

December 2017

Welcome, Friends, to the December edition of InfoShare, the email newsletter from New York Yearly Meeting. I hope it brings a bit of light during the darkest time of the year.

You can **announce your meeting's news** and **submit articles** to *Spark* or InfoShare by emailing me at [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). The theme for the January issue of *Spark*: **Why Membership?** Why did you become a member—or why have you not? What does being a member even MEAN? I'd love to include people's membership request letters. Please submit articles by **December 15** (if you need an extension, email me).

NYYM Friends send out regular communications with tons of information and opportunities. Make sure you're not missing anything! Visit [NYYM Connect!](#) to sign up for all the Quaker information you want (and none that you don't.)

And don't forget to keep in touch with your yearly meeting through our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

—Sarah Way, Editor

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## Upcoming Events

### Flushing Meeting in Historic House Tour

Flushing, Queens, NY • **December 10, 1-5pm**

Flushing Meeting House is one of the seven sites included in this year's Annual Historic House Tour in Flushing, Queens. **Friends Meeting House** is the first house of worship in the village of Flushing and NY's oldest structure in continuous use for religious purposes. It was built in 1694. The house will be open for tours; be sure to walk around the property and view the historic cemetery.

For tickets and more information, click [here](#).

## Learn about Quaker Voluntary Service

Brooklyn Meeting, NY • Sunday, December 17

Zenaida Peterson, Recruitment Coordinator for [Quaker Voluntary Service](#), will be at Brooklyn Meeting on Sunday December 17 and available to talk to Friends about the program during social hour (the hour after meeting ends; 12:15 or so).

QVS is a national organization based in the Quaker faith tradition and modeled on other faith based volunteer programs such as Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Mission Year, and Jesuit Volunteer Corps. The purpose of QVS is to provide opportunities for young adults to spend a year living in an intentional community with other young adults and to directly serve the marginalized people through full-time volunteer positions with nonprofit agencies, actively seeking to transform unjust social structures.

QVS currently has houses of service in Atlanta, Boston, Philadelphia, Portland, and will be opening our fifth house this coming fall in Minneapolis.

## Upcoming Powell House Conferences

[Powell House](#) is the retreat center for New York Yearly Meeting. Join us there!

Mary Kay Glazer is facilitating an [Advent Retreat](#), Dec. 15-17. *What are you waiting for?* During this retreat, we will have the gift of time to reflect on the season of Advent, the season of life unseen, the season of dwindling light.

Mary Kay is also running a retreat 2-8pm on Dec. 21, [Solstice, the Birth Within](#). As we head into winter and the coldest months of the year, we welcome and celebrate the imminent return of light. What is the interplay of dark and light in your life, and in the life of the world?

And don't forget to register for the always-popular, annual, intergenerational [New Year's Celebration](#), Dec. 30-Jan.1.

## Coming up in January:

[Dwelling Deep, a Contemplative Retreat](#), January 12-15, 2018 (through Monday lunch)

For 6th-8th Grade: [Art Inside and Out](#), January 12-14, 2018

For 9th-12th Grade: [Feed the Spirit](#), January 19-21, 2018

## Health Care: Where do we go from here?

**A talk at Old Chatham Meeting • Saturday January 6**

“Health Care: Where do we go from here” presented by Michael Kaplan, MD and Charles Wohl, MD at Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse Saturday, January 6, 2018, Potluck at 6:00pm, talk at 7:00pm, in the Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham, NY, across from Pitt Hall Road and Powell House.

Both Berkshire physicians have been advocates of a single-payer – an improved Medicare-for-all – healthcare system for the United States, and are members of Physicians for a National Health Program, the leading national organization of healthcare professionals in the single-payer movement.

Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and a moderated discussion will follow. For more information call 518-766-2992. For directions: [www.oldchathamquakers.org](http://www.oldchathamquakers.org)

## Quaker Parenting Discussion Group

**A virtual opportunity to gather with others on the path of parenting • January 10 or 11, 7:30-9:30pm**

The discussion series for NYYM Friends this Fall was wonderful, and Harriet Heath is offering this opportunity again beginning in January. It will be scheduled at the convenience of those who register. For more information about the program, which is a partnership between NYYM and the [Quaker Parenting Initiative](#), contact the Children and Youth Field Secretary, [childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org) or contact Harriet Heath, [harriet.e.heath@gmail.com](mailto:harriet.e.heath@gmail.com)



## Conversation Circle for Friends Serving Children and Youth Programs

**Online • Thursday, January 18 from 7:00-8:00pm**

This fall, Friends met online for three opportunities to gather with our community of practice to share and support one another in the ministry of spiritual formation with children and youth.

## **We'll gather for another in the new year!**

Thursday, January 18 from 7:00-8:00pm

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/575381420>

(Or email [childreneyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childreneyouthfs@nyym.org) for numbers to join by telephone.)

It's a "BYOM" event online (bring-your-own-mug of coffee or tea!) where we share new ideas, discuss what's working for us in our meetings, offer support for challenging situations, and nurture the community of practice among Friends involved in youth work. Join us!

## **Coordinating Committee Weekend**

**Powell House • January 26-28**

Friday dinner through Sunday lunch

Join Friends from around New York Yearly Meeting at Powell House for what has been known as Coordinating Committee Weekend. The weekend is open to anyone: please come to join in fellowship by the fire, worship, and worshipful (and at times light and lively!) consideration of the structure of our Yearly Meeting. There will be coordinating committee business but *you don't have to be a part of a coordinating committee to come!* You can attend committees that interest or excite you, but much of our time will be focused on finding a structure that best supports our lives as Friends.

In order to make the best use of our time together, we (the YM Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and General Secretary, with input from Liaison Committee) are providing a means of sharing ideas ahead of time. This link, <https://goo.gl/TskuZg>, will open an online form that asks a series of questions both specifically about Nurture Coordinating Committee (which is without a clerk) and more generally about Yearly Meeting structure. We will collate these ideas into a report which will be shared by email during the week before we gather. Then we can all begin the weekend knowing the variety of ideas already on each other's minds. We can then use our group time together to expand, revise and discern. We will not be making any decisions about the long term structure of the Yearly Meeting during this weekend but we are likely to start shaping it. We may, out of necessity, make some immediate decisions about temporary fixes to the problems facing the Nurture Coordinating Committee.

Please take the survey and please come! Register now

at [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org).

For further information contact Lucinda Antrim, NYYM Clerk, [lucindaantrim@gmail.com](mailto:lucindaantrim@gmail.com) or 914-473-2981.

## **Meeting for Discernment**

**15th Street Meetinghouse, New York, NY • February 16-17**

Save the date for the next Meeting for Discernment. Friends aspire (in Rufus Jones's words) to be "a living body of Christ in the world to-day [by] coming into union with God in our gatherings." Twice a year, a large body of NYYM Friends gather to experience "the tremendous power of silent community fellowship with God." No business is considered; the work of the day is simply extended worship on the basis of silence. Through prayerful discernment, those in attendance listen for God's guidance in what is rising at the Monthly Meeting level and throughout the Yearly Meeting body.

The next Meeting for Discernment will take place at Fifteenth Street meeting house, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003, on Saturday, February 17, 2018, from 9:30am to 5:30pm, hosted by Fifteenth Street Friends. All monthly meetings and worship groups are asked to appoint at least one person to attend. Appointees are asked not to bring prepared messages, but to speak as moved in the moment by Spirit, by God, by the Inner Christ. By meeting this way in the fullness of our community, we hear that which might not be heard in the midst of committees and attending to business.

Friends are invited to arrive soon after 8:30. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided. Worship will begin at 9:00, with lunch provided at noon and resumption of worship from 1:00 p. m. A donation of \$20 per person, paid on-site, will help defray the cost of childcare, lunch, and other necessities. For information regarding financial assistance for travel expenses, contact Jeffrey Aaron: (732) 247-9430 or [jephreyaaron@aol.com](mailto:jephreyaaron@aol.com). Local contact person is Chloe Tomlinson ([chloe.e.tomlinson@gmail.com](mailto:chloe.e.tomlinson@gmail.com), 215.806.1310).

## **NYYM News and Resources**

### **Friends Music Camp**

**A Summer Camp at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.**

We nurture a love of music while campers are part of a caring, inclusive community informed by Quaker principles. Two, three, and four weeks sessions beginning July 8, 2018 for campers age 10 to 18. Lessons in string, wind and brass instruments, piano, voice and guitar. More information at [friendsmusiccamp.org](http://friendsmusiccamp.org). For a "parent eye view" and to consider carpool possibilities, you are invited to contact camper parent (and NYYM Friend) Heidi Kelly at [hyoter47@yahoo.com](mailto:hyoter47@yahoo.com).



## Friendly Resources for Advent and the Coming of Christmas

### From the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

#### [Seeking Wonder and Light in the Spirit of this Season](#)

— a place to share resources and ideas for learning about and celebrating the Christmas season. We offer these resources in hopes that you will use them, create others and share the wonder of this season in First Day school and beyond in your meeting or church. To suggest a resource, email [QuakerCollaborative4RE@gmail.com](mailto:QuakerCollaborative4RE@gmail.com).

## NYYM Staff Transitions

Our Children and Youth Field Secretary, **Melinda Wenner Bradley**, has accepted a full time position of Youth Engagement Coordinator with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She remains available to continue her work with Partner Project meetings as a consultant but will wind down the rest of her part-time work with NYYM during December and January. The needs of her family, who moved to Pennsylvania this past summer, will be better supported by this change. Melinda's work helped catalyze work toward better integration of children and youth into the life of local meetings in NYYM. We appreciate her good work on behalf of all NYYM Friends and will miss her. We wish her good luck in her new position.

Our Interim Young Adult Field Secretary, **Emily Provance**, has finished that service. She continues to carry the ministries of connecting Friends, experimenting with outreach via social media, and supporting multi-age worship communities. Emily remains very active in our yearly meeting and other Quaker organizations. Read [her blog](#) for updates and inspiration.

# Staff Calendars

## **Callie Janoff, ARCH Director**

**January 26-28:** Coordinating Committee weekend at Powell House

**April 13-15:** Inaugural ARCH Visitor Training at Concord Quarter, PhYM

## **Steve Mohlke, General Secretary**

**December 9:** Visit Elmira Meeting

**January 12-14:** Undoing Racism Workshop

**January 26-28:** Coordinating Committee weekend at Powell House

## **Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary**

**December 16:** Woodbourne Prison Quaker Worship Group - A New Birth, A New Beginning Christmas Program

**January 26-28:** Coordinating Committee weekend at Powell House



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