sessions at Friends Academy on Long Island. Those of you coming from upstate (which in this case includes even those of us in many parts of New York City) will pass not far from the stone marking the spot where George Fox preached

in 1672, under two large oaks in John Bowne's garden. Much has changed since then: though my meeting, Scarsdale, has a small table made from their wood, the trees are long gone, the stone stands in front of an apartment building, and many of the signs in the busy neighborhood are in Chinese. But some things have not changed. We still, as then, speak truth to power. This Spring Sessions give us a chance to ground our speech in worship together. Witness Coordinating Committee will have space on the agenda; politically things are moving quickly, and there may be important actions to consider, individually or collectively. Christopher Sammond, our General Secretary, will have a report, and we will hear a report on the progress toward replacing him when he resigns this summer.

We had the biggest crowd ever (about 70 people) at Coordinating Committee Weekend in January. It is an important time to be together, Friends. We have a long history of speaking into the political space in which we find ourselves. We know how to do it. Let us support each other in this deep discipline and celebrate our collective wisdom.

Looking forward to being together,

Lucinda Antrim  
Clerk, NYYM

### **What does it mean to Quaker Outside the Lines?**

It means to take your Quaker faith out into your community in meaningful ways.

If you have a project in mind that would engage your neighborhood community, we have an opportunity for you! From now until October, Friends in New York Yearly Meeting can receive up to \$200 reimbursement for a project that:

- Involves Quakers and non-Quakers doing something together;
- Is a manifestation of Quaker faith;
- Is meaningful to people living in your town or city;
- Happens somewhere other than your meetinghouse (libraries/schools/parks/etc.);
- And is documented at least once on social media, using #Quakeroutsidethelines.

This is open to all of us in NYYM - individuals, whole meetings, small groups, First Day Schools, everybody!

Watch the introductory video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZoDewhvUzs&feature=youtu.be>

And apply (or get more information) here: [www.tinyurl.com/quakeroutsidethelines/](http://www.tinyurl.com/quakeroutsidethelines/)

**New! Hot off the presses! “The Tote Bag: NYYM Religious Education and Family Resources”** is an e-newsletter published quarterly by the Children and Youth Field Secretary. The Winter 2017 issue includes new curriculum resources for First Day

programs, events and news for families, youth witness opportunities, and information about summer programs. To read, share, and subscribe go to: <https://goo.gl/JicOc6>

### **New York Quarterly Meeting now has a Facebook and a Twitter account!**

Watch these sites for information and announcements from the meetings in New York City.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/New-York-Quarterly-Meeting-of-the-Religious-Society-of-Friends-1268146513244177/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/NYQMFriends>

### **Conscientious objection to paying taxes for war –**

How can it be legalized?

A program for those committed to Peace ... Note your calendar now!

People of conscience and faith have faced the conflict of what to do about their personal payment of taxes and their deeply held beliefs in opposition to war and military spending. Some people have decided to withhold a portion of their taxes in protest which puts them in violation of the law while others choose to live below the taxable income letting their lives speak out for peace and against war. Many do neither fearing what the government could do to them or because they have obligations to family. The US government has recognized conscientious objection to war since early in the last century after several religious denominations including Quakers in the US lobbied to create a legalized C.O. status. However, conscientious objection does not cover payment of taxes which go to war and other military spending. Expanding the concept of conscientious objection to tax payment is the work of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund/Peace Tax Foundation. NCPTF/PTF has been engaged in the long-term work of lobbying congress to pass the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill which will entitle taxpayers with moral and ethical concerns about war and military spending to have the portion of their taxes used for war be placed into a fund which can only be used for non-military purposes.

Malachy Kilbride, a member of Friends Meeting of Washington (Washington, DC), is the executive director of NCPTF/PTF. He is a longtime peace and social justice activist. Malachy will be meeting with Friends on **Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 2pm-4pm at Fifteenth Street Meeting**, 15 Rutherford Place, New York 10003. He looks forward to meeting Friends living in the NYC area and sharing the story of NCPTF/PTF and the new Peace Tax Advocate program where people can help pass the bill in congress. Rep. John Lewis (D) of Georgia is the sponsor of the bill which he will reintroduce this spring. Join Malachy as he spreads his message, "If you don't want war, don't pay for it!"

## FUM-sponsored Work-Study Trip to Palestine and Israel

Interested in learning more about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and learning more about the Ramallah Friends School in Palestine? An annual work-study trip to Palestine and Israel is slated for June 20–July 5. Nearly each day includes visits and discussion with representatives of groups focused on some aspect of peace-making. There are trips to see historical Bible-related sites. And there is a work component which, in addition to another project, includes giving the Ramallah Friends Meeting house a thorough cleaning. Worshipping with Friends each Sunday is important support for that small community. For more information contact Max Carter, a retired member of the Guilford College faculty, at [mcarter@guilford.edu](mailto:mcarter@guilford.edu)

My daughter and I were participants on the trip last year. For me it was a return to the Ramallah Friends School where I was a teacher more than 45 years ago and where I met Max Carter, a fellow teacher, who has been running these trips for years. I was amazed at the changes in Palestine since I worked there, but more importantly I found the discussions with various groups of people very enriching and enlightening. One of my best memories was an opportunity to worship with other women at the local mosque one Friday. I also enjoyed seeing more of the countryside than I saw when I was working there.

Liesel Dreisbach-Williams  
Rahway & Plainfield Monthly Meeting

## Paid Young Fellows & Advocacy Programs at FCNL

Do you know a future advocate? Are there young people in your meeting or church looking for opportunities to change the world?



The Friends Committee on National Legislation has MANY opportunities for young people of all ages to gain hands-on experience lobbying for peace and social justice.

Please share this information widely with young adults.

- **Spring Lobby Weekend (March 18-21, 2017)** will draw some 350 young adults to Washington to be trained and then lobby on income inequality. For those who need it, financial assistance is available.

- **Young Fellows Program (paid, full-time, late August 2017-July 2018)** brings recent college grads to work full-time in our Washington, DC office learning how to change the world. Nearly 200 young adults have come through this program over the last 40 years, and they've gained a keen appreciation for the power of effective, principled advocacy whether they go on to a career in law and policy change or in another field. *Apply by February 15.*
- **Summer Internship Program (June and July 2017)** is designed for college sophomores and juniors. This opportunity provides two months of experience working with our Quaker lobby in Washington, DC. *Apply by March 6.*
- **Advocacy Corps (paid, part-time, August 2017-May 2018)** includes a 10-day training in Washington, DC followed by nine months of part-time, paid consulting work (25-35 hours per month) organizing locally on climate change. *Apply by April 10.*

Our Young Adult Friends and friends of Friends need us now more than ever. Thank you for sharing these opportunities with them.

Sincerely,

**Christine Ashley**  
*Quaker Field Secretary*

## Religious Education News and Youth and Family Resources

**New! Hot off the presses!**  
**“The Tote Bag: NYYM Religious Education and Family Resources”** is an e-newsletter published quarterly by the Children and Youth Field Secretary. The Winter

2017 issue includes new curriculum resources for First Day programs, events and news for families, youth witness opportunities, and information about summer programs. To read, share, and subscribe go to: <https://goo.gl/JicOc6>

**The Tote Bag:**  
 NYYM Religious Education  
 and Family Resources



### **AVP Summer Camp for Youth Leadership and Personal Development**

A summer day camp “with a difference” for youth entering Grades 6-11. Have fun while building a community of peers and growing and developing as a person. August 7 - August 17, 2017 (Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm) at Chatham-Summit Friends Meeting. Using the principles of the Alternatives to Violence Project program, teens will focus on:

- Self-esteem
- Communication
- Nonviolent Relationships
- Conflict Transformation
- Community Building

The goal is to help young people develop into leaders who are caring and skillful communicators in all their relationships.

To learn more: [avpnjyouth.weebly.com](http://avpnjyouth.weebly.com)

### **Celebrate Black History in February (and all year!)**

Visit the NYYM website for a robust list of resources to share in First Day programs and with families in your meeting. [<insert link>](#) The NYYM Resource Library has books, DVDs and accompanying curriculum to share with you!

*“Carter Godwin Woodson, teacher, principal and supervisor of schools, established Negro History Week, which evolved into Black History Month following the Black Consciousness Movement of the 1960s. African American History Month is a reminder to all of us to continue Carter G. Woodson's commitment — to bring greater regard for the contributions of African Americans to this country, to understand and overcome a legacy of oppression and racism, and, in so doing, to further racial harmony among us all.”*

— from [The History Behind Black History Month, Teaching Tolerance](#) by Joan Novelli

### **Celebrate the Year of the Rooster in 2017!**

First Day programs and families might include in their reading children's books centering on the Lunar New Year and Asian-American children's experiences.

**15 Wonderful Chinese New Year Picture Books** (For additional multicultural titles, visit [www.pragmaticmom.com](http://www.pragmaticmom.com).)

### **All Friends Regional Meeting seeks volunteers for NYYM Fall Sessions 2017**

NYYM Fall Sessions are scheduled to meet at Caldwell University in New Jersey, November 11 and 12, 2017. We will need volunteers to:

- A) Organize and/or provide transportation from the bus stop (and possibly, airport) to the campus
- B) Provide overnight hospitality to Friends coming from a distance
- C) Work at the registration table (we'll need to do this in shifts, all day Saturday)
- D) Help with babies, children, or teens. We have a youth program in the planning stages with Sylke Jackson and Jim Mandala. (we do not plan to have teen sleepovers)
- E) Serve as microphone runners during business meeting (a good way to find out what it's all about)
- F) Welcome people to Chatham-Summit meetinghouse Friday evening
- G) Provide food for a potluck supper on Friday
- H) Provide a First Day School program for children on Sunday. They will need to be cared for both during meeting for worship and during the business sessions.

Many tasks are easy, and if many people volunteer, the work for each person will be easy. Most of the work will have to be done much closer to the meeting of NYYM in the fall of 2017, but some will need to be started in the spring of this year. We have a detailed handbook that will help each person know exactly what needs to be done.

The reward for this service is to be in closer contact with Friends at a distance from our home meetings: getting to know one another in the All Friends Region and in the New York Yearly Meeting, and learning more about the Yearly Meeting and what it does. Volunteers may contact Claire Simon at [quakerartist@verizon.net](mailto:quakerartist@verizon.net) or Alice Coulombe at [aa.lleenn@verizon.net](mailto:aa.lleenn@verizon.net)

## 2017 FGC Gathering is being hosted by NYYM!

FGC Gathering is July 2-8 at Niagara, NY. The theme: Ripples start where spirit moves. Early registration starts April 3<sup>rd</sup> and financial aid is available. More info: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>



## Positions Available

**General Secretary** of New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

This is a full-time position headquartered in New York City, serving the needs of more than 60 monthly meetings spread through New York State and parts of Connecticut, western Massachusetts, and New Jersey.

The ideal candidate is a servant leader with strong spiritual grounding, abilities in both administration and ministry, good understanding of Quaker process, and demonstrated skills in

- Translating vision into action
- Management
- Collaboration

- Releasing and nurturing others' gifts in ministry
- Communication
- Building effective teams of volunteers
- Development, grant writing, budgeting

Although each General Secretary brings a personal vision, typical activities of the position include visiting throughout the Yearly Meeting, leading workshops for spiritual growth, writing press releases on urgent events, and consulting with committees and meetings in crisis. The General Secretary leads and supervises a small staff that has grown in size and scope, coordinating their efforts with groups of volunteers. Eventual membership in a monthly meeting of NYYM is expected.

For more information about NYYM see [nyym.org](http://nyym.org). Specific job description to be posted shortly.

Contact: [search@nyym.org](mailto:search@nyym.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Raising Anti-Racist White Children

February 11, 2017 in Beacon, NY

Please register today!

Although mainstream Americans love to believe today's young people are beyond racism, a Washington Post article reports "Millennials are just as racist as their parents." Which, unfortunately, is pretty racist. Turns out dismantling racism takes more than white kids having more friends of color. White adults need to educate ourselves and white youth in anti-racism.

We're kicking off our workshop season with Raising Anti-racist White Children in Beacon, NY on Saturday, February 11, 9am to 3:30pm. \$95 includes lunch and a free book. This workshop is designed for educators, parents, caregivers and everyone who wants to support white children to develop an aware and healthy racial identity, and the potential to join the next generation of anti-racist organizers and healers.

Please see our flyer for details and register here.

All of our workshops are appropriate for white people who are learning what to do about racism, and for people of color who support white people in taking action against racism.

There is a \$10 discount per workshop for graduates of any workshop in the series. Student rate is offered at registration. Sliding scale is also available by writing to [robin.alpern@gmail.com](mailto:robin.alpern@gmail.com).

— Robin Mallison Alpern,  
Director of Training, Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc.

robin.alpern@gmail.com  
www.euroamerican.org

## **LOOK UP! A Visual Meditation at 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**

How would you like to lay on the carpet (or a bench) at 15th Street Meetinghouse on Sat. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30-8:00 p.m., and look up into the jewel-like canopy of linden trees in all seasons?

Join us at our visual meditation: LOOK UP! Visions from Under the Canopy, created by Quaker filmmaker, Amala Lane and her partner, Steven Soblick. A full program lasts 55 minutes and takes you through all seasons, with both still and moving images; visitors are welcomed to come and go for as long as they wish. A short documentary will be screened every half hour in the Common Room featuring naturalist and author Leslie Day in which she shares both her scientific and spiritual understanding of the interconnectedness of trees and people. 15th Street Meeting member, Janet Soderberg of Friends in Unity and Nature, and Amala Lane will facilitate a worship sharing based on Peter Wohlleben's "The Hidden Life of Trees" as well as a time for responding to the installation from 3:00-3:40 p.m. It will be called a sharing circle so that newcomers and non-Quakers will feel welcomed; feel free to invite friends and loved ones to join in.

Try to get to enjoy the installation (opens at 1:30) before joining in the worship sharing. If you are volunteering, please make sure to allow some time to actually *enjoy* the event. Hopefully, being in touch with trees will remind us of their ability to be rooted, yet flexible. These qualities are surely needed right now!

**To bow and to bend we shall not be ashamed.**

You can rsvp to the event on FB here. <https://www.facebook.com/events/245162919243242/>

## **TWO Quaker Parent Meetups scheduled for the coming weeks:**

February 25 in Purchase Quarter at Purchase Meeting

March 18 in New York Quarter at Flushing Meeting House (the first in a series of 4 for NYQM!)

We gather for fellowship, worship, and fun. Child care and refreshments provided.

Parents of children from infants to teens are welcome — come with or without the kids!

Want more info or to tell us you're attending? email [childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org)



## **Annual Conference of Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling**

### ***Centered in Wholeness: Body & Spirit* — March 23-26, 2017**

We are delighted to announce that, after postponement for speaker emergency last fall, the annual Quakers in Pastoral Care & Counseling (QPCC) conference has been rescheduled for March 23-26, 2017 at Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana.

QPCC is an organization of Friends and others called into ministry in pastoral care, counseling, and chaplaincy. We share a commitment to Quaker practice and grounding our work in our faith. We include:

- Professionals in direct care, clinical training, supervision, and administration
- Students/Fellows/Residents in professional programs
- Friends called into other manners and ministries of healing
- Those involved in pastoral care of monthly, quarterly and/or yearly meetings
- Friends who have retired from work in healing/caring fields.

The conference program, "*Centered in Wholeness: Body & Spirit*," will be led by **Stephanie Ford**, known to many as a longtime Associate Professor of Spirituality at Earlham School of Religion. Stephanie is now Minister of Christian Formation at Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, NC. She also teaches with the Friends of Christ School (a local ecumenical group), and the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation.

The retreat schedule will include discussion and exercises led by Stephanie, small group sharing, and ample time for recharging/reconnecting with F/friends, nature, Spirit, and yourself. Massage, yoga, aromatherapy, centering prayer, and other self-care opportunities are on the menu as well.

To register, go to

<https://www.regonline.com/register/login.aspx?eventID=1837205&MethodId=0&Events> For more information about the conference, speaker, and QPCC itself, go to our website ([www.qpcc.us](http://www.qpcc.us)).

## **Youth Theological Initiative Summer Programs**

(Note: this is not a specifically Quaker organization, but it comes recommended from Callid Keefe-Perry, former member of NYYM; the program is Christ-centered and is a rare ecumenical opportunity designed specifically for teens. – Emily Provance)

We are now accepting applications for the 2017 YTI Summer Programs.

YTI started in 1993 with a vision of “cultivating public theologians.” We seek to gather young people from around the country, and even around the world, across diverse racial, ethnic, denominational, theological and cultural perspectives, in order to study Christian theology and connect what we are learning with the needs of our communities. When we come together as a community, we seek to live into what it means to be the Body of Christ for the world.

From **July 2-22, 2017** forty rising high school juniors and seniors will come to the Emory University campus. They will take classes on theological themes taught by Emory University doctoral students and professors. They will engage in service and social justice ministry in the Atlanta community. They will plan and lead creative and inspiring worship and prayer. They will participate in discussions with theology students and “explore questions that shape us.” And, they will make some of the best friends they will ever have. Please consider applying to the YTI Summer Academy for 2017 if you are currently in the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade, or encourage others who are to do so. Applications are due **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**, but we are happy to accept them earlier!

New this year, we are introducing a 5-day version of our 3-week program, called “Taste of YTI,” which is open to students currently in 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades. We know that for some, a three-week commitment is not possible, so this shorter version might be another option for you. Taste of YTI will be held **June 11-15, 2017**.

There’s an online application, which allows you to apply to BOTH YTI Summer Academy AND Taste of YTI at the same time, in case you are interested in both: [https://yti.formstack.com/forms/summer\\_scholar\\_programs](https://yti.formstack.com/forms/summer_scholar_programs) The online application also automatically sends online recommendation letter forms to the 2 people you choose as recommenders, making the process easier.

You can also watch videos, see photos, and read more about YTI at our website: [www.yti.emory.edu](http://www.yti.emory.edu). If you have any specific questions or need more applications or flyers to give to others, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ecorrie@emory.edu](mailto:ecorrie@emory.edu) or at [404-727-2917](tel:404-727-2917).

Blessings,

Elizabeth Corrie, Ph.D., Director

## **Staff Travel Calendars**

### **ARCH Director, Callie Janoff**

#### **February**

7-8 Albany, meet with ARCH staff

#### **March**

24-26 NYC, ARCH Visitor Training

28-29 Philadelphia, meet with Pacific Yearly Meeting Aging Facilitator

31-April 2 NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY

### **ARCH Specialist, Anita Paul**

#### **March**

24-26 Stony Point Retreat Center, FWCC - Section of the Americas

### **Children and Youth Field Secretary, Melinda Wenner Bradley**

#### **February**

5 Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting @Poughkeepsie Meeting

- 12 Montclair Friends Meeting (Partner Project)
- 25 Quaker Parent Meetup: Purchase Quarter at Purchase Meeting
- 26 Morningside Meeting

**March**

- 4 Youth Institute for Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, Rochester Meeting
- 5 Ithaca Meeting
- 12 Westbury Meeting: Program on Multigenerational Community
- 18 Quaker Parent Meetup: NYQM at Flushing Meeting
- 19 Wilton Friends Meeting (Partner Project)
- 23-25 FWCC Section of the Americas meeting (representing Quaker RE Collaborative)
- 26 Montclair Friends Meeting (Partner Project)
- 31 NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY

**April**

- 1-2 NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY
- 21-23 Youth Institute at Powell House

**General Secretary, Christopher Sammond**

**February**

- 4 Attend Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting Extended Worship, Ithaca, NY
- 10-12 Attend Spiritual Nurture Working Group retreat: *Being of Service: Exploring Public Ministry in Our Meetings*, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
- 17-19 Lead retreat for Orchard Park Monthly Meeting and Friends from Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting: *On Seeking the Sense of the Meeting*, Orchard Park, NY

**March**

- 10-11 Support Meetings for Discernment, Poplar Ridge, NY
- 23-26 Attend FWCC Section of the Americas meeting, Stony Point Retreat Center, Stony Point, NY
- 31 Attend NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY

**April**

- 1-2 Attend NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY
- 23 Lead retreat for All Friends Regional Meeting, Living with Open Hearts in Challenging Times, location to be determined
- 27-28 NYYM/NEYM Pastoral Meetings Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
- 29 Climate March, Washington DC

**Co-Young Adult Field Secretary, Emily Provance**

**February**

- 5 Visit to Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting
- 11 QuED at Fifteenth Street
- 12 Visit to Jericho
- 24-26 Creativity and Spirituality at Powell House

**March**

- 4 QuED at Bulls Head-Oswego
- 5 Visit to Matinecock

- 11 Meeting for Discernment
- 18 Parent Meet-up, New York Quarterly Meeting
- 20-26 FWCC, Traveling Ministry Corps Training and Section of the Americas Meeting,  
Stony Point, NY
- 31-**April 2** NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY