



SPARK

New York Yearly Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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May 2017

Summer
Sessions
Information
Inside!



Friends playing with a parachute in front of the Inn at Silver Bay, Summer Sessions 2016. Photo by Jolene Festa.

A Letter from the Clerk

I continue to be delighted and inspired by the community of Friends in New York Yearly Meeting. When my energy flags I dip into the State of the Meeting reports that are arriving at the Yearly Meeting office, and am renewed; one concludes, “We seek to be centered, open-hearted, and clear-headed. And to be ready to discern and bear witness to Truth in our troubled world.” I am inspired by the energy

in our committees and working groups, and grateful when an e-mail appears in my inbox that answers the question in the hymn “Is it I, Lord?” with a sometimes tentative but always deeply faithful, “Here I am, Lord,” going where led into service and action in the world.

This summer, we gather for Summer Sessions to support one another in bringing the peaceable kingdom to a turbulent world.

We welcome our plenary speaker, Nadine Hoover from Friends Peace

Teams, who will speak on “Peace is Possible! Friends’ Testimony and Witness to Peace Today.” We will have many opportunities for worship and work. Our usual worship sharing groups will meet each morning, the highlight of the Summer Sessions experience for many. We will share time

The Powerful Practice of Discernment.

Discerning Direction with Dunca

When Times are Troubled

Mary Pugh Clark
Montclair Monthly
Meeting

I have a large, lanky cat named Dunca. He came to me last December at age 7. Although it was not my idea, together we have developed a meditation practice that has helped me find openings for action in our troubled times.

After breakfast as many mornings as I can I set aside 15 minutes to sit in silence in my den. I light candles and set the alarm on my phone. Because of an injury my legs are stretched out on an ottoman. Dunca has taken to positioning himself along my thighs. He waves his long tail, thlunk, thlunk, and constantly moves his body.

I stroke him with deliberation, first with one hand, then with the other. I run my fingers gently around his ears, then follow up with long strokes along his back. Developing a steady rhythm seems important. It is my way of showing my love. As I keep up my fondling, I hope he feels connected to me.

As we have repeated our practice, I have gained insight into how I want to act in the world. I seek to be patient and discern how “others” are feeling and what they

The Practice of Discernment

Christopher Sammond
General Secretary

The practice of discernment is at the core of our practice as Friends.

It is fundamental to our authentic practice of worship, of worship with attention to business, in our personal leadings, in our clearness committees, and in grounded committee work. Discernment is essential to the Quaker distinctive of continuing revelation. It is not an exaggeration to say that without discernment, we would have little to define us as Friends.

In short, it is how we make all important decisions which affect our individual lives and the life of our community. It’s not a rational or discursive process or we would call it: *Making a decision*; or *Having a discussion*; or *Figuring it out*; or *Assessing the situation*.

What, then, is it, and how do we access it?

Discernment is seeking to know God’s will, or, expressed in other theological languages, to be in the flow of the Universe, to be in harmony with Truth, to be in accord with Gospel Order, to be in step with the movement of the Divine. Wade Wilson describes discernment as “...going to the place where God makes things clear.” Discernment involves accessing a place within ourselves which is beyond our rational ideas about a situation,

Summer Sessions

Sessions Information

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Junior Yearly Meeting

see page 10

Registration on page 12

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Notices

New Members

Jean Carmalt —
Chatham-Summit
Marianne Corbino — Scarsdale
Samantha DeBellis —
Purchase
Yohannes Johnson — Bulls
Head-Oswego
Victoria Lewis — Catskill
Justin Murphy — Rochester
Bryan Oettel — Morningside
Amy Schutt — Hamilton
Rob Schutt — Hamilton

Transfers

Carol Holmes, to Scarsdale
from Brooklyn
**Elizabeth and William
Sharp**, to Syracuse from
Abingdon (PYM)

Deaths

Kenton Allen, member of New
Brunswick, on December 21,
2016.
Evelyn Bird, member of New
Brunswick, on March 23,
2017.
Vincent Buscemi, member of
Morningside, on March 11,
2017. *A Memorial Meeting
will be held at 11:00 AM,
Saturday, May 27th, at the
15th Street Meetinghouse, 15
Rutherford Place, NYC*
Frances May Bruno, member
of Manasquan, on January
27, 2017.
Curt Fey, member of Roches-
ter, on March 13, 2017.
Susan Hesse, member of
Binghamton, on March 10,
2017.
Jean Hubbard, member of
Bethpage, on April 26, 2017.
Nancy Willard Lindbloom,
member of Poughkeepsie, on
February 19, 2017.
Charles S. Thompson,
member of Hudson, on April
16, 2017.
Phebe Washburn, member of
Chappaqua, on March 17,
2017.
Faith Woolson, member of
Fredonia, on April 1, 2017.

MEETING NEWS

War Tax Resistance in Farmington Scipio

On March 21st in Ithaca, and in
Rochester on the 26th, Farming-

Around Our Yearly Meeting

ton Scipio Regional Meeting
co-sponsored a workshop on war
tax witnessing and resistance.
Sam Koplinka-Loehr from the
National War Tax Resistance
Coordinating Committee, and
Perry City Quaker Tom Joyce
facilitated the workshops. The
workshops included historical
information about the practice of
war tax witness and resistance and
provided participants with methods
for using these tactics in contem-
porary times. Plus they included
information on the growing effort
to redirect tax dollars to resistance
efforts that are led by Black, Brown,
and Indigenous organizers.

John Edminster Awarded Full-Tuition ESR Scholarship

John Edminster has been chosen
to receive a full-tuition scholarship
as a residential Cooper Scholar
in his last year of work toward
an M.Div. degree at the Earlham
School of Religion, or ESR. Crite-
ria for recipients of this scholar-
ship include clarity of ministerial
identity, self-awareness of their own
spiritual formation process, and
potential for continued leadership
and/or service through their gifts
of ministry. John is active in the
ESR community and often preaches
locally. "Overall, I can see that I've
been growing more tender toward
others and more trusting of God
since I first came to ESR," John
stated in his scholarship applica-
tion. "It's grown much clearer to me
that Christ is living in me, and I in
Christ, and I'm less shy about saying
so to people who I think can hear it."

Friends Peace Teams Lead AVP Workshop in Indonesia

Friends from The Friends Peace
Teams in Asia West Pacific
held an Alternative to Violence
Project (AVP) basic workshop
on the Mentawai Islands in West
Sumatra, Indonesia, on February
24 to March 3, 2017. The people in
Mentawai face many challenges
and are making efforts to establish
a framework for human rights,
food security, education, and better
access to health care, among other
concerns. 27 people, primarily
preschool teachers, travelled from
many districts on the island to
participate in the workshop each
day. After the first day participants
shared, "I am so grateful for this and

see that my whole life can change;
I'm safer at home and at school; I
am finding calmness in myself." For
the entire report, visit www.fpt-awp.org/Mentawai

Art and Culture Program at Manhasset Quaker Meeting House

We are in the process of develop-
ing an art and cultural exhibition
program at the Manhasset Quaker
Meeting House. The mission of this
program is to both open ourselves
and others to the spiritual world
that surrounds us by opening our
doors to the Long Island-based
community of artists and crafts
persons, providing them a sheltered
space in which they can exhibit
their work for the benefit of our
community. Participants to be
considered include artists, photog-
raphers, musicians, and crafts
persons: quilt-makers, potters, and
weavers. Special consideration
will be given to seniors, children,
and the physically and mentally
challenged. Our first exhibition will
be presented on September 23 and
24, 2017. Individuals, schools, and
art organizations that are inter-
ested in participating are asked to
contact Dick Lopez, 718-343-6797,
dicklopez@aol.com

Rally for Faith Over Fear

Quakers from New York City
and Maine rallied and marched
in support of Faith Over Fear in
Washington Square Park, NYC,
on March 16 (see photo). The rally
was a brisk but invigorating event
with people of faith from all over
the city, working together to resist
Trump's anti-immigrant/anti-refu-



Friends at the rally for Faith over Fear in New
York City, March 16. Photo from Christine Japely.

gee agenda. Friends enjoyed sunset
glow and inspiring words from
many! The event was organized
by Faith in New York; visit www.faithInNewYork.org for more info.

Deepening Quaker Faith and Practice Workshop at Albany Friends Meeting

The experience we had together was
spiritually rich. The workshop, held
March 18-19 and led by Anne Liske
with help from Sue Clark, Judith
Fetterley, and Maud Easter, was
attended by 19 people. By sharing
early experiences of encoun-
tering the sacred we deepened
connections with one another.
We explored experiences of the
sacred in Meeting for Worship, with
particular attention to discern-
ment around vocal ministry. We
looked at Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business, and
the difference between consen-
sus and Sense of the Meeting. We
hope further conversations will be
possible, particularly around Sense
of the Meeting and the challenges
presented by our way of doing
business.



The Whispers Exercise during an Alternatives to Violence Project workshop held on Mentawai Island
by the Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific. Photo by Valerie Joy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Love Thy Friend: Providing Pastoral Care in All Kinds of Weather

A Powell House conference
Facilitated by Bruce Heckman
May 12-14, 2017

Prepare to better serve your meeting community as a pastoral caregiver. We will consider care for Friends who are home bound, hospitalized, terminally ill, newly bereaved or grieving. And we'll explore approaches to helping troubled or disruptive members, or those with mental health problems. This workshop will provide skill-building and experience-sharing opportunities, guidelines, and other resources. Participants may expect to leave the workshop feeling empowered and better prepared to minister to individual Friends, and thereby support the spiritual health of their meeting communities. Visit powell-house.org to register.

Farmington Scipio Spring Gathering

Spring Gathering 2017 approaches, and it is time to register! We will meet May 17-19 at Watson Homestead in Painted Post. This

year's theme is Sanctuary Everywhere, and it looks to be an exciting spiritually deep gathering! More information, workshop description, schedule, and registration can be found at <http://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/western-ny-quakers/announcements/spring-gathering-2017>

Singing a la Nightingales

Nightingales is a Northern Yearly Meeting a cappella singing group that Friends in NYYM have enjoyed for the last eight years, hosted by various Friends across our broad geography. Getting together and singing as the Nightingales do is about singing from the heart. It is not about being a great singer. It is about being in a community singing with love. If you can talk, you can sing. We sing from *Rise Up Singing* and *Worship in Song*, but we often bring songs or rounds we have encountered to teach each other. We go around in a circle, and every person present, even the very youngest, gets to name a song they want sung. Sometimes we break into song without books and without structure, our hearts leading us from one song to another.

These weekends are also about fellowship and food. We all bring food to share, and have pot-luck meals that we take turns organizing and cleaning up after. And we tell about our lives, through words and in the songs we initiate, for there is little more revealing than the song in your heart.

Those that can camp, do so, or sleep in sleeping bags on the floor. Those that need a bed, due to age or physical need, can ask for one with local Friends. We charge a small fee for breakfast staples, but otherwise we do everything ourselves, so the cost is negligible. If this sounds like fun to you, please come, and bring those you love with you.

Shuttle service from Syracuse Amtrak station is a possibility.

Children are most welcome, though those not wanting to participate in the singing are the responsibility of their parents.

Dates: June 9-11

Place: Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Suggested fee: \$10

Please register so we can plan ahead!

Online registration form: <https://goo.gl/XHUUQP>

To register via email or regular mail, contact Bronwyn Mohlke: (607) 220-3219; BJQMohlke@gmail.com.

For more information, contact Bronwyn or Melissa Blake: (607) 379-4297; melissablake2010@gmail.com.

Old Chatham Quaker Meeting presents "The Last Minute Jazz Ensemble"

Saturday, May 27, 2017 from 7:30-9:30pm at the Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham, NY, across from Pitt Hall Rd and Powell House. "The Last Minute Jazz Ensemble" has played together for eleven years and is comprised of Richard Green, guitar; Steve Dieterman, bass; Chris Ferrone, sax; Peter Skaller, piano; Peter Coombs, drums; and delights in playing jazz: standards, latin, bebop and blues. Admission: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Advance tickets available at these Chatham businesses: The Chatham Bookstore, 27 Main Street, Chatham Wine and Liquor, 53 Main Street and The Chatham Real Food Coop, 15 Church St.

Editor's Note

Hello! I encourage you to write for Spark. Articles in Spark are a form of written ministry. Pieces should be spirit-led, and reflect your personal experience, Quaker history, or present faith and practice on the subject.

Upcoming themes:

September: Bridging the Divide—a topic inspired by the energy and movement sparked by last year's white privilege conference and by the recent divisive election and aftermath.


November: Welcoming, as the first step of Outreach—to be guest-edited by the Outreach Working Group.

Please send your submissions for the next issue of Spark to communications@nyym.org by August 1st.

Meetings and committee clerks: please **share your info**—news, upcoming events, etc.—so it can be shared via InfoShare, our digital newsletter. The next issue is in June; send items ASAP to communications@nyym.org.

Check out our lively Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting/

And you can find short news updates, links to articles, and the occasional Instagram image on Twitter: twitter.com/NYYMTweets —Sarah Way

There will be a bake sale during the intermission. This is a benefit concert for our Meetinghouse. Questions: 518-766-2992
Directions: www.oldchathamquakers.org 


Minute of Support for Immigrants and Refugees

Hamilton Monthly Meeting

Upon consideration of the current national administration's attitude toward immigrants and refugees, Hamilton Monthly Meeting of Friends felt moved to compose this minute of support on 4/1/17.

As Friends, we believe there is "that of God" in every individual and in the equality, dignity and worth of every person. We are called to encounter one another with love and compassion, regardless of place of birth, religion, or race.

As did many of our ancestors, current immigrants and refugees come to this country for economic need or because of persecution. Throughout our history immigrants have contributed diverse cultural perspectives and resources resulting in a spiritual and economic wealth that has enriched all of our lives.

We encourage local, state, and national governments to develop immigration policies which are fair, just, and respectful. Any reform of our immigration system must also seek to address the root causes of persecution and economic inequality. 

FGC Gathering

July 2-8, 2017

Niagara University, New York

Registration is now open!

Go to: www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering



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The Powerful Practice of Discernment.

The Practice of Discernment

Christopher Sammond
General Secretary

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and our emotional attachment to a particular outcome. To find that place within myself, I need to get to a state where I care more about being faithful than I do about the consequences of a given decision or action. Michael Wajda says discernment "... is 99% spirituality and 1% process. Discernment is where prayer and action meet."

Stages in the Discernment Process:

I have found that there are distinct stages in the process of discernment, whether that be in individual or corporate discernment. Sometimes all are not distinctly present, but usually they are, at least in an abbreviated form. First, there is **information gathering**. Do I know all of the circumstances around a particular decision? Do I need more information in order to fully grasp the matter at hand? If we don't have critical information, we can spend a lot of time in fruitless weighing of the matter. It is also easy to get stuck in perpetual information gathering, a good way to never come to a decision. Then, there is a need for **emotional venting**. On an individual level this can be fear, astonishment ("You want me to do *what!*?"), resistance, desiring a particular outcome, etc. If we can't get past our emotional response, we really can't access the space where things are, by themselves, clear. It is important to let ourselves (or our meeting, in the case of corporate discernment), have the space to vent for a bit. It enables us to then move on. If we don't vent, we often can't get past our emotions. Then there is a phase of **letting go**, letting go of our attachment to outcomes, to our ideas about why we might be led to do something, to our emotional responses, positive or negative, seeking to get to that place where all we really want is a clear sense of the will or movement of the Divine, and to be in harmony with that. Finally, then, we are ready to be in a place of **discernment**, to be in that "place where God makes things clear." If we do the first three

stages well, the answer is often right before us.

What I have learned is that different Friends have different capacities for discernment, but that all of us can strengthen whatever capacity we have. It is like musical ability. Some of us are born with perfect pitch. Others of us are tone deaf. And most of us are somewhere in between. And for the vast majority of us in between, we can get better by practicing with some instrument. It is the same with discernment; almost all of us can improve our ability with practice.

Another metaphor I use is that of exercising a muscle; it gets stronger with use. Here are some ways of strengthening our innate capacity for discernment:

Prayer, worship, and meditation all help us to increase our ability to access this part of ourselves, the part where our temporal self meets the Divine within.

Seeking God's will in small things, as best you can. Many Quaker journals from our foremothers and forefathers stressed the call to be faithful in small things, on a daily basis, and how that prepared them to be ready to discern well in larger, more daunting circumstances. One example is John Woolman being guided as to which bolts of fabric to buy to have in his dry goods store, and how when he followed that arcane guidance, how it always turned out well.

Following nudges and paying attention to what happens. Most all of us get nudges from time to time which seem beyond our rational understanding. Most of us, myself included, don't always follow them. I am busy, the nudge is inconvenient, or might be emotionally embarrassing, or it seems irrational. One friend of mine keeps a journal of nudges she gets, and then what happened when she followed them.

Listening to our inner sense of knowing. This can be recognized as coming from our heart, gut, inner knowing, body sensation, image, inner voice, hearing the truth in our own voice, hearing the truth in another's voice.

I have found that doing these things radically increases my capacity to find a place of discernment, to find that frequency where I hear clearly, to where I *just know*. And I have

found that just like with exercising a muscle, that this increased capacity does not sustain if I don't keep up the exercise. And I have fallen away from intensive practice more times than I can count. It's hard to do just as an individual. At their best, our monthly meetings can be our exercise partners in this vital practice, serving each other as examples, inspiration, holding each other accountable, sharing experiences, and witnessing each other's growth in strength.

To read Christopher's article on Corporate Discernment, visit nyym.org.



Discerning Direction with Dunca

Mary Pugh Clark
Montclair Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 1)

desire. I need to accept that people can be distressed and unsettled. I can strive to be a steady presence and perhaps find ways to share some comfort.

It is important to me that I stay in the game of life. That I do not run from situations that are strange or unpleasant or even ugly. Dunca may be a squirmer. He may not lie still but he does purr loudly. Meditating with Dunca makes me feel hopeful about responding to that of God in every being.



Meeting for Discernment at Poplar Ridge

Caroline Lane
Co-clerk, Steering Committee for Meetings for Discernment

Meetings for Discernment came about as a means of Friends gathering for extended worship without the pressure of doing business. It was hoped that during these meetings there would be an opportunity for Friends to share concerns with each other and the wider fellowship as well as the sparks of light that were enlivening local meetings. The Steering Group for Meetings for Discernment makes the arrangements for these meetings, which includes finding

volunteers who take notes during the sessions. The identities of individuals making comments are shared only by the steering Committee for reasons of confidentiality. There are times, however, when the steering Committee shares comments that have suggestions or information that could be helpful to certain Yearly Meeting committees with those committees.

In March Poplar Ridge Meeting hosted Meeting for Discernment considering how individuals and meetings nourish the light in themselves and others. Some seventy Friends from across the yearly meeting gathered to worship together, many of them staying in homes of local Friends. It was a time of deep, centered worship which Friends later observed had been profoundly nourishing.

One speaker shared thoughts about how meetings welcome newcomers and those seekers who may become a part of the community. The Friend spoke about how Nominating Committees, instead of looking for someone to fill a slot, might inquire "What energizes you?"

The nurturing of interested attenders is similar to setting out a bird feeder. We know that it is important to place the feeder in a non-threatening space. We as Quakers need to be aware of how we respond to newcomers who are just learning our ways so as to help them to feel safe in exploring their experience of the Light.



Queries

Peter Phillips
Cornwall Monthly Meeting

Here are some queries offered as supplement to Christopher Sammond's characteristically eloquent and inspiring vocal ministry offered at Fall Sessions (reprinted in *Spark* November 2016)

- Do we trust the principle of self-governance enough to be at peace with a leader that a majority of us in a majority of our states have chosen?
- In striving to love our enemies, do we also question why we hold them as enemies?
- Do we walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in

continued on next page

every person, or are we burdened by fear and suspicion when we encounter those who do not agree with us?

- Do we guard against conflating our political convictions with the will of God?



Resources for Discernment with (and by!) Kids

Melinda Wenner Bradley
Children and Youth Field Secretary

Sharing Friends' practice of discernment can begin in First Day programs for children and youth.

When we consider a question, idea, concern, or prompting of the Spirit, what do we do? "How do we tell the difference between our own thoughts and thoughts that seem to be inspired by the Divine Presence?" This query is lifted up in, **"When the Light is at Work in Us,"** a half-page guide to introducing discernment practices to children, collaboratively created by NEYM and NYYM staff. A First Day lesson about discernment could be crafted around the language in the resource, or it could be shared with families in your meeting as a home practice. Find it posted at: www.quakers4re.org/node/129

"Shaking Out the Truth," a curriculum for all ages of youth, focuses on making decisions using the Quaker processes of threshing sessions, clearness committees, and Meetings for Business. The ultimate goal of the lessons is to prepare children and youth to run their own meetings. Find the free download on the Philadelphia YM website: www.pym.org/publications/pym-curricula/shaking-out-the-truth/

A youth meeting for business is one suggested activity at the end of the **Faith & Play™** story **"Friends Meeting for Business."** The story introduces meeting for worship with attention to business as a practice of communal listening and discernment. *"When Friends take care of our meeting's business, we are holding the whole meeting in the Light. We enter into worship and we listen. We listen for God, we listen in our own hearts, and we listen to one another to know what to do."*



#QUAKER OUTSIDE THE LINES

Quaker Outside the Lines

Emily Provance
Fifteenth Street

A multifaith conversation forum... an art installation on the cost of war...presentations about eradicating solitary confinement...neighborhood community building...a racial justice weekend...Spanish-language training for immigrants threatened with deportation...Quaker worship in unusual places. These are just a few of the projects in progress under Quaker Outside the Lines. Will your project be next?

Quaker Outside the Lines, which is funded through a grant from Duke Divinity School, reimburses Friends for up to \$200 in costs for projects that meet five simple requirements:

1. It involves Quakers and non-Quakers doing something together;
2. It is meaningful to someone in your neighborhood community;
3. At least part of it happens somewhere other than your meetinghouse or normal worship space;
4. It's a reflection of your Quaker faith;
5. You post about it on social media at least once, using #quakeroutsidethelines.

If you're a Friend in New York Yearly Meeting, and if you have a project in mind that meets these five requirements, you can apply at www.tinyurl.com/quakeroutsidethelines. You can do it as an individual Friend, as a small group, or as an entire meeting working together; you can do it whether you're four years old or ninety-four; you can do it whether you're a brand new Friend or a Quaker since birth.

Our time is limited. We have enough funds left to cover at least ten more projects, but applications must be in no later than September 30th, and projects have to be completely finished by October 31st.

How do you Quaker Outside the Lines?



New York Yearly Meeting high schoolers Abigail Byrtus, Zachary Clausen, Lucy Jackson and Matthew Lindop with other Friends at Ireland Junior Yearly Meeting. Chris DeRoller (Powell House Youth Program Director) and Carolyn Ritchie (The Youth Coordinator for Ireland Yearly Meeting) led the trip.

2017 Ireland JYM Trip Epistle

To Friends everywhere:

On April 9th, at the invitation of Irish young Friends, a group of four high school Friends from meetings throughout New York Yearly Meeting journeyed to Ireland to attend the Irish Junior Yearly Meeting. We went expecting to learn about their process and hoping to have an opportunity to see the gorgeous sights of Ireland. We were not disappointed.

Carolyn Ritchie, Youth Coordinator for Ireland Yearly Meeting, met us at the Dublin airport bright and early Monday morning. With Carolyn as our guide, we saw many historical sights, such as Malahide Castle, Dunluce Castle, Carrick-a-Rede, Trinity College and the cities of Dublin and Belfast. In the face of a stiff wind, we were led by Friends John and Helen Shackleton, up a trail in the Glendalough Valley in the Wicklow Mountains. These experiences gave us a knowledge of Irish history that we did not know before. It was intriguing to find that Quakers have played an integral role in the lives of many Catholic and Protestant families in Belfast, a city divided by religious conflict. Through discussions with Carolyn, we discovered the powerful impact Quakers have had in prisons, all throughout Ireland. We also had the opportunity to speak with other Irish Friends, who we stayed with for the first two nights. We discussed current Irish and US politics and economics as well as learning more about Irish life. We found our hosts to be welcoming and engaging, happy to share their opinions and genuinely interested in ours.

For much of our trip, we had the privilege of participating in the Irish JYM, at the Moyallon Centre in Portadown, Northern Ireland. Quaker Youth all over Ireland, aged

14-18, came together to participate. The theme of IJYM this year was a Quaker perspective on leadership particularly in light of current events in the world. The program was run by a committee of youth. We were struck by their involvement in planning the sessions and activities throughout the week. There was an amazing evenness and balance to the group activities creating a sense of cohesion and connection. Everyone felt very at home and welcomed, especially those of us new to the group.

It was interesting for us to see the smoothness and ease of the multiple business meetings held.

Quaker Business Meeting, conducted in an efficient, yet respectful and helpful manner is one of the practices we would like to use more effectively in our own NYYM JYM. We were also inspired by informative and enjoyable sessions, including an activity called "Quakers in Space," and a panel made up of three influential Quaker Leaders. We played some new-to-us games that we hope to bring back to NYYM JYM, such as Airports, Whomp'em, Empires and Wild Man.

Participating in IJYM with the Irish young friends made us realize how much we get out of our time together with other young friends. We were glad to see that Quaker youth in other countries have this great opportunity, just as we have at Powell House and NYYM JYM. IJYM also helped us see that the role of a clerk is to benefit and guide their community not govern it. More broadly, being a Quaker leader means taking action when you feel called to do so and talking with other people about your concerns and working to form solutions together.

Please also read the Ireland JYM epistle online at nyym.org. Our kids very much felt a part of the group and that this epistle reflects their experience of IJYM.





Writing affirmation posters as it is done in Latin America, part of the AVP workshop held in El Salvador this February. Photo by Shirley Way.

AVP in El Salvador

Shirley Way
Ithaca Meeting

With support from the Sharing Fund, Shirley Way and Fazilee Buechel visited El Salvador to facilitate workshops there. Here are excerpts and pictures from Shirley's emailed reports:

Dear friends,

It is really good to be back in El Salvador. The social climate is very much improved from a year ago. People openly smile and laugh and greet one another on the street.

Salomon Medina, Fazilee Buechel, Mario Gonzalez and I facilitated a trauma resilience workshop over three days in the state of Cabanas, close to the Honduran border. Salomon, Mara Komoska and I facilitated a basic and an advanced workshop with the same group three years ago. Some of the participants walked two hours each morning to Santa Marta (to the workshop). The participants are part of the organization Co-Madres, founded by Oscar Romero. All have loved ones who were disappeared. It is truly a gift to reconnect and go a little deeper.

By far most of the participants have not yet learned to read or write.

Solomon Medina, Fazilee

Buechel, Mario Gonzalez and I facilitated a second trauma resilience workshop, finishing in San Salvador. The participants were again part of the organization Co-Madres. All have lost loved-ones in the war. One participant joined the resistance when he was 15. An older brother was killed and he fought for some years before leaving the country. When he returned he was captured by the army and tortured. Thirty years later he has increasing debility in his legs and more debilitating is his distrust of almost everyone, his self-isolation and his need to avoid certain locations and army soldiers. And he is clear that he can heal. He will be participating in the training for facilitators workshop. At least two participants were forced to move from their homes during the war and have not returned. Others live in what were their homes. One woman spoke of participating in a mass presided by Oscar Romero. The army opened fire on the parishioners, killing several and wounding several more. The struggle continues with great unemployment and poverty.

So grateful for the support you offer and the funding from NYYM's World Ministries and Witness Activities Fund.



Monthly Meeting Partner Project Update

Melinda Wenner Bradley
Children and Youth Field
Secretary

Friends at Montclair Meeting and Wilton Meeting have gathered for Listening Sessions, an opportunity to process together the themes lifted up in the Partner Project survey about meeting life, includ-

ing experiences of welcome and inclusion. We're identifying growing edges and hopes as a meeting community, and together creating next steps in relationship to one another, to deepen in Spirit, and to grow as multi-age community. I am deeply grateful to Friends in the Partner Meetings for their candor in this sharing, and their care of one another. I seem always to be re-learning the lesson that as Friends our spiritual journeys are about process and not a "product,"

and this is true for the Partner Project as well. Our work is about being present to where we are and how we are in relationship with each other in this moment, and with that knowing, seeing where we want to go next and moving toward it together. This is a touch-point moment of possibility and hope, and the Yearly Meeting will be seeking applications for two more meetings to join the Partner Project before Summer Sessions. Watch for more information!



Quaker Family Meetups

Melinda Wenner Bradley
Children and Youth Field
Secretary

The yearly meeting seeks to live into the priority to be a community that nurtures our children, youth, and young adults. Quaker Family Meetups were created out of the energy of the Parent Worship Group at summer sessions. Experiencing that gathering of Friends, and bringing to the experience my dual roles as a parent and Children and Youth Field Secretary, it was clear to me that the circle of parents gathered there valued the opportunity to connect with other Friends around issues of parenting. Participants support one another in grounding their parenting in the "tools" we have as Friends: the queries, space for listening, openness to finding new ways, seeking clarity, the testimonies. Children and parents are nurtured by that support and by the casual fellowship created in our community at summer sessions. How could some of that energy be re-created in other times and spaces?

Since the fall, NYYM Friends have gathered in two quarters for three Quaker Family Meetups, and two more are planned for the spring. These are simple occasions for families in a quarter or region to gather to be in relationship with one another; the children play, and the adults have worship sharing and fellowship together. The thread that has run through all three events has been a desire to better know and support one another. One participant said, "We need a cooperative!" We're seeking mutual support and sharing spirit through events that gather us across distances and different meeting communities.

The vision and logistics of the Meetups are simple: Provide a

comfortable space for adults and kids to gather for fellowship and worship sharing. Flexible scheduling takes family schedules and nap times for little ones into consideration. NYYM staff provide a flyer to share, child care providers, and light refreshments; we collaborate on spreading the word to families in monthly meetings and the quarter or region.

The next Meetup is in All Friends Regional Meeting on Saturday, May 13 at Chatham-Summit Meeting. (online flyer: www.nyyim.org/sites/default/files/QuakerFamilyMeetupFlyer5-13-2017.pdf) In 2017, New York Quarterly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee is hosting a series of four Meetups. The first was hosted by Flushing Meeting and the next will be June 3rd at 15th Street Meetinghouse. Watch the NYYM Facebook page and website for details about these and other events!

Interested in hosting a Quaker Family Meetup in your quarter or region? Let's be in touch!

—Melinda Wenner Bradley, CYFS
(childrenyouthfs@nyyim.org)



A Letter from the Clerk

(continued from page 1)

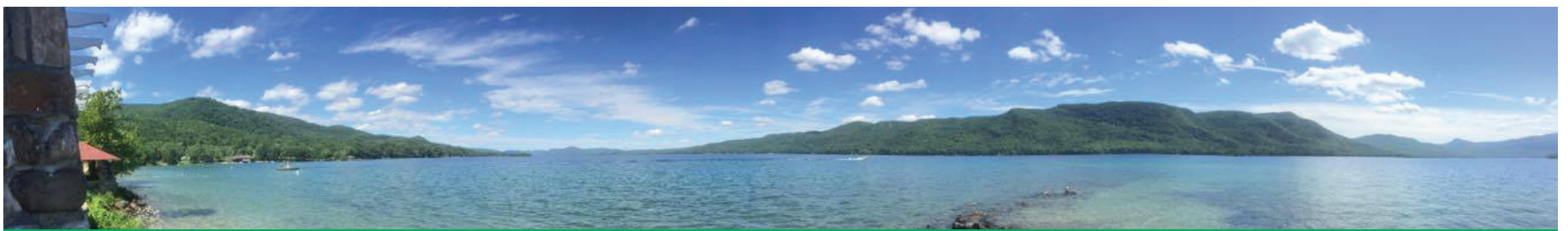
in nourishing extended worship during Meeting for Discernment. We will labor in worship in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, listening deeply for God's will for us as a gathered body, while the children and youth listen for the movement of the Spirit in their Junior Yearly Meeting groups. And we will all have time for rejuvenating play, shared meals, singing on the Inn porch, the Junior Yearly Meeting bonfire, and so much more. We particularly welcome newcomers to this experience! I'll be on the Inn porch when you arrive Sunday and will host a tea and bedtime snack Wednesday evening, open to all but especially for mid-week newcomers.

We have much to offer the world and to offer each other. I am blessed to be among you. When the world seems full of impenetrable prose, I am led by a State of the Meeting report to the words of a Quaker poet, Stan Searl, who came to read to their Meeting:

Love,
Oh love,
How it grows
In the palm
Of the hand.

In peace and love,
Lucinda Antrim, Clerk, NYYM





NYYM Summer Sessions • July 23 - 29, 2017 • Silver Bay, New York

Bringing the Peaceable Kingdom to a Turbulent World

Introduction

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with
the kid,
the calf and the lion and the
fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like
the ox.

The nursing child shall play over
the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its
hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

*Isaiah 11:6-9, New Revised
Standard Version (NRSV)*

This year's Summer Sessions theme is "Bringing the Peaceable Kingdom to a Turbulent World"—in keeping with the fifth priority in the Statement of Leadings and Priorities approved by NYYM in 2014: "We Envision a Yearly Meeting That Supports and Amplifies Our Witness." With this theme,

we will focus primarily on three areas: eco-justice, social justice, and peace. Our schedule for the week offers many opportunities for Friends to present their work in these areas—starting with our plenary session on Monday night, with Nadine Hoover speaking on "Peace is Possible! Friends' Testimony and Witness to Peace Today."

As in the past, there are at least two opportunities to help Friends attend Summer Sessions and both are found on your registration form. First, we offer an option to donate to the Equalization Fund, from which Friends can then request assistance. Second, there is an option to help pay for our littlest members (the babies!) to attend Silver Bay's Morning Program. We have found that, when Friends are given these opportunities to help others, they are both conscientious and generous. In addition, Sessions Committee is moving forward with a recommendation to adopt a "Pay as Led" process for our 2018 Summer Sessions. **Please see our work and documents online.**

—Melanie-Claire Mallison
Clerk, Sessions Committee

Worship at Summer Sessions

NYYM Summer Sessions is an opportunity to worship and share with the Peaceable Community. Everyone is invited to attend

Opening Worship on Sunday evening, **Community Worship** each morning, **Meetings for Discernment** on Tuesday, and **Closing Worship** on Saturday. Need time for quiet reflection during the course of your day? **Waiting Worship** is available all day, all week, in the tent marked "**Unprogrammed Worship**" on the lawn in front of the auditorium. Silver Bay evening chapel **Vespers** offer an ecumenical worship opportunity, with Friends from our body offering devotions. Check the daily schedule in your Program for times and locations for these gatherings and for **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**.

Worship Sharing provides a daily opportunity to worship together in small groups, setting the tone for other activities as the day unfolds. Sharing insights, experiences, and prayer together refreshes the spirit. Worship Sharing groups meet Monday through Friday from 9:30-10:30am. Your participation and contribution—opening up to be a channel for the Holy

Spirit—would be invaluable. General Worship Sharing will be offered along with a number of special groups. Please choose your preferred Worship Sharing group when you register for Summer Sessions. Be sure to check the Worship Sharing lists on the Inn Porch for your group assignment and location.

Community Worship: We'll come together for semi-programmed, multigenerational Community Worship every morning in the auditorium, from 8:45-9:15 am. Everyone is invited to participate in singing, stories and sharing, and waiting worship to ground us for the day. At the rise of this worship, we'll also announce what is happening that day in business and junior yearly meetings, before heading to JYM and worship groups.

Meeting for Discernment: All are welcome to the Meetings for Discernment being held on Tuesday at Summer Sessions, with a morning, afternoon, and evening session. Meetings for Discernment are times of extended worship focused around queries. Please join us for what is likely to be an amazing worship-filled experience. The information online will include the queries to consider for this summer's Meeting for Discernment.

STEPS TO SUMMER SESSIONS

1. Read the Summer Sessions pages of this Spark issue carefully and be sure to read additional important information on the website.
2. Decide on your arrival and departure dates. The full week is July 23-29.
3. Choose your housing preferences, page 11.
4. Register, either online at nyym.org or using the form on the back page.
5. Note that when you register, you agree to follow all of the participant expectations and agreements; see them at nyym.org.
6. Send your registration fee to the NYYM office along with your registration form.
7. When Silver Bay YMCA sends you an acknowledgment of your registration, they will include a request for a 25% room deposit. Pay that by the date they request to ensure your room is reserved for you.
8. All JYM registrations must include a completed medical form signed by a parent (and brought to JYM Registration on Sunday or upon arrival at Silver Bay). This Youth Medical Form is available online at www.nyym.org/index.php?q=SessionsCommittee
9. In addition, parents of children 0-5 are encouraged to complete the Silver Bay Morning Program forms, even if you only use the Morning Program once over the week. Find those forms online at nyym.org on the Summer Sessions page.

Helpful People for NYYM Sessions

- **Conference Services Liaison:** Martha Gurvich
- **Display Requests:** Karen Snare
- **Financial Assistance:** Helen Garay Toppins
- **Food-Service Coordinator:** Martha Gurvich
- **General Scheduling & Evaluations:** Melanie-Claire Mallison
- **Golf Cart Coordinator:** Carol Mallison
- **Greetings to Absent Friends:** Kate Lawson
- **Healing Center:** Buffy Curtis
- **Interest Group Coordinators:** Martha Gurvich & Helen Garay Toppins
- **JYM Program Coordinators:** Dawn Pozzi & Ellie Rosenberg
- **Microphone Runner Coordinator:** Ann-Marie Scheidt
- **Special Needs:** Martha Gurvich
- **Tagless Tag Sale Coordinator:** Cynthia Cornelius
- **The Quaker Update Editor:** Sarah Way
- **Welcome Table Coordinator:** Jeffrey Aaron
- **Whisper Buddies:** Jillian Smith
- **Worship Sharing Groups:** David Herenden & Sunfire Kazmayer
- **All Registration Questions:** Helen Garay Toppins, office@nyym.org; 212-673-5750; NYYM Office, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York City NY 10003.



Plenary Speaker Nadine Hoover

Nadine Clare Hoover (Alfred), Director of Conscience Studio and Power of Goodness, and Coordinator of Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific, is our plenary speaker, bringing us a message on the topic, “Peace is Possible! Friends’ Testimony and Witness to Peace Today.” As an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) facilitator since 1978, Nadine works to identify universal practices for preserving cultures of peace. She established Conscience Studio to publish supporting materials and offer related training; and she carries forward the Power of Goodness Global Story Pool on nonviolence and reconciliation begun by FGC, expanding the stories, children’s art and nonviolence training in collaboration with Peacebuilding UK.

Having worked with thousands of people on various continents to recover from war and preserve peace in their hearts, homes and communities, Nadine brings a bold, vital message that peace is possible. Nadine raises up simple, practical tools that have made Friends peace work so consequential historically, while also noting how much we have learned, even in the last decade. Please look online for more on Nadine’s message and work.



Bible Study

Bible Study is held in the early evening, 6:45-7:30pm on Monday-Thursday (note the locations carefully in your Program!). This year’s Bible Study Leader is Christopher Sammond, a member of Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting, and current

General Secretary of NYYM. For over twenty-five years he has led a wide variety of Friends’ workshops and retreats. He is trained in the spiritual formation of congregations, and has served as a chaplain in hospice, hospital, and drug and alcohol treatment center settings. He has traveled extensively in the ministry.

From Christopher: We seek to build the Beloved Community. At same time, we are often blind to the reality that we live in Empire. Walter Brueggemann characterizes Empire as living “...by numbness. Empires, in their militarism, expect numbness about the human cost of war. Corporate economies expect blindness to the cost in terms of poverty and exploitation. Governments and societies of domination go to great lengths to keep the numbness intact.” The book of Esther is an exploration of Empire and its workings, writ large. Esther gives us a window into how faithful engagement with Empire can bring surprising results. This Bible Study will explore how we, today, are enmeshed in Empire, and how much that contrasts with Jesus’ teaching about how to live out the Kingdom of God, here, now.

Interest Group Proposals

Once again, we are offering time and space for Interest Groups (IG) at Summer Sessions. It is important for IGs to relate to our theme and/or the NYYM Leadings and Priorities in general. IGs will be held on Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30-2:30pm and two on Wednesday from 2:45-4:00pm and 4:15-5:30pm. Complete the online form at goo.gl/KQk5lM and submit it no later than July 1, 2017, so that we have time to make arrangements for your group needs. If more requests are received than we have space for, those that best speak to our theme, leadings, and priorities will be given preference. If you have any questions, email Martha Gurvich at margurvl@aol.com or email office@nyym.org.

ROOTS OF INJUSTICE; Seeds of Change: Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples

This 2-hour exercise traces the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, the 15th-century justification for European subjugation of non-Christian peoples. Our goal is to raise our level of knowledge and concern about these impacts, recognize them in ourselves and our institutions, and explore how we can begin to take actions toward “right

relationship.” This experiential workshop is being offered during a double session Interest Group on Wednesday of Summer Sessions. The workshop requires a minimum of 20 attenders ages 12 and above. Please consider coming to support this work of awareness and radical change, for yourself, our Meetings and the world. For further information contact Liseli Haines and Buffy Curtis.

Agenda Items

If you have items for the NYYM business agenda, please contact the appropriate coordinating committee clerk: John Cooley, General Services; Peter Phillips, Ministry; Jennifer Perry, Nurture; Mary Eagle-son, Witness; or Lucinda Antrim, clerk of NYYM, clerk@nyym.org; or the NYYM office, office@nyym.org. Contact information for the coordinating committee clerks is in the Yearbook, which should be available at your meeting.

NYYM Committee Work and Display Space

Summer Sessions is a wonderful time for anyone connected to a NYYM committee to gather do their work, and share information with the YM via several avenues — inviting folks to their committee meetings, reporting during Meeting for Business, and offering materials at a display space, to name a few. Information will be emailed to all NYYM committee clerks regarding committee meeting needs. To reserve display space, please download the form at www.nyym.org/index.php?q=SessionsCommittee and email to Karen Snare: karensnare@aol.com

Whisper Buddies

Whisper Buddies is a new mentorship program where those who want to learn about Quaker process get to know those who feel they have experience to share. At the Monday afternoon planning meeting, we’ll gather to share interests and choose buddies, with an emphasis on equality and friendship, who will then work together to choose which business sessions and/or committee meetings they will attend together. JYMers will need a signed permission slip from their parent or guardian if they choose to meet with their Whisper Buddy during JYM sessions. The best part of this program is that it will happen in real time via passing notes and whispering. Continuing the process during meal time

discussions is also encouraged. Whisper Buddies will enhance the experience of being part of our yearly meeting for our youth, our Young Adult Friends, and our whole community.

Participant Expectations and NYYM Agreements

We come to Yearly Meeting sessions to create a Blessed Community in which to discern and carry out the work that the Divine leads us to. In order to be fully and authentically present to each other as a faith community, we have agreements that guide our behavior toward each other and towards the whole body, ensuring safety and comfort for all of us, starting with living into our Testimonies of integrity, simplicity, peace, and equality. We have long agreed that our time together will be free of alcohol regardless of the policy of our host facility, and the use of illegal drugs is unwelcome and illegal, no matter where we gather. Those among us who struggle with addictions must find a safe and supportive community among Friends.

By registering for Summer Sessions, Friends are committing to honor these Testimonies and agreements, and we are all, younger and older, expected to abide by them. Parents and guardians are asked to speak with their youngsters about their behavior, and everyone attending Summer Sessions is asked to take the agreements seriously. We’ll have a poster stating our agreements on the Inn porch, if you’d like to sign!

Given these agreements and the rules of staying on Silver Bay campus, Friends must restrict their tobacco smoking to those areas designated by Silver Bay (smoking is not allowed in guest rooms, for instance), and must refrain from the use of alcohol and illegal substances. If you engage in these activities, you (and possibly your family or guardian) may be asked to leave Summer Sessions.

Finally, because even a blessed community experiences conflict, the Conflict Transformation Committee (CTC) and the Abuse Investigation Committee (AIC) will be available all week. The members of the committees will be introduced at the Sunday Opening Worship and listed in the first Quaker Update available on Sunday. If you witness something or hear about something that you

continued on next page

are uncomfortable addressing yourself, please seek out a member of CTC or AIC as soon as possible. Both committees will make it a priority to ensure complete confidentiality in all aspects of their work. A CTC member or the General Secretary (on behalf of the AIC) will report back to you on your concern, and also to the community if the AIC determines that to be necessary. In addition, you can contact the Circle of Care and Concern (CCC) if you need help discerning when and how to speak to others directly and plainly about concerns or if you simply need a Listening Friend.

Please review the list of agreements for both adult and child participants on nnyym.org.

Special Events

There are three events that raise money exclusively for Powell House and the Sharing Fund. These are the **Fun(d) Fair**, the **Tagless Tag Sale**, and **Café Night**.

The Fun(d) Fair is organized and sponsored by Junior Yearly Meeting, and includes games and refreshments available with the purchase of Fun(d) Fair Tickets. During that time, we also hold a **Tagless Tag Sale**. If you have sale items (new or used items in good shape) to donate, please bring them to Summer Sessions with you. There will be more information in the first Quaker Update on where to place your donations. (Tax-deduction receipts for in-kind charitable contributions will be available upon request.) Folks are encouraged to showcase their talents during **Café Night**, also organized and sponsored by Junior Yearly Meeting. Bring your instruments and hula hoops and join the fun! For all three events, it's a good idea to bring a stash of dollar bills!

Then, if folks sign up to participate, there will be a **Quaker Crafts Show**. Anyone connected to a Quaker-related cause may work with the Conference Services Liaison to request a table and sell items. While 100% of proceeds made during the "Quaker Crafts" event may be kept by the seller, it is a kindness to consider making a donation to any NYYM fund (Annual Appeal, Equalization Fund, Oakwood Friends School, Powell House, Sharing Fund, etc.).

Finally, the **NYYM Development Committee** will be hosting several events at summer sessions where Friends can engage with members

of the Development Committee to explore the spiritual dimension of money, the joy of giving, and how their time, talent or treasure could better support the vital ministries of our yearly meeting.

More information will be available on all these events online and in the daily Quaker Update at Summer Sessions. Come prepared to do a little Friendly shopping and donating!

For further guidelines on what forms of **Fundraising** are allowed, please see nnyym.org.

Disability Concerns

Friends who indicate special needs on their registration form will receive a form from the NYYM office requesting specific information on your disability. This information is only shared with Silver Bay as needed to find appropriate accommodation. There will also be opportunities for Friends to be special-needs volunteers. Recommend your family and friends! A checkbox for volunteers is on the registration form—if you expect to take advantage of golf carts for transportation at Silver Bay, be sure you've recommended to a friend, or two, or three, to sign up as a Golf Cart Driver!

Housing. Five mobility-accessible sleeping rooms, with bathrooms, are reserved in the Inn for those using wheelchairs (and their roommates). One-tenth of the rooms in the Inn will be reserved for people who, for any reason, find it physically difficult to room elsewhere. These rooms will be held only until July 1 and then will be released for general availability.

If you have a disability or illness that makes it hard for you to climb hills or steps, please make sure that you sign up early and request one of the reserved rooms. Financial assistance is available.

Friends who are unable to transfer themselves to and from wheelchair/bed, etc., and require special assistance with dressing, bathing, etc., must arrange this assistance on their own and the person assisting them must stay in their room. The caregiver must be in attendance for the length of the stay of the person they are helping.

Worship and Meetings. The people who set up the worship-sharing groups need to know if you have hearing or physical problems so that note takers can be provided or accessible locations allocated. Please indicate on your registration

form if you require such assistance.

Please bring any disability concerns to our Conference Services Liaison, Martha Gurvich.

Food Service

You must be wearing your name badge to enter the dining hall. Lost badges cost \$2 to replace.

Meals begin with dinner on Sunday evening and conclude with breakfast on Saturday. If you plan to arrive at Silver Bay early enough to have lunch on Sunday, you must make arrangements with Silver Bay YMCA in advance to purchase this meal. Likewise, if you intend to stay through Saturday lunch, you must arrange and pay for Saturday lunch at the Front Desk by the Thursday of the conference.

If you are a vegetarian, please indicate this on your registration form. Please see the NYYM website for additional information regarding special diets, special food storage and dining hall hours of operations.

Healing Work

This year at Summer Sessions the Healing Center will again be located in Sproul Pavilion and will have regularly scheduled hours for healing work. We invite Friends who work in the healing arts or who are interested in helping with healing work to join us! There will be an organizational meeting of healers and helpers in Sproul on Sunday; the time will be posted. Contact Buffy Curtis with questions and see the NYYM website for more information.

ON YOUR WAY TO SILVER BAY

Powell House, NYYM's Conference & Retreat Center, is opening up Pitt Hall, the ACC, and the campground for the weekend! If you are on your way to New York Yearly Meeting's annual sessions held at Silver Bay and want a break; come!! We'd love to see you. It will be a weekend filled with visiting, playing ultimate Frisbee, blowing bubbles, singing, playing board games, quilting, swimming, and even doing work projects. In other words, think of it as a summer "Celebrate Family & Friends." We'll also have extended worship in Pitt Hall for both Saturday morning and late afternoon. So, find your space on the grounds of Powell House; mix it up; enjoy. You're welcome to come for half the weekend or all of it. Just let us know when you're coming, so we'll have enough food. www.powellhouse.org or 518-794-8811.

12-Step Meetings

12-Step Meetings will be held every evening; 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday, 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Nurture Coordinating Committee has oversight of these meetings, but needs to hear from people who would be willing to take responsibility for one or more of the meetings. To volunteer, please contact Roseann Press at rpress123@gmail.com.

Golf Cart Drivers Needed

Silver Bay is a beautiful place, but for some Friends, it is challenging to walk up and down the hills and from one meeting place to another. As in previous years, we will have golf carts to help Friends get around. We need volunteers to drive the carts. Are you 21 or older with a valid, clean driver's license? Those are the requirements to volunteer as a part-time golf cart driver. Driving the cart is easy, fun, a great way to serve the community and get to know Friends you might not otherwise meet. To commit to driving for two hours or more, please check the box on the registration form, contact office@nnyym.org, or contact the Golf Cart Coordinator, Carol Mallison, 607-564-3396.

The Quaker Update

Formerly the Daily Minute, this newsletter will now be published at Silver Bay via print and email at 9pm daily. Submissions are due at 5pm at the YM conference office or via email at communications@nnyym.org. Sarah Way is the editor.

Adirondack Friends Meeting is about one hour south of Silver Bay in South Glens Falls. They extend an invitation to Friends to visit meeting for worship on **Sunday, July 23**—a wonderful way to extend your knowledge of NYYM Friends and add a worshipful break to your journey. Worship is programmed and begins at 10:30 a.m.; refreshments and sharing follow. The meeting is at 27 Saratoga Ave., South Glens Falls NY 12803. For more info, contact Jodi Distefano, jmdlmt@yahoo.com or 518-232-6329.

Travel

The address for Silver Bay is 87 Silver Bay Rd., Silver Bay, NY 12874. For driving directions, a map, public transportation options, and other transportation information, please see nnyym.org.

Junior Yearly Meeting — Welcome young Friends and parents/guardians to Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) 2017!

Here are some basic things for everyone to remember:



When you arrive at Silver Bay on Sunday you must check in with Silver Bay to get room assignments and then proceed to the JYM registration

area in Gullen Lounge in the Inn. JYM registration will be open from 4:00-6:00 pm and 8:00-9:00pm. Those registering Monday morning or later should go to the JYM office in Gullen Lounge. Please bring your child's relevant medical history, parental consent forms, and a record of any allergies. If you are sponsoring a JYM youth, you will need a medical form signed BY THE YOUTH'S PARENT in order to register. (Go to nyym.org for all forms.)

Where does my child go? Each JYM group is based on the grade the young Friend will be entering in the fall, from 1st to 12th. Each group meets in the same space every day. These spaces will be posted at JYM Registration.

For children from infancy through those entering kindergarten, Silver Bay offers childcare Monday through Friday mornings from 8:30 to 11:45am, supplemented by a JYM volunteer. See the Silver Bay Camp Booklet for more information on the SB program. We ask parents to sign up to help between 11:45am and 12:15pm so they can take turns attending Meeting for Business. This will be coordinated by a JYM volunteer. The Yearly Meeting will cover the fee to Silver Bay for this service, but parents MUST submit the Silver Bay Enrollment Form marked with NYYM so Silver Bay can bill NYYM. If you do not use this form you will have to pay Silver Bay directly. Donations to offset this cost are appreciated. You must also complete a JYM medical form to enable your child to participate in PM childcare and other JYM sponsored events.

When does JYM meet? Every morning the entire community will meet in the auditorium for Community Worship from 8:45 to 9:15am. Young Friends will then leave the auditorium with their JYM group and be in their program until 12:15pm. Please make sure that your child gets enough rest every night to be able to participate effectively. If your child won't be attending group

on a given day, please notify the group leaders or JYM Coordinators. Children in grades 1-4 must be picked up by a designated adult. Parents and guardians, let the group leaders know in advance who is allowed to pick up your child.

Morning worship sharing for teens. Young Friends entering 10th to 12th grade are expected at their group after morning community worship. The Senior High program starts with worship sharing at the Boathouse. Young Friends can choose to be part of an adult worship group and will go to the Boathouse at rise of that group.

Afternoon and evening childcare. JYM provides cooperative childcare for children through age 10, with JYM volunteers and parents, during committee meeting times and most evening session times. These times will be posted at JYM Registration and in the weekly Program. Evening childcare ends at 9pm. If childcare is required after 9pm or outside of PM childcare hours, you can contact Silver Bay to arrange for childcare services at an hourly rate that will be charged to you. All PM Childcare sessions rely on volunteers; parents who bring children to PM Childcare are expected to give an hour to the program. Two volunteers from JYM will supervise each session. Sign up to help at JYM registration, at the JYM table in Gullen Lounge, or at any time with the JYM PM Childcare volunteers in Morse Hall. We thank you in advance.

How do I know where my child is during the day? During official JYM sessions, they should be with their JYM groups. If your child's group will leave their regular space for a special event, you will be informed, and/or a notice will be posted on the door of the regular meeting place. Any person under 18 not attending their JYM group must be accompanied by a parent/guardian during JYM session times. Parents/guardians/sponsors are responsible for JYMers whenever they are not with their JYM group or childcare. We suggest that you have a regular check-in time and location to connect with your young Friend(s) every day — mealtimes work well.

Which group will my child be assigned to? JYM groups are organized by standard public school grades. We have found that

placing differently-aged siblings in the same group is usually a hindrance to both the children and the group.

Can the JYM volunteers provide for my child with special needs?

We welcome and are enriched by the participation of all children in our community. If your child needs a high level of individual attention because of a physical or developmental need, please plan to participate with them in the program. Contact the JYM Coordinators if you have questions about your child's participation.

Can my child go to Silver Bay without me?

If your child is under 18, he/she may attend Silver Bay with an adult sponsor. The sponsor should be designated by the parent or guardian and must be at least 10 years older than the child. The sponsor and the child should know each other reasonably well. When registering your child you will need to indicate who their sponsor is, send your child's registration in with that person's, and indicate that they will be clustering (rooming near each other). You will need to send a SIGNED, completed medical information form with your child, to be turned in at JYM registration.

What is clustering? People in a "cluster" are assigned rooms in the same building, on the same floor, in close proximity to one another. Clustering allows children and their parents, guardians, or sponsors to check in with one another. You must request clustering when you register, and if feasible, send in the clustering registration forms together.

What do I need to bring? If you register with enough lead time, JYM volunteers working with your group will send you a letter explaining what you will be doing in your group and listing certain things they think you may want to bring with you. We suggest that everybody bring along a beach towel, bathing suit, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. The weather at Silver Bay is unpredictable and can be quite cool. Be prepared for this by packing some warmer clothing (long pants, sweatshirts, windbreaker, etc.)

Snacks. All families are asked to bring a can of juice and healthy non-sugary cracker snacks for our JYM groups to share during snack time. These contributions

can be brought to the JYM registration area or JYM office in the Boathouse.

About cell phones and electronic devices.

Creating a Blessed Community requires that we be present with each other. Thus, the JYM Committee has agreed that cell phones and other electronic devices will not be used during JYM program. JYMers are advised to leave their devices in their rooms. If you bring one to group, you will be asked to place it in a basket during group time.

Whom do I talk to if I have any questions?

The JYM Coordinators, Ellie Rosenberg and Dawn Pozzi, are available to answer questions about JYM during our week at Silver Bay. Except during Community Worship, one of the Coordinators will be available Monday to Friday, 9:15am to 12:15pm, at the JYM table in Gullen Lounge. You can also go to the clerk of JYM Committee, Susan Stillman, to the NYYM office in the Inn, or leave us a note on the Inn message board.

Resource people for JYM. If you have a special gift and a leading to share that with young Friends, please contact the JYM Coordinators before June 10 so we can include that information at our Planning weekend.

Adult presences needed! Afternoon and evening childcare programs offered by Junior Yearly Meeting are always happy to have additional Friendly adults. Sign up to help during JYM registration, at the JYM table in Gullen Lounge, or at any time with the JYM PM Childcare volunteers. We thank you in advance for helping to provide care for the children in our community.

If you are interested in serving as a JYM volunteer in future years, please speak with Ellie Rosenberg or Dawn Pozzi, JYM Coordinators.

Meeting for Parents of Jr-Sr High Students, 8pm, Sunday, July 23

JYM will be hosting a discussion for parents of Junior and Senior High students to discuss what type of behavior we as a parent community would like to uphold during our week together. Topics will include: Whisper Buddies, Silver Bay's policy regarding alcohol, and the community agreements. Parents of Junior High students will meet in Munn; parents of Senior High students will meet in Field Memorial.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Staying on Campus

Room Reservations with Silver Bay Association

The Yearly Meeting office will send your reservation forms to Silver Bay YMCA, which will acknowledge your room reservation and request a nonrefundable room deposit of 25 percent per person, to be applied to your final bill. Do not send room deposits to the NYYM office. The balance of the Silver Bay charges must be paid at the SB desk before you leave. Silver Bay cannot guarantee housing or food for those who do not preregister and pay their room deposit by Silver Bay’s deadline.

Preference for rooms is given to those who stay for the entire week. Rooms are assigned in the order in which requests are received. We advise that you register early.

All rooms are typically rated for double occupancy. Beds for children may be added to some of the larger rooms. The actual beds are twin-size. A few double-size beds are available in the Inn, Bayview, and Trinity. If you would like a double-size bed, please indicate that on your registration form.

Depending on when you register, no rooms may be available at your requested price, so you may be assigned to a room at a higher price. You will receive prior notice if this is necessary. Room reservations will not be held after 6:00pm on the day of your expected arrival unless the room is completely prepaid or



you call Silver Bay to notify them of your late arrival. If you need to cancel, call Silver Bay (518-543-8833, ext. 350) so your room can be reassigned.

Silver Bay room check-in begins at 4:00pm on Sunday, July 23. Check-out time is 11:00am daily, with the conference ending on Saturday, July 29. Luggage can be left in designated areas after checkout. Those not out of their rooms by 11:00am will be charged for an extra day. No refunds are issued for early departures, unless arrangements are made prior to check-in.

All rates are per person and include a 5% gratuity. Suites in Bayview and the Inn have a surcharge of \$25 per day if occupied by fewer than three persons. The half-conference rate is for those attending from Sunday, July 23, to Wednesday, July 26, or Wednesday, July 26, to Saturday, July 29. The extra day rates are for those who wish to arrive early on Saturday, July 22. Silver Bay does not guarantee that you will be assigned to the

same room on the extra day.

Clustering (staying in rooms that are close together) is required of all parents /guardians/sponsors and the children they are supervising. Send in your registrations together.

No one should go to Silver Bay YMCA without an advance registration with New York Yearly Meeting and assurance from Silver Bay that there is room for you.

ALERT to Guests Needing a Roommate

Silver Bay YMCA will make every effort to find you a roommate, but cannot guarantee to find one. Guests will be less likely to incur a single-room rate if they make their own contact for rooming together. Silver Bay will inform registrants one week prior to arrival if they are unable to find a roommate. All guests are responsible to make full payment for the period for which they register regardless of their actual length of stay; thus a remaining roommate would not be financially responsible for the early, unplanned departure of another roommate (since there is no refund for early departure). A guest who has no roommate registered will be charged for the single rate. To be sure there are no misunderstandings, it is best for roommates to register at the same time, noting

they are roommates on the registration form, and check in together at Silver Bay when they arrive.

Staying Off Campus

Lean-to and Tent Camping

Campers attending Summer Sessions have three options: [1] Adirondack-style lean-tos on Ryan’s Ridge, a 15-minute hike up Woodside Trail on the west side of Rt 9; [2] Raised wooden platforms 20’x20’ on a knoll behind the gym, and [3] Rogers Rock State Park near Ticonderoga. See nyym.org for details.

Friends staying off-campus must register and pay a day-use fee to Silver Bay. Meals can also be purchased individually in advance. See details at nyym.org.

Financial Aid is Available!

Monday July 3rd is the deadline for financial assistance requests for Summer Sessions. Friends requesting assistance should first ask your monthly meeting, quarterly, and regional meetings for support. No request for funds will be processed, and no funds will be disbursed, without this communication from your meeting. Friends will be asked to send confirmation from their meeting about the amount that has been asked for and granted—even if it is zero. This process can be as simple as an email or note from your meeting’s clerk. Please see the NYYM website for additional information on financial assistance and our Equalization Fund, email office@nyym.org or call 212-673-5750.

Silver Bay Adult Room Rates (per person, based on occupancy)

Single rooms available at some locations; details below

Full Conference Rates (6 Nights)								
	Inn Private Bath	Inn Shared Bath	Trinity	Bayview	Hepbron/Paine/ Locust	Hemlock	Overlook	Platform/ Lean-to
Single	N/A	N/A	\$1614	\$1302	\$762	\$900	N/A	\$162
Double	\$960	\$816	1038	882	612	672	\$360	162
Triple	792	690	840	744	552	600	N/A	162
Quad	702	642	N/A	672	N/A	558	N/A	162
Half-conference Rates (3 Nights)								
Single	N/A	N/A	807	651	381	450	N/A	81
Double	480	408	519	441	306	336	180	81
Triple	396	345	420	372	376	300	N/A	81
Quad	351	321	N/A	336	N/A	279	N/A	81
Extra Day Rates (1 Night)								
Single	N/A	N/A	269	217	127	150	N/A	27
Double	160	136	173	147	102	112	60	27
Triple	132	115	140	124	92	100	N/A	27
Quad	117	107	N/A	112	N/A	93	N/A	27

Youth Room Rates

Children 0–5 are complimentary. For children 6–11, deduct \$40 per person per night. For youth ages 12–17, deduct \$30 per person per night. These discounts do not apply to the Platform/Lean-to rates.

NYYM registration fees (not to be confused with the room deposit for Silver Bay YMCA) must be included with the completed registration form for everyone age three and older. Everyone (all ages) must be registered, even the under-threes.

2017 Registration Fees

	EARLY Until June 20	LATE June 20–July 22	AT SESSIONS July 23-28
Adults (36 yrs and above)	\$60	\$90	\$80
Young Adults (18-35 yrs)	\$52	\$82	\$72
JYM Youth (3 yrs to 17 yrs)	\$40	\$55	\$40
Family Group A—2 adults & all children under 18 in room with parents	\$97	\$127	\$117
Family Group B—2 adults & all children under 18 in 2 rooms with adult in each room	\$120	\$150	\$140
Per-day fee—applicable only to all those attending less than half session	\$25	\$30	\$35

All Registration Questions: Helen Garay Toppins, office@nyym.org; 212-673-5750; NYYM Office, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York City NY 10003.

NYYM Summer Sessions Registration for One Adult
Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY July 23–29, 2017

BEFORE July 20 return to: NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York NY 10003
AFTER July 20 send to: Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks, 87 Silver Bay Rd.,
Silver Bay NY 12874; 518-543-8833

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Meeting _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day phone (____) _____ Evening phone (____) _____
E-mail address _____

Check all that apply:

☐ Circle of Young Friends (ages18-35)

☐ Adults with young children

☐ First time at Summer Sessions

☐ Caregivers

☐ JYM Volunteer

☐ Conflict Transformation

☐ Vegetarian

☐ Earthcare

☐ General

☐ Aging

☐ Do not list me as attending

☐ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered

☐ Female

☐ Men's

☐ Racial Healing

☐ Male

☐ Women's

☐ Unprogrammed

Special needs: ☐ hearing ☐ seeing ☐ walking ☐ other: _____

I will volunteer for: ☐ Golf cart driver ☐ Microphone carrier

☐ Assisting Friends with special needs ☐ PM Childcare ☐ Healing Ctr

Silver Bay YMCA Housing:

Arrival day & date _____ **Departure day & date** _____

☐ I prefer the same room assignment as last year

First choice _____ Rate: \$ _____

Second choice _____ Rate: \$ _____

☐ If neither is available, **location** is more important

☐ If neither is available, **price** is more important

Name of parent/sponsor/other roommate _____

I will cluster with _____

☐ Please assign me a roommate _____

I will stay off-campus at (name/address) _____

_____ ☐ I am eating all meals on campus

☐ Only these meals: _____

Request for financial assistance (due 7/3/17)

Source of funds: _____ Private \$ _____

Provided by monthly/regional meeting \$ _____

Requested from Equalization Fund* \$ _____

** notification from monthly meeting clerk required*

Registration fee enclosed (see fee chart above) \$ _____

Donation to Equalization Fund (tax deductible) \$ _____

Donation to support AM Childcare (tax deductible) \$ _____

NYYM Summer Sessions Registration for JYM
One Person Under 18 Years Of Age

Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY July 23–29, 2017

BEFORE July 20 return to: NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York NY 10003
AFTER July 20 send to: Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks, 87 Silver Bay Rd.,
Silver Bay NY 12874; 518-543-8833

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Meeting _____
Age now _____ Grade in fall _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day phone (____) _____ Evening phone (____) _____
Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Check all that apply:

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Vegetarian

☐ First time at YM/JYM

Special needs: ☐ hearing ☐ seeing ☐ walking ☐ other: _____

Sponsor at YM if other than parent/guardian: _____

Grades 10, 11, & 12 Worship Group choice _____

(Worship groups are listed on the adult registration form.)

Silver Bay YMCA Housing:

Arrival day & date _____ **Departure day & date** _____

☐ I prefer the same room assignment as last year

First choice _____ Rate: \$ _____

Second choice _____ Rate: \$ _____

☐ If neither is available, **location** is more important

☐ If neither is available, **price** is more important

Name of parent/sponsor/other roommate _____

I will cluster with _____

I will stay off-campus at (name/address) _____

_____ ☐ I am eating all meals on campus

☐ Only these meals: _____

Request for financial assistance (due 7/3/17)

Source of funds: _____ Private \$ _____

Provided by monthly/regional meeting \$ _____

Requested from Equalization Fund* \$ _____

** notification from monthly meeting clerk required*

Registration fee enclosed (see fee chart) \$ _____

*Remember to review the Participant Expectations
and NYYM Agreements on page 8.*