



August 2017

Welcome to a summer edition of *InfoShare*, the email newsletter from New York Yearly Meeting (the organization of Quakers in New York, New Jersey, and western Connecticut). Read on for news about jobs, events, and opportunities from monthly meetings and NYYM staff members. Also: OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE! Please check it out at nnym.org.

In between editions of *InfoShare* and *Spark* (our printed newsletter) you can keep in touch with NYYM through our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

Please **send your meeting's news** and **submit articles to *Spark*** by emailing them to communications@nnym.org. The deadline for September's issue of *Spark* has been extended to **FRIDAY AUGUST 11!** The theme is ***Bridging the Divide***, a topic inspired by the energy and movement sparked by last year's white privilege conference and by last year's divisive election and aftermath. The theme for November's *Spark* is ***Welcoming, as the first step of Outreach***, to be guest-edited by the Outreach Working Group. Submissions deadline is Oct. 1st.

So nice to see many of you at Summer Sessions. Have a lovely August.

— Sarah Way, Editor

Job Openings

Young Adult Field Secretary for NYYM

The deadline for applications for the Young Adult Field Secretary position has been EXTENDED to September 15th. Do you (or does someone you know) have an interest in working with young adult Friends? The Young Adult Field Secretary supports the young adults in New York Yearly Meeting, disseminating information and facilitating networking; assisting in multi-generational community development; doing mentoring, pastoral care, coordinating, and outreach; and helping young adult Friends to develop their gifts and to find a home in the Religious Society of Friends. In addition, the

position will support young adult Friends' retreats and activities and opportunities for religious education and will serve as a support and focal point for college outreach efforts. This is a half-time position that requires ongoing ministry and considerable travel, including many weekend commitments, around the NYYM area.

View the job opening announcement [here](#).

View the full, detailed job description [here](#).

Please SPREAD THE WORD! Thanks!

Upcoming Events

Solitary Unit Display at Old Chatham Meeting

Old Chatham Quaker meeting will be exhibiting a replica of a solitary housing unit (SHU) at the Columbia County Fair in Chatham, NY from August 31st through September 4, 2017. The United States is facing a crisis of mass incarceration with over 2.2 million people packed into its jails and prisons, 80,000 of whom in any given year are housed in solitary housing units. The SHU is still used in New York State prisons despite a 2015 agreement NYS is implementing to reduce its use. People in a SHU in NYS spend 22 to 24 hours a day locked in a cell the size of an elevator, alone or with one other person. Over 40% of all suicides in NY prisons in 2014 and 2015 took place in solitary, though only 9% of all people in prison are in solitary.

Old Chatham meeting has received a \$200 grant from NYYM's program Quaker Outside the Lines to help fund this exhibit. We are raising funds to pay the booth rental fee and to supplement the 20 free tickets we will be allotted. We will soon reach our funding goal. What we need most are volunteers to help us staff the booth. We will staff the booth during the entire day in shifts of 2 hours each, two persons per shift. The fair hours are Thursday NOON to 11pm and Friday-Monday 10am-11pm. If you are interested in helping staff the exhibit, contact Ann Rommel rsr@taconic.net or Bob Elmendorf poetapoetus@taconic.net

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) Gathering

QREC's 4th annual gathering is August 18-20 at Quaker Hill in Richmond, IN. *Registration is still open, though only shared rooms are available at this time.* QREC is a grassroots network of Friends who share resources, skills, gifts, questions, and insights, and support each other in the ministry of Quaker faith formation. QREC welcomes Friends from all branches of the international Quaker family involved in religious education: First Day School teachers, Adult RE facilitators, religious education committee members, parents, caregivers and others. The gathering will include workshops, interest groups, music (Rise Up Singing! with Annie Patterson), and a panel discussion

on the role of the Bible in Quaker religious education. For more details about QREC and for information about scholarships email Melinda at childrenyouthfs@nyym.org. Check out the [schedule](#) for this gathering and click [here](#) to register.

Upcoming QuED Days (Quaker Education and Discourse)

QuED is a free series for Young Adult Friends. Each QuED Day includes food, worship, speakers, conversations, and more. Watch the most recent talk (and many others!) at the [QuED Facebook page](#).

Upcoming QuED Days

August 19 at Manhasset Meeting, 1421 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY

September 16 at Montclair Meeting, 289 Park St., Montclair, NJ

October 7 at Buffalo Meeting, in Point Chautauqua, NY

November 4 at New Brunswick Meeting, 109 Nichol Ave., New Brunswick, NJ

Nourish your Spirit at a Powell House Conference this August

Oneness with Nature, a Women's Weekend with Pamela Boyce Simms and Renee Fogarty, August 18-20, 2017. The Women's March in early 2017 bore witness to the joyful midwifing of the Earth-centered energy. Our retreat will consider the pivotal roles women might play in this great, global unfolding. By taking full advantage of the seclusion and beauty surrounding Powell House, we will explore how *living into* our unity with the Earth can heal us even as we heal the planet.

Fun in the Sun! August 24-30, 2017. A family-oriented event exploring the cultural and natural surroundings and locations of interest around Powell House! Come for the whole week or just a couple of days. We'll make sure you are comfortable, well-fed, and have ample activity options, including camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, nature-based crafts, exploring the sky or animals or insects or the land.

Click [here](#) to register or for more information about Powell House, the NYYM retreat center.



Quaker Parent Meetups

Finding Joy and Support in Fellowship and Worship Together

Next Meetup for New York Quarter? September in Brooklyn!

Watch the [NYYM Facebook page](#) for announcement of exact date and location. We'll gather for fellowship, worship, and fun. Child care and refreshments provided – come with or without the kids!

Building a Culture of Multi-Age Inclusion – Video Conferences

Join Emily Provance, interim young adult field secretary, for any or all of the following video conference conversations. In these one-hour gatherings, we'll have worship, discussion, and concrete activities to help you apply these ideas in your meetings.

A note on our videoconference platform: Zoom is quite easy to use. Enter the link into your browser about fifteen minutes early the first time you use it so that you have time to download the app. You will need a webcam in your browser.

Tuesday, September 5th, 8pm: Building a Permission-Giving Culture

What happens if the default answer is yes unless there is a specific, Spirit-led reason to say no? We'll take a look at the difference between Quaker process and Spirit-led discernment, both at the ways that Quaker process supports discernment and the ways in which it can sometimes be a barrier to it. Finally, we'll examine how a monthly meeting can shift its perspective on Quaker process to be more fully supportive of younger generations and new Friends. LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/600585630>

Wednesday, September 13th, 8pm: Using Language to Empower

How can our word choice, in writing and in speaking, empower all generations to understand and be heard? We'll talk about two ways in which language is sometimes a barrier to multiage inclusion—first, the use of Quaker lingo without context, and second, the creation of documents with a high reading level. Join us for some exercises in which we get to practice simple explanation and multiage-accessible writing. LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/763256499>

For the rest of the video conference series, please see [the flyer](#) available online.

October 1: World Quaker Day

Looking to the Fall . . . World Quaker Day is October 1!

Watch [the “Save the Date” message](#) from Gretchen Castle, General Secretary of FWCC.

Activities and resources for ALL AGES to celebrate our world family of Friends:

<http://worldquakerday.org/index.html> and
<http://www.quakers4re.org/FWCC-QuakerSpeakCurricula>

Opportunities for your Meeting

Monthly Meeting Partners Project: Year Two Underway!

Your meeting is invited to participate in the Monthly Meeting Partner Project. The heart of the project is an intensive, Spirit-led partnership between yearly meeting staff and six meetings over three years. Through working with Partner Project meetings, we hope to learn as much as we can about effective new modes and methods of outreach and inclusion of children and families, while also helping meetings to deepen in Spirit and grow as a multi-age community. More information [can be found here](#).

Meetings interested in participating in the Partner Project for 2017-2019 can view [information and application questions](#) for meeting discernment.

Whether or not this project is a good fit with your meeting at this time, the yearly meeting hopes to support your work with children and families, and the children and youth field secretary serves as a resource for you. childrenyouthfs@nyym.org

Applications due by September 30 to begin work with the new partner meetings in October!

Is Your Meeting Ready for Better Online Outreach?

If you could easily send a message from your meeting to nearby young adults, would you want to do it? Earlier this year, six local meetings in New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) tried an experiment and reached 90,000 young adults in their areas in fifty days. We did this through a Facebook ad campaign. You can read more about that [here](#).

If you want to try this you need

- your meeting to be a part of NYYM
- to contribute \$125 to cover half the cost of the ads (NYYM will pay the other half)
- to commit a person who will, with the help of an experienced mentor, serve as your Facebook page co-administrator (a high level of experience is not required)
- to confirm your interest in participating **by August 13**. Send an email to yafs@nyym.org.

We have capacity for 18 local meetings to participate. You can read more about this opportunity [here](#).

Quaker Parenting Virtual Discussion Group Forming

Have you ever wondered:

- *How your Quaker faith can give support and guidance to your parenting?*
- *How your parenting is part of your spiritual journey?*
- *What guidance does Quakerism give to knowing how to deal with behavior challenges, from toddlers to teens?*

NYYM is partnering with the **Quaker Parenting Initiative** to explore these questions among a group of Friends using Zoom video conferencing. The 5-week series will meet beginning the last week in September. Weekly dates will be determined with input from registrants, and each session will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Parents and household caregivers of children 0-18 are welcome to these conversations and the program will be offered at no cost to participants, as we're experimenting with the virtual format. To sign up, email Melinda Wenner Bradley, NYYM children and youth field secretary, at childrenyouthfs@nyym.org.

For more information, view [the flyer here](#). Feel free to print out and post the flyer at your meeting!



NYYM Connect!

Did you know that New York Yearly Meeting (the organization of Quakers in New York, New Jersey, and western Connecticut) sends out regular communications with tons of information and opportunities? Here's your chance to make sure you're not missing anything!

Visit one central location to sign up for all the Quaker information you want, and none you don't, including:

- Announcements for families
- Regional mailing lists
- Powell House newsletter
- Info and resources about outreach
- Aging resources newsletter
- Info for teens
- Newsletter for young adult Friends
- And much more!

[Click here to get connected.](#)

News

State of Society Report Available as a Video!

You can now watch [a narrated video](#) of NYYM's 2017 State of Society report delivered by Marissa Badgley at Summer Sessions. Please share with folks!

INTRODUCTION: Steve Mohlke

New York Yearly Meeting welcomes Steve Mohlke as our new general secretary. Steve will begin on a part time basis as he completes other obligations and will join us on a full time basis September 25. Steve brings to the yearly meeting both his administrative and spiritual gifts.

Steve is a long standing member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting where he has served in various roles, including treasurer and clerk. He has served the yearly meeting as clerk of the Financial Services Committee, where he was involved in producing NYYM's annual budget. He is currently the co-clerk for Friends General Conference 2017 Gathering Committee. As a business owner and lecturer at Cornell University, Steve has developed skills in financial matters, staff development and leadership.

Steve's commitment to a spiritual life led him to participate in a two year program of prayer and study through the School of the Spirit. His leadership of New York Yearly Meeting will be grounded in Spirit and his commitment to developing staff and volunteers as an inclusive and effective embodiment of Quaker values.

Wilton Meeting's 75th Anniversary Party

The Norwalk Hour covered Wilton Meeting's 75th Anniversary Party in [this article](#) – includes some nice quotes and pictures!

Staff Calendars

Melinda Wenner Bradley, Children and Youth Field Secretary

August

18-20 attending Quaker Religious Education Collaborative annual gathering in Richmond, IN (*next year at Powell House!*)

27 All Friends Regional Meeting Picnic (Dover-Randolph Meeting)

September

17: visit to Montclair Meeting

Date TBD: Quaker Family Meetup for New York Quarter

Date TBD: visit to Brooklyn Meeting

October

4-5 Partner Project Meeting with NEYM Staff

13-15 visits to Saratoga, Easton and Albany Meetings

29 visit to Wilton Meeting

Callie Janoff, *ARCH Director*

September

27-28, FSA Meeting, Kendal Crosslands, Kennett Square, PA

October

21, Budget Saturday, Purchase Meeting

November

10-12, Fall Sessions, All Friends Regional Meeting

17-19, ARCH Weekend, Powell House

Steve Mohlke, *General Secretary*

Steve, NYYM's new general secretary, is serving on a part-time basis until September 25.

Emily Provance, *Interim Young Adult Field Secretary*

August

5-10 New England Yearly Meeting Sessions

19 QuED Day at Manhasset Meeting

September

16 QuED Day at Montclair Meeting

22-24 Spiritual Nurture Working Group Retreat at Powell House

October

4-5 Partner Project Meeting with NEYM Staff

4-7 FUM Board Meeting

7 QuED Day hosted by Buffalo Meeting near Lake Chautauqua

Note: Those last three conflict with each other. Emily will update us ASAP once the conflict is resolved.



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