



SPARK

New York Yearly Meeting
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Volume 48, Number 3

15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

May 2018

Learning from First Day School



The wedding of George Fox and Margaret Fell. From *The George Fox LEGO Book*, by the children of the First Day school of New Paltz Meeting. For more, see page 4.

Sharing a First Day School Blesses Two Communities

Ann Kjellberg
15th Street Meeting

We have heard from Friends, though I can't confirm it, that 15 Rutherford Place in lower Manhattan is the only Quaker Meeting where programmed and unprogrammed worship takes place in the same building. There have been times (now thankfully behind us, it seems to me) when there has been some tension around this encounter. But one longstanding source of connection has been our First Day School. When I arrived on the 15th Street Religious Education Committee around 2003, our regular First Day School class was probably about half-and-half 15th Street and Manhattan Monthly Meeting children (Manhattan being the programmed meeting), and over the years Manhattan grown-ups, many of whom are, as it happens, professional educators, participated in the planning of First Day School.

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Experimenting with Intergenera- tional Worship

Caroline Lane
Flushing Meeting

Having been involved in initiating Intergenerational worship at my previous meeting in Britain, I spoke with the First Day School Committee at Flushing about it. The others were curious to try it. We next went to the Meeting on Ministry and Worship asking to experiment with it three times a year on the fifth Sunday of the month. Ministry and Worship supported our request and it went before the Meeting for Business, who were willing to give it a try.

In Britain where there was a general movement towards bringing children into the worship service, advisors suggested that we have supplies for quiet creative activities in response to the theme and plan each session in a "Sandwich Format:"

- Begin with a brief period of settling silence
- A reading or other brief message to introduce the theme for the worship (e.g. peace; care for the earth; etc.)
- Extended period of silence during which people may wish to use the papers and colored pens to explore the theme
- A period of time for those who wish to show their work and talk about what it means to them

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Friday morning all-JYM singing worship in the boathouse at Silver Bay, Summer Sessions, 2017.

Summer
Sessions
Information
Inside!

An Invitation to Summer Sessions

Lucinda Antrim
Clerk, NYYM

Abbondanza! What is our abundance? How do we share it?

We decided on the queries that are this year's Summer Sessions theme in a committee meeting. We were about to move to the next item when someone said "abbondanza!" and it took off from there. It was a time of abundance in Sessions Committee. We tried to think of the word for abundance in all the languages we knew. Of course, we googled it, and we were delighted by the loveliness of the word when written in Arabic. We wondered how hard it would be to learn to sign it. It was an abundance of abundance.

Every time you look at your Week-at-a-Glance at Summer Sessions you will see this abundance of abundance. You

may be able to add more. Maybe you can dance, sing, or draw it. Our cup overflows; we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for many long days (using Robert Alter's 23rd Psalm translation).

We will be blessed to have long July days together, Friends. Please come to Summer Sessions—for work, for play, for rest and renewal, for worship, and to share our abundance with each other and the world.



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Notices

New Members

Richard Beck—Brooklyn
Walter Borkowski—
 Manasquan
Charlotte Hanson—Brooklyn
Michael Hanson—Brooklyn
Irem Konur—Matinecock
**Grace, Marta, Roya & Scott
 Pourshalchi**—Matinecock
Clare Redden—Cornwall
Joshua Talbot—Elmira

Transfers

Ann Schillinger, from South
 Berkshire (NEYM) to Old
 Chatham.

Deaths

Harry S. Hoffman, Jr.,
 member of Bulls Head-Os-
 wego, on December 26, 2017.
Julia Lyman, member of
 Purchase, on March 18, 2018.
Stewart Manville, member of
 Purchase on March 16, 2018.

NEWS

Friends Attend Conference on World Mission and Evangelism

Four Friends, pictured below, represented Friends United Meeting at the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, held March 8–13 in Arusha, Tanzania: Eden Grace, Director of Global Ministries at FUM; Emily Provance from New York Yearly Meeting, whose ministry helps meetings in North America identify and dismantle barriers to outreach; Dorcas Otieno from Chavakali Yearly Meeting, whose ministry as a church planter in Tanzania has borne fruit in seven new churches in the Mwanza region; and John Moru Losike from Turkana Friends Mission, whose ministry of leadership has helped Turkana Friends to plant numerous churches and also to reach out to refugees from around Africa.



Friends at the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, held March 8–13 in Arusha, Tanzania; see above.

Around Our Yearly Meeting



Scarsdale Friends Bowen Alpern, Juli Alpern, and Susan Weisfeld at the Westchester County March for our Lives on March 24, 2018

Friends Join with the March For Our Lives

Some Scarsdale Quakers and f/ Friends were able to participate in the Westchester County “March for Our Lives” held Saturday afternoon, March 24, 2018, as part of the national event. On the plaza at the edge of the rally, the League of Women Voters registered new voters. The young people were passionate and inspiring. Everyone left feeling that this time there will be change! —*Susan Weisfeld*

Stevens Fund Applications Open

The Stevens Fund is a small fund held by NYYM Trustees in order to assist retired or disabled Friends who are in need; often, but not exclusively, pastors and ministers. The next list of distributions will be decided by the Ministry and Pastoral Care committee at Summer Sessions, July 22–28. Those who would like to apply please request an application from David Herendeen, dherendeen55@yahoo.com, 518-836-7209 or Anita Paul, anitalouisepaul@gmail.com, 518-374-2166. Applications due July 1.

Opening for Clerk (or Co-clerk) of NYYM Witness Coordinating Committee

Term begins July 29, 2018. Witness Coordinating Committee supports and oversees New York Yearly Meeting’s witness to the world both financially and spiritually. The energy for the concerns of

the various committees is strong, and there are resources to support them. For a full description of the position: nyym.org/sites/default/files/2018-Witness-clerk-search.pdf; if interested or if you have questions, email Mary Eagleson at mleagleson@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FGC Gathering

**University of Toledo, Ohio
 July 1–7, 2018**

Registration for the Gathering is now open. Go to fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering for all program information. The Gathering is a great place for families with children and teens. Each age group finds opportunities for spiritual growth and community AND there is plenty of family time as well! **May 31st** is the deadline for children and youth (birth–8th grade) to register. For more about the Junior Gathering visit www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/children-and-teens

Continuing Revolution: Building Intentional Lives

**A six-day intensive conference for
 young adults**

June 1–6, 2018, at Pendle Hill
 How can we make sure that our lives and our actions align with those values we care about most deeply? This year’s young adult conference will look specifically at four areas that impact us as young adults: work, love and relationships, justice, and spiritual practice. For more visit pendlehill.org/learn/continuing-revolution/

Mary Foster Cadbury: A Quaker Life

On June 24, 2018, at Poughkeepsie Meeting (249 Hooker Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY), Mary Foster Cadbury will gather in worship with Friends to share her thoughts, memories, experiences and reflections on her life as a Friend among Friends. She has been a member of three different yearly meetings (New England, Western Illinois, New York) and a sojourning member of Ohio Yearly Meeting. She is a past clerk of New York Yearly Meeting.

Mary has had an intermittent career as a teacher of high school math, including at three Quaker

schools. She served on many Quaker committees, often as clerk, and found clerking skills useful in teaching, in League of Women Voter’s work and in prison ministry. She learned early on to show up, to contribute, and to always be thinking of better ways of doing things.

Mary Foster grew up in Rhode Island in a Quaker family, originally as a member of Nantucket Meeting, but worshipping in Providence. These meetings were part of the Wilburite branch of Friends. She was married to Christopher Cadbury from 1950 to his passing in 2010. She has one daughter, Vivian and two grandsons.

Meeting for worship begins at 10 a.m. At the rise of meeting Friends will share a meal and then return to worship during which Mary will share with us for about 30 minutes and then allow for a period of Questions and Answers for another 30 minutes or so. All New York Yearly Meeting Friends and members of the community are encouraged to join us to learn from an accomplished and well-seasoned Friend. Mary asks that Friends bring questions in advance to make the gathering as interactive as possible.

For more information contact: Fred Doneit, 845-297-5046, fwdoneit@optonline.com; or Don Badgley, 914-388-0382, don51249@aol.com; or Solange Muller, 845-803-3007, smullergallo@gmail.com

Quaker Study Tour of Bolivia

July 26–August 1, 2018
 We’ll explore Bolivia’s history and culture from the pre-Inca traditions to the emergence of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. We’ll visit those who have dramatically improved their lives with the educational support of trip sponsor Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) and the development projects of Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL). We’ll learn about the cultural revolution taking place and make warm personal connections with local Friends. For more information, a flyer with the itinerary, and registration, go to www.bqef.org/?q=node/717

Survey on Institutional Racism

Please help Friends General Conference by completing their Institutional Assessment on Racism survey online by May 30, 2018. Go to surveymonkey.com/r/FGC_IA

Editor's Note

Everyone is invited to write for *Spark*. Articles are a form of ministry. Do you feel led to write? Let your light shine!

Upcoming *Spark* themes:

September: Spirit-led Structures. New ideas about organizational structure are opening in our Yearly Meeting. What would an ideal Quaker organization look like? Where are changes needed? What's still working—or, what needs to remain? And how do we stay focused on Spirit?

November: Cultivating Quakers. Can we increase our Quaker skills and *Quake harder*?

Please send your submissions for the September *Spark*, including news from your monthly meeting, to communications@nyym.org by **August 13, 2018**.

Between issues of *Spark* we distribute InfoShare, NYYM's emailed newsletter. **Share your meeting's news and events!** Send them to communications@nyym.org as soon as possible.

Check in often at facebook.com/newyorkyearlymeeting/ & twitter.com/NYYMTweets.

—Sarah Way

SPARK (ISSN 00240591)

New York Yearly Meeting News
Published five times a year:
January, March, May, September,
November by

New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
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New York, NY 10003
212-673-5750
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www.nyym.org

Editorial Board:
Communications Committee

Editor: Sarah Way

SPARK deadlines are the first of the month preceding the publication month. Permission is granted to reprint any article, provided Spark is acknowledged as the source.

Periodicals Postage Paid
at New York, New York

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
SPARK

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Upcoming Powell House Conferences and Events

Powell House is the NYYM retreat and conference center in Old Chatham, NY.

Visit powellhouse.org.

Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas by Elaine Pagels
a Powell House Book Discussion
Saturday, May 19, 2:00–7:00 p.m.
Read or RE-read this book, and then join us as we discuss the author's ideas and their impact on today's faith communities! We'll gather at 2:00 p.m., meet in large and small groups to explore the themes; eat supper and then discuss a bit more!

Earthsong 7th–12th Grade
May 25–27, 2018

Join us for the year-end celebration of our community and of our going-out-into-the-world seniors. There will be workshops, festive foods, large group games, a dress-up dinner plus a full and fabulous cabaret.

Youth Program Reunion
for the classes of 2014–2017
June 7–8, 2018 (Thurs. noon to Fri. evening)
Reconnect. Rejuvenate. Sing a song, share a laugh, exchange a massage. You have the option to stay for the "A Year At Hogwarts" conference.

A Year At Hogwarts
June 8–10, 2018

We are pleased to inform you that you have a place at the Powell House Adjunct School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Term will include: Welcoming Feast, Sorting, Potions, History of Magic, Divination, Herbology, Quidditch championship, awarding of the House Cup, and viewing of films. Recommended for adults and children ages 8 and up.

Camping in the Maze
3rd–5th grade with a parent
July 6–8, 2018

Camp out. Cook out. Play games. Take hikes. Share stories. Swim in the pond. Enjoy one another and the great outdoors. We'll look into the mystery of the night sky and think about how we got here and where we might go.

Jamboree 6th–8th Grade
July 6–8, 2018

It's a jam-making, music-making, trail-blazing, fire-blazing good time! We hope you can join us!

Proposed Children, Youth, and Young Adult Secretary Position

We envision a yearly meeting that nurtures our children, youth, and young adults. One way the yearly meeting supports these goals is through two part-time staff positions, one focused on children and youth and the other focused on young adults. The position for Young Adult Field Secretary has been open for some time. When I asked people why they thought we had so few applications, the general responses were: no benefits; lots of weekend work; lots of travel, and, as a half-time position, it is not attractive to people who need full time work.

More recently, the part-time position of Children and Youth Field Secretary also opened up. Rather than continue with two part time positions, the Personnel Committee is proposing that we combine the two positions into one full-time position with benefits. More candidates should be attracted. Testing of this idea among a few Friends beyond the committee and at Spring Sessions brought significant positive response but also some concerns.

Concerns expressed

- Working with young adults needs a significantly different skill set than working with children and youth. Could we find somebody who could do both?
- Can any one person, even one with all the varied gifts needed, do this extensive job?
- Young adults will lose out because the focus will end up on children and youth
- Children and youth will lose out because the focus will end up on young adults
- One person cannot be two places at once on a Sunday or weekend
- Paying benefits would mean that staff cost would increase

Addressing the concerns

We could address most of the concerns by following the model that is working for the Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) program. A person in a full-time position anchors the program while local coordinators, working on a monthly stipend, carry out the work in closer connection to more monthly meetings than one


person possibly could. Local coordinators could be hired to balance the skills (children and youth vs. young adults) of the full-time person. Having more people would allow us to be multiple places at once on a Sunday or weekend. Further, coordinators will reduce the need to travel long distances.

The main concern not addressed by this personnel plan is finances. Adding health insurance and retirement benefits for a full-time position and hiring local coordinators adds to personnel expenses. The short term is definitely possible. Because of gaps in staffing during 2017 and 2018, and other one-time unspent budgeted expenses, the additional costs of this personnel plan can be covered for at least 2018 and 2019 without any increases in our current income. However, if we want to sustain this plan, we would need increases in income starting in the next fiscal year.

The yearly meeting has several primary sources of annual income. Monthly meeting covenant donations, by far the largest source, as a whole have remained flat for several years and have not recovered to their pre-recession levels. In the last couple of years, we have had increases in annual income as NYYM Trustees redesignated income from trust funds for use in the operating budget. Trust fund income is expected to continue, but not increase significantly. While we have received grants in the past to try new programs, we cannot count on that source because grantors typically do not fund ongoing staff expenses. We have seen significant increases in individual donations since 2012 when we formed the Development Committee. The committee has reason to be optimistic about further increases in individual giving.

The plan is for this proposal to be presented for consideration and possible approval at Summer Sessions in July. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, sharing them in May and early June provides the best opportunity to address them and make changes. For more details see bit.ly/nyym-cyya-faq. For a draft job description see bit.ly/nyym-cyya-job. You can comment on either of those documents.

You can also email feedback to cyya_feedback@nyym.org.

—Personnel Committee (Ben Frisch, Ed Doty, Hans-Jurgen Lehman, Steve Mohlke, and Pamela Wood) 



Learning from First Day School



George Fox meeting with the Native Americans in Maryland. From the *George Fox LEGO Book* by New Paltz First Day School.

Building George Fox in LEGO

Elise Bacon
New Paltz Meeting


Two years ago our First Day School consisted of six very active, LEGO-obsessed boys. We struggled a bit to keep them happily moving and engaged, but we felt strongly that we wanted a Quaker curriculum for them. Deciding to explore Quaker history that year, we began to search out a children's book on George Fox that was appropriate for our age group (6–12 years). Nothing could be found. At this time, the boys had been devouring *The Brick Bible*—Bible stories told in LEGO—to the point that it was falling apart.

So the worlds collided and we hit upon the idea of creating something new—a children's book about George Fox told in the language of childhood: LEGO. We worked from *Quakers Courageous* by Francis Margaret Fox. We read through his early life, made a storyboard, and set up the scenes that could be depicted in LEGO. Pooling our LEGO resources, we came up with quite a few pieces that were delightful to search through to find the treasures that would make up our characters, props, and sets.

The boys were very enthusiastic and looking forward to coming to FDS, excited about the next step, and cooperated and problem-solved together. We all learned much more about George Fox than we ever knew before and had fun in the process. Of course, there were weeks when we needed to do other activities or when FDS didn't meet, so our process was slow, but it came together in the end.

As each scene was built it was photographed (on a phone) and uploaded to Shutterfly. Then text was added to create a 20 page soft-copy book. We were all thrilled to finally hold the fruits of our

labors in our hands and know that we had created something that could be useful outside our small FDS circle. When we read the story to the adults in the Meeting, several commented that there were events and parts of the history that they had no idea about.

Our next book is on Margaret Fell, a woman whose support for Fox and early Friends was so critical that there would likely be no Society of Friends without her. And, so far, there are no children's books about her. Another niche to fill. Our FDS would like to make our little book available to Friends and FDS throughout the yearly meeting (and beyond). If you are interested in a copy please email me, Elise Bacon, at : Buttervillemom@yahoo.com. 

Sharing a First Day School Blesses Two Communities

Ann Kjellberg
15th Street Meeting

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This has been a source of enormous richness for our First Day School and also an important point of connection for our larger community.


We families of 15th Street love our Manhattan counterparts very much, and having those particular people in our lives is for us overwhelmingly the greatest benefit of our shared First Day School experience. But beyond that, Manhattan has had much to offer our curriculum and experience. The Manhattan kids have had regular Bible study from a young age and bring knowledge and depth of reflection on biblical themes to our discussions. Manhattan also has a long-standing connection

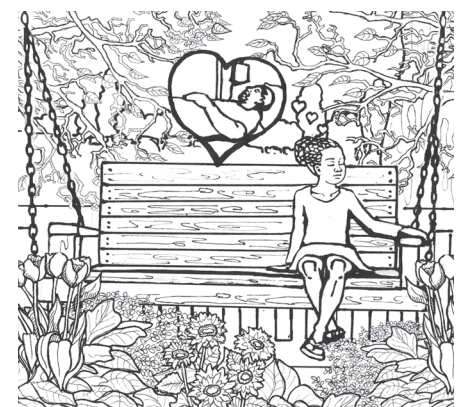
with the development of Quaker schools in Kenya, which we have learned about and followed over the years, bringing 15th Street kids in touch at an early age with a broader understanding of the diversity of Quaker practice and experience around the world. Every year at our annual rummage sale (which raises funds to send families from both communities to Silver Bay), Manhattan Monthly Meeting has a food stand and sends the proceeds to the Kenya schools. I can't speak to what benefits the 15th Street presence brought for Manhattan Friends, except that 15th Street does have more people, a number of them also teachers, giving support to what Manhattan can offer children in their small meeting. Our First Day School heard from 15th Street Friends who participated in the Civil Rights Movement, who are deeply engaged with Earthcare, and who are working artists and theater people, among other things. One of our favorite activities over the years has been reinvesting, through the Kiva program, some funds young Friends raised many years ago by selling home-made Quaker calendars at social hour. Through Kiva a generation of our young Friends have invested and reinvested these funds to help people around the world get the things they need for their communities to thrive—a barn, a well, some farming equipment. Gloria Thompson reported on our Kiva project as an example of the vitality of our unusually constituted First Day School at a gathering of the FWCC a few years ago.

Sharing a First Day School also gave our kids an intimate common experience with children of more diverse racial backgrounds than they might have encountered elsewhere. 15th Street First Day School was predominantly white, and Manhattan Monthly Meeting mostly African American, with close connections to Friends in Africa and Jamaica. For those children of color at 15th Street it was great to give them an environment in First Day School that was more racially balanced than the Meeting as a whole. Unlike regular school, First Day School is something we build together, and after childhoods spent together I think our children feel something close to a familial bond; a very special opportunity

for children of different racial backgrounds in a city that is often deeply segregated by race.

During the time that I have served on our Religious Education Committee, our meetings have, in the larger sense, grown closer together. We now share worship once a quarter; we attend one another's worship; ; we share information about events; some 15th Street Friends served as pastors at Manhattan after the much-mourned death of their beloved pastor Noel Palmer. Our working together on creating a meaningful First Day School experience for families in both our communities was a vital moment of common purpose—our children are such a source of joy and promise; First Day School is a beautiful place to build a friendship.

I think like many Quaker parents, we begin to worry when our children get old enough to move around on their own and seem to lose their connection to their Meetings. But this particular group of children, although they are not regular attenders as teenagers and young adults, keeps circling back and reaffirming the values we fostered together. Most recently, a Manhattan Monthly Meeting child whom I first met I think as a five- or six-year-old, and who now attends one of our Quaker schools, rose to speak beautifully and centeredly on a troubling concern that was roiling our shared communities, and his grace in this moment cast such a warm light over our history together in our shared First Day School. I think I can say that we all feel blessed to have been a part of this loving encounter. 



"We can imagine the person we love being held in God's presence." From *FGC's Quaker Activity Pages for Children: Quakers and Prayer*, available at www.fgcquaker.org/resources/quaker-childrens-activities-pages
Illustration by Christie Kelly Gelok



Interviews with First Day School Students

Brooklyn Meeting

Collected by Sarah Way

Charlotte, age 3 (almost 4)

What do you do at First Day School? We play and we talk.

What have you learned about Quakers there? They're nice. We're Quaker, and we're nice, too. I like being nice.

What's your favorite thing to do at First Day School? Play!

What's it like to come into meeting for worship at the end of First Day School? What do you do when you're sitting there? I think about stuff, but it's hard to stay still, and I want to use the piano.

Alden, age 11

What do you do at First Day School? Usually we'll have a discussion that is related to a Quaker or ethical theme that might be coming up currently or is related to some biblical reference. And then also we will make crafts related to certain holidays.

What have you learned about Quakerism there? I've learned that Quakerism is interpreted by different people in different ways and that people practice Quakerism in different ways. So for example, some Quaker meetinghouses have ministers, whereas at our meeting we don't.

What's your favorite thing to do at First Day School? Have in-depth discussions about ethical-related current events, for instance, the shooting at YouTube headquarters recently.

Rose, age 13

What do you do at First Day School? We talk about the world around us. Sometimes we meditate or make scrapbook pages. Today we talked about activism. In the past we've discussed Bible stories.

What have you learned about Quakerism there? I've learned that Quakers have been around since the 1600s. That George Fox founded the Quakers. We made Quaker trading cards in First Day School once. We also learned the SPICES (*ed. note: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship*).

What's your favorite thing to do at First Day School? Drink tea! And relax.

What's it like to walk into meeting for worship at the end of First Day School? People are usually like, "oh, look at all the cute children!" They laughed today because we came into the meeting room with light-up protest signs.

I also asked Nora Mattson, a college student who volunteered with Brooklyn's First Day School when she was a teenager, to reflect on her experiences both teaching and attending First Day School. Her response is below.

—Sarah Way

I really liked teaching FDS. I think that came less from the lesson plans or thinking about what I wanted to teach but more from interacting with the kids in FDS. You can have a really good idea and think that it will impactfully teach the kids some deep things about Quakerism but it might not go that way. I really enjoyed getting to know these kids in meeting and meet new kids and people.

I don't really remember being in FDS; it was a really long time ago. It was nice to hang out with my mom (*ed note: her mom, Julie Glynn, has frequently taught FDS*). I did not like to be told what to think about things in FDS, so I tried to use that when I taught—that is, to avoid doing that, and to introduce concepts to people and let them form their own ideas.



Experimenting with Intergenerational Worship

Caroline Lane
Flushing Meeting

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- Closing silence

At Flushing Meeting we chose a peace tree for our first intergenerational worship.

Materials:

- A branch anchored in a well filled non-breakable pot
- Colored cut-outs in the shape of leaves with holes and a piece of colored yarn
- Colored pens

After the opening silence, the leader read a few quotations about peace and then asked people to consider how s/he will contribute to a peaceful world.

There followed about half an hour of quiet while people thought and wrote.

Then the leader invited people to hang their leaves on the tree and share their thoughts (if they wished to do so).

After the sharing, another period of silence allowed reflection on what we had heard and the meeting was closed with the usual handshakes.

Our second intergenerational worship centered on helpful guides. Preparations required cut outs of stars. A dark blue background cloth would have been nice, but we got along without one. The leader spoke about how sailors had long steered their ships by the stars, which helped them to know directions and their own location. The question for reflection was: "What guides you in your life?" Again people who were willing wrote something on one of the paper stars and hung them on a clothesline with clothespins. The sharing was followed by a quiet period of reflection.

After these two experiments, the meeting approved continuing the practice of holding all-age worship three times during the year. We have found that often a fifth Sunday coincides with a holiday when families with children are away visiting grandparents so we now agree among the families with children on three Sundays during the year when all are likely to be present and the dates are approved by the meeting for business for the coming year in November.

We have been helped in finding themes from the Britain Yearly Meeting *Journeys in the Spirit* publication by the children and young people's section of Britain Yearly Meeting, which can be accessed at www.quaker.org.uk/cyp



The help the adult can give the child is only preliminary and peripheral, and one that halts—that must halt—on the threshold of the "place" where God speaks with His creature.

—Sofia Cavalletti, *The Religious Potential of the Child*

QREC Annual Conference and Retreat

Connect • Recharge • Renew at QREC 2018!

August 17–19
at Powell House

Highlights of QREC's 2017 Conference and Retreat at Quaker Hill, Richmond, IN:

- The sharing of ideas from a wealth of experiences across yearly meetings and branches of Friends.
- Emerging gifts, sense of open faith, listening together, and being a place to find God's paths amongst us.
- Worship—All kinds!
- Gathered, deep group discussions about adult and children's religious education.
- Spaciousness that made room for grace to work, and realizing that faithfulness is our strategic plan.
- Fellowship and joy!

We hope you'll join us!

Visit: www.quakers4re.org/news/qrec-annual-conference-and-retreat



The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)...

is a grassroots network of Friends holding a sense of stewardship for life-long Quaker faith formation through religious education. We include Friends from all branches of our international Quaker family. We welcome all Friends involved in religious education. Join us in forming a community of practice to share resources, skills, gifts, questions and insights, and to support each other in the ministry of Quaker faith formation.

Visit us: www.quakers4re.org

Other Articles by Friends

Friends and Illness

Gallia Taranto
Scarsdale Meeting

I have had, among other things, three bouts with cancer. I started pretty young with breast cancer.

Having a community of Friends has been valuable in my plight, as have different meditation practices.

When I see the situation of the world I feel very blessed to get medical help even though now, on Medicaid, the choices are sometimes limited.

The brief images of wars and terrorism on the web and especially the graphic pictures of the wounded provoke in me a gut reaction. I watch the news very sparingly.

The warmth of a community that held me in the Light while I was going on different treatments was invaluable. Friends understand my limitations—whether physical or even psychological—and most of the time we work around my capacity to help.

I am an integral part of the blessed community with all my issues and all my warts. Friends know how to embrace other Friends and often extend that to a sick society that also needs to heal from issues such as racism, sexual harassment, xenophobia, and injustice in general.

I am grateful to be part of a group that believes in peace, diplomacy, justice, and in sharing, too.

Friends have given me wings! They give me rides to meeting and at times to Powell House, too (and sometimes even to doctors' appointments).

Scientists nowadays believe in the healing element of prayer and meditation and in the body-mind connection. In a more Buddhist sense illness is an eye-opener that teaches us about the value of life and how to accept impermanence and change, two truths we all encounter.



Read the article **Super Bowl LII: A Figurative Match-up Conveys a Timely Sentiment** by Khary Bekka, online at: nyym.org/content/spark-may-2018

Epistle for FCNL's Annual Spring Lobby Weekend in Washington, DC

This past weekend (March 17–20, 2018), a small group of young adult friends from NY, NJ, CT, and MN, made our way to Washington, DC, for Friends Committee on National Legislation's Spring Lobby Weekend. We were joined by three young adult Friends from New England Yearly Meeting to participate in preparations at the National Press Club over the weekend, and eventually to lobby on Capitol Hill on Monday and Tuesday, many of us for our first time.

The early part of the program included small group discussions and activities led by appointed Delegation Leaders, as well as panels, speeches, and workshops all weekend long in preparation for lobbying on Monday and Tuesday. Our group was a small portion of the nearly 500 other young adults who gathered from all over (mostly the USA) to be present for this year's Spring Lobby Weekend, focusing on the issue of our broken immigration system, and demanding a pathway to citizenship for dreamers (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals eligible people) that does not pose further threat to their families and communities.

Over the weekend, we feel that we were able to learn more about immigrant experiences from hearing first-hand stories, as well as from the materials that FCNL provided for us. We were reminded of the power of being intentional with our language—for example, choosing to use the word “undocumented” instead of “illegal.” We leave feeling more deeply connected to the issues we discussed and with an increased awareness of the inner workings of our political system, and where we can make our voices heard.

For most of us, it was our first visit to our nation's capital, and also a change in pace, as none of us identify as city folk. This gave us an opportunity to flex our navigational muscles and push ourselves to get around on our own, as well as an exercise in budgeting for ourselves. We enjoyed some very tasty



Artist's rendition of the new Boyd Center at Silver Bay. Though the dining hall should be ready by Summer Sessions, the guest rooms won't be available until later this summer.

New Building at Silver Bay YMCA The Location for Summer Sessions 2018

The Silver Bay YMCA will become a larger, year-round facility under a \$13 million expansion plan that includes the Spring 2018 completion of construction of a two-story, 42,000-square-foot building to replace the current dining hall. The center will be attached to the facility's 114-year-old inn, and in addition to a dining room, kitchen, and 22 guest rooms with private baths, the center will include confer-

ence and meeting space for up to 250 people. Silver Bay YMCA was founded in 1902 on a 700-acre campus with a mile of shoreline on Lake George. It employs 45 full-time staff members with a seasonal staff of 200, and that number will increase after the new addition is completed. The camp is on the National Register of Historic Places with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Learn more at silverbay.org



dinners—among our favorites were Venezuelan sandwiches, Salvadoran pupusas, and “Indian Chipotle.” We increased our practical skills! We learned about Washington, DC, and about the process of legislating by hearing first-hand from representatives and senators, and by hearing the stories of those who spend much of their time lobbying on Capitol Hill.

It is a very empowering feeling to be reminded of our influence as young documented citizens (new and future voters), and to learn how our political system is accessible. We leave with a stronger understanding of the ways that we can demand the attention of our representatives and participate in making change in our communities both local and global. It is both informative and inspiring to be surrounded by a large group of like-minded people from all over; to get a sense of the broadness of an issue. We were joined by people from over 40 states, all bringing their voices and experiences, all recognizing the importance of creating legal space—including and welcoming the voices—particularly

for those among us who arrived to our country as children and have yet to be legally recognized as fully participating members of our society. We are excited to come again next year for FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend programming, to bring new friends with us. We are excited to share what we've learned with our friends and family at home, and to remind and encourage all of our people to stay informed about the activity in your home states and counties, to write and call your representatives, and for those of us who have the legal ability to do so, to make sure you're registered, and GO VOTE!



NYYM CONNECT!

There is an easy way to connect with all that NYYM has to offer: **NYYM Connect!** At www.tinyurl.com/nyymconnect you can sign up to receive news from NYYM and Powell House, resources and newsletters for Young Adults, Families, and Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH), and manage your email list options.

NYYM Summer Sessions • Sunday–Saturday, July 22–28, 2018 • Silver Bay, NY

Abbondanza! What is our abundance? How do we share it?

Hello Friends! The complete Summer Sessions information (and registration!) can be found online at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018

STEPS TO SUMMER SESSIONS

1. Read the Summer Sessions pages of this issue of *Spark* carefully and be sure to read additional important information on the website.
2. Decide on your arrival and departure dates. Full week is July 22–28; you can also register for a half week or single day(s).
3. Choose your housing preferences, page 11. Please note that children under the age of 18 must room WITH a parent or be in an adjoining room. This is a change from previous years.
4. Register, either online at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018 or using the form on the back page. When you register, you agree to follow all of the NYYM Participant Expectations and Agreements. Find the text on page 9 and online.
5. You can register and pay online or send your registration fee and form to the NYYM office. The table of fees is on page 12.
6. When Silver Bay YMCA (SBY) sends you an acknowledgment of your registration, they will include a request for a 25% room deposit. You must pay that deposit by the date they request to ensure your room is reserved for you.
7. All Junior Yearly Meeting 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 form is available online at www.nyym.org/committee/sessions-committee
8. In addition, parents of children 0-2 are encouraged to complete the Silver Bay Morning Program forms, online at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018. Be sure to read the JYM information here and online for updates on their programming for our littlest ones.

Helpful People for NYYM Summer Sessions

- **All Registration Questions, Committee Meeting Requests, Financial Assistance:** Helen Garay Toppins, office@nyym.org; 212-673-5750; NYYM Office, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York City NY 10003
- **Summer Sessions Liaison, Food-Service Coordinator & Special Needs:** Martha Gurvich
- **12-Step Program Coordinator & YM Office Assistant:** Roseann Press
- **Circle of Care & Concern:** Heather Cook
- **Display Requests:** Karen Snare
- **General Scheduling & Evaluations:** Melanie-Claire Mallison
- **Golf Cart Coordinator:** Angel Ramos
- **Greetings to Absent Friends & Welcome Table Coordinator:** Kate Lawson
- **Healing Center Coordinators:** Abigail Burford and Buffy Curtis
- **Interest Group Coordinators:** Martha Gurvich and Helen Garay Toppins
- **JYM Program Coordinators:** Sylke Jackson and Dawn Pozzi
- **Microphone Runner Coordinator:** Ann-Marie Scheidt
- **Tagless Tag Sale Coordinators:** Elise Bacon and Megan Byrtus
- **The Quaker Update Editor:** Sarah Way
- **Whisper Buddies Coordinator:** Jillian Smith
- **Worship Sharing Groups Coordinator:** Sunfire Kazmayer

PLENARY SPEAKER Jacqueline Stillwell (Monadnock, NEYM)

Jacqueline Stillwell, General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources, shares the abundance of God's love by working for equity through partnerships around the world.

Jackie grew up in Reading Meeting, PA. She has a B.A. from Friends World College and an M.S. in Organization/Management from Antioch New England. Jackie has lived abroad in England, Norway, and spent nearly a decade in Guatemala, three years of which were serving in the Peace Corps. She has also led five trips to Cuba to visit NEYM's sister Yearly Meeting. For 22 years Jackie served as Head of The Meeting School, an experiment in education and simple living in Quaker community. At The Meeting School, Jackie experienced the joys and challenges of faithful living with integrity and embracing conflict as opportunity for transformation. She has traveled widely among Friends with FWCC, FGC, and FUM, serving as an elder and workshop facilitator (Friends decision-making, clerking, Friends organizational governance, Power of Enough) at monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings and Friends schools. Jackie strives to understand how our social, cultural, and class experiences influence our perspectives on need and want.

Sharing God's Abundant Love: Expect Grace, Miracles, and Transformation

While serving as the clerk of New England Yearly Meeting, Jackie labored with the community as they faithfully discerned a "Pay As Led" system for financing Annual Sessions. How can a community resist the fears of scarcity instilled by society and instead trust their collective power to provide for one another? How can sharing your gifts change your life and that of our sisters and brothers? Jackie brings the message that we can choose to find our power of enough



Jacqueline Stillwell

through faithful listening, resisting the status quo, and accepting God's grace. Having enough does not mean having it all; it does mean having what is needed to do God's work. She invites us to know God's abundant love, share the gifts given to us, and trust that God will provide for our needs. This is an invitation to be fearless in taking risks, making mistakes, and becoming successful in the pursuit of Truth. As the General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources, Jackie has seen first-hand the ways in which sharing one's abundance has a transformative effect for individuals and communities across the world. In her work, Jackie encourages everyone to find the balance of what is "enough" and to release the rest. Through recognizing that we all belong to one another and believing in the abundance of God, we can manifest a world in which we are all embraced lovingly and provided for.

Bible Study

Rebecca Schillenback is a member of Poplar Ridge Monthly meeting. She is blessed to live in the green hills and dales of the southern Fingerlakes with her wonderful husband, George, her two sons Cyrus, 10, and Cazimer, 7, their cats Tip and Scotch, a flock of laying hens, a huge garden, and thousands of honeybees. She has loved bringing messages to Poplar Ridge, as well as crafting and officiating funeral and wedding ceremonies for a wide variety of people from many faith traditions. She graduates in May from Colgate Rochester Crozer



Divinity School with a Masters in Divinity and a leading to pursue a vocation in hospice chaplaincy.

The late New Testament scholar Marcus Borg once wrote, “I think being a Christian is about a relationship with God as pointed to by the Bible and Jesus. But I don’t think it’s about ‘believing in the Bible’; it’s about seeing the Bible as a lens through which we see God, and entering into a relationship with the God whom we see through the Bible. I don’t even think it’s about ‘believing’ in Jesus—rather, it’s about a relationship with the God to whom Jesus points us. Believing is overrated. You can believe all the right things and still be untransformed, still be in bondage, still be miserable. Faith as belief is quite impotent. But faith as a relationship with God is transforming.” We’ll approach our study of scripture this year at Summer Sessions through this kind of lens: with a willingness to hear the Word as one that calls us both to relationship and to transformation.

Informed by our queries for this year’s gathering—“What is our abundance? How do we share it?”—we’ll begin with the First Testament and Psalm 23, a famous hymn whose words, ‘My cup overflows,’ invoke a sense of holy abundance. We’ll ask after the prophetic Hebraic tradition’s care for those on the losing side of socio-political-religious systems of power, and its understandings of what abundance and wealth are for. We’ll move then to the overflowing cups of the Wedding at Cana, in the mystical-metaphorical Gospel of John, and the resounding biblical critique of acquisitionalism and private hoarding found throughout scripture, and in the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, radical rabble-rousing rabbi. In a time when the Gospel of Accumulation—the Prosperity Gospel—frames wealth as one-dimensional materialism, we will ponder, with our spiritual ancestors, what true abundance entails, and what it asks of us.

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, **Meeting 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” in the lawn out 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 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Please look online for more information on our opportunities to worship together and know one another.

Agenda Items

If you have items for the NYYM business agenda, please contact the appropriate coordinating committee clerk: John Cooley, General Services; Lu Harper, Ministry; Mary Eagleson, 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 2017-2018 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/committee/sessions-committee and email the completed form to Karen Snare, karensnare@aol.com.

Whisper Buddies

Whisper Buddies is an opportunity to get to know some friends and ask all sorts of questions about how Quakers conduct MfWwCfB (Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business). If you are growing up Quaker, seeking a spiritual path, joining the Religious Society of Friends, or if you have years of experience among Friends, you are encouraged to attend the meet and greet of Whisper Buddies.

Get all the Whisper Buddy details online at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018

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 Wednesday evenings from 7:45–8:45 p.m. and 8:45–9:45 p.m. Please note that IG facilitators may choose to meet over the two time slots on either evening. Complete the online form at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018 and submit it, no later than July 1, 2018, 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.

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 to donate (new or used items in good shape; PLEASE only bring items you’d give to family without embarrassment...), please bring them to Summer Sessions with you and there will be more information in the first Quaker Update on where to place your donations. Make sure your bags or boxes are clearly marked TAGLESS TAG SALE. Folks are encouraged to showcase their talents during **Café Night**, also organized and sponsored by JYM. 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! Please note, the NYYM Development Committee will be available during the week to talk to you about yearly meeting needs and the part you may play in meeting those needs—ice cream may be involved! More information will be available on all these events online, in the program, and in the Quaker Update at Summer Sessions. Come prepared to do a little Friendly shopping and donating!

Fundraising Policy for NYYM Sessions

Sessions Committee / Contact
Melanie-Claire Mallison, Sessions Committee clerk, with any concerns
(MsMellie@gmail.com)

As we gather in faith to conduct the business of New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), it is with care and consideration that any fundraising is undertaken during our sessions, Spring, Summer and Fall. Because of changes in tax law, our policies are under advisement. Please look online for the most current Fundraising Policies for the 2018 NYYM Summer Sessions as they become available!!

The Quaker Update

This daily newsletter will 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@nyym.org. Sarah Way is the editor.

12-Step Meetings

12-Step Meetings will be held every morning at 7:15 a.m. and also every evening (9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday; 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Please check your Program for the meeting location. 12-Step meetings are under the care of Sessions Committee, which has named Roseann Press as coordinator. Roseann needs to hear from people who would be willing to facilitate one or more of the meetings. To volunteer, please contact Roseann at rpress123@gmail.com or post a note for her on the YM Message Board once you get to Summer Sessions.

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 a wonderful way to get to know Friends of all ages you might not otherwise meet. Please see the NYYM Summer Sessions website for more information on how to volunteer.

Healing Work

Abigail Burford and Buffy Curtis, co-coordinators, and the Healing Center Support Committee

We are looking for volunteers to offer their skills in the healing arts or support the work by greeting and scheduling. Skills can include energy work (Healing Touch, Reiki, Therapeutic Touch, etc.), massage, Roling, craniosacral, spiritual counseling/direction, or other areas of healing work. Practitioner volunteers should have training with qualifications or relevant experience. Please contact Buffy Curtis, havehelpinghands@gmail.com, 508-566-6639 (cell), to offer assistance, suggestions, or let us know what you need. Volunteers will meet on Sunday evening to organize details, then look in the daily Quaker Update for the Healing Center hours. With gratitude for holding this ministry in your care, we look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you at the Healing Center. (More online!)

Disability Concerns

Friends who indicate special needs on their registration will be contacted by the NYYM office to gather specific disability information that may be shared with Silver Bay only as needed to find appropriate accommodation. Five mobility-accessible sleeping rooms, with bathrooms, are reserved in the Inn for those using wheelchairs (and their roommates). Other more accessible rooms in the Inn may be reserved by people who, for any reason, find it physically difficult to room elsewhere. Register early and keep in mind, if you cannot afford the rooms in the Inn, financial assistance is available from the Equalization Fund. Friends who require special assistance with dressing, bathing, or other personal needs must arrange this assistance on their own and the person assisting them must stay in their room for the length of the stay of the person they are helping. Silver Bay will offer the caregiver the NYYM room rate whether or not they are associated with NYYM.

Worship and Meetings. The people who set up worship-sharing groups and committee meetings 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.

Volunteer to Help! There will also be opportunities for Friends to be special needs volunteers. Invite your family and friends! A checkbox for volunteers is on the registration form—we especially need golf cart drivers (see more information on golf carts in this *Spark* and online).

Food Service at Silver Bay

Friends, please remember: you must be wearing your name badge to enter the dining hall. Meals begin with dinner on Sunday evening and conclude with breakfast on Saturday. If you plan to arrive at SBY early enough to have Sunday lunch, you must make arrangements with SBY in advance to purchase this meal; it is not part of the conference package. Likewise, if you intend to stay through Saturday lunch, you must arrange and pay for Saturday lunch at the front desk by Thursday. Indicate any dietary needs on your registration form. Please see the NYYM website for additional information regarding food costs, special diets, special food storage, and dining hall hours. Contact Martha Gurvich with any Food Service concerns.

Summary Schedule

Find the full schedule online & more in the daily Quaker Updates!

Every Day

7:30-8:30am: Breakfast
8:45-9:15am: Community Worship
9:30am-12:15pm: JYM Programming
9:30-10:30am: Worship Sharing
10:45am-12:15pm: Meeting for Business (Tuesday: Discernment)
5:30-6:30pm: Dinner
6:45-7:30pm: Bible Study (Mon-Thurs)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Sunday:

4:00-5:30pm: Registration, NYYM & JYM

6:45-7:45pm: Opening Worship

Monday:

2:45-5:15pm: Committee Meetings
7:45-9:45pm: Plenary Speaker & Reception

Tuesday:

Meeting for Discernment
7:45-9:45pm: Interest Groups

Wednesday:

1:30-3:00pm: Fun(d) Fair & Tagless Tag Sale!
3:00-5:30pm: Coordinating Committees
7:45-9:45pm: Interest Groups & Contra Dance

Thursday:

2:45-5:15pm: Meeting for Business
7:00-9:30pm: Café Night

Friday:

2:45-4:00pm: Committee Meetings
4:15-5:30pm: Coordinating Committees
6:45-9:30pm: Meeting for Business with JYM & NYYM Epistles

Saturday

9:30-11:00am: Closing Worship

Participant Expectations & 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), 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.

A vibrant community recognizes that open conflict is a call for growth and an invitation to change. Members of the **Committee on Conflict Transformation (CCT)** will be available all week to help Friends seeking to address conflict in healthy and constructive ways. The **Child Sexual Abuse Investigation Team (AIT)** will also be available all week. These individuals will be introduced at the **Sunday Opening Worship** and listed in the Sunday Quaker Update. If you witness or hear about something that you are uncomfortable addressing yourself, please seek out a member of CCT or AIT as soon as possible. A CCT member or AIT member will report back to you on your concern, and also to the

community if the AIT determines that to be necessary.

1. ALL attendees are expected to:

- If 18 years or older, register yourself and dependents with New York Yearly Meeting by the registration deadline, to facilitate the YM's logistical planning;
- Attend the activities of New York Yearly Meeting, including but not limited to Opening Worship, Community Worship in the morning, Worship Sharing, Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business, committee meetings, JYM events, and Closing Worship;
- Wear a Silver Bay name badge as required for all attendees (lost badges incur a \$2 replacement charge);
- Observe safety precautions, such as swimming only when a life guard is on duty, never swimming or hiking alone;
- Honor the NYYM agreements and expectations, keeping in mind also New York State laws regarding the use of illegal drugs and the legal age for drinking alcohol (see the first paragraph of our agreements);
- Parent(s), guardians, or sponsors for children under 18 years old assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of that person. Together, adults and youth should commit to a specific bedtime and at least once-daily check ins.

2. Attendees under 18 years old are expected to:

- Register with Junior Yearly Meeting in the company of their parent, legal guardian, or sponsor;
- NEW! All youth under the age of 18 must room WITH their parent(s), guardian, or sponsor, or be in an adjoining room;
- Have a valid medical consent form signed by a parent or guardian (medical forms are available online or can be mailed to JYM registrants upon request to JYM);
- Honor the NYYM agreements and expectations, keeping in mind New York State laws regarding the use of illegal drugs and the legal age of drinking alcohol (see the first paragraph of our agreements);
- Wear a Silver Bay name badge as required for all attendees (lost badges incur a \$2 replacement charge).

Welcome, young Friends and parents/guardians, to JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING (JYM) 2018!

Here are some basic things for everyone to remember:

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) is a very special time for our youngest Friends. Most of the volunteer staff are very experienced working with the program and many are seasoned Friends. Planning for the program is done on a weekend at Powell House and activities are designed to provide five days of fun and fellowship. We see JYM as a time for young people to experience a community based on Friends testimonies and practices. Age appropriate 'Quaker content' will be part of the program, and each group will spend some time in quiet worship or worship sharing every day

When you arrive at Silver Bay YMCA, 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 p.m. and 8:00-9:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. Those registering Monday morning or later should go to the JYM table in Gullen Lounge after 9:00 a.m. Please bring your child's completed medical form, which includes parental consent signatures and a record of any allergies. If you are chaperoning a JYM youth, you will need a medical form signed BY THE YOUTH'S PARENT in order to register the youth with JYM. (Find all the necessary JYM forms online on the Summer Sessions page.)

New group for 3-6 year olds

This year, JYM will offer a full morning program for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten aged



Friday morning JYM singing worship

children. This group will meet during the regular JYM hours, from rise of community worship to 12:15 p.m. Parents are welcome to participate in this group as they are led. Children who are not potty trained are welcome to be a part of this group.

For children under 3 years old, Silver Bay offers childcare

Monday through Friday mornings from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m., which is supplemented by a JYM volunteer. See the Silver Bay Camp Info Packet (silverbay.org/forms/) for more information on the SB program. We usually ask parents to sign up to help cover the time between 11:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., so parents whose children are in that care can take turns attending Meeting for Business. This will be coordinated by the JYM volunteer. The Yearly Meeting will cover the fee to Silver Bay for Camp, but in order for NYYM to do so, parents MUST submit the Silver Bay Enrollment Form watermarked with NYYM (see link below) in order for Silver Bay to bill NYYM. If you do not use this form, you will be expected to pay Silver Bay directly for childcare, including a late fee that SB will impose if you wait until you arrive to register your child. Donations to offset this cost are appreciated

from any Friend, parent or not, who wishes to contribute. You must also complete a JYM medical form for JYM registration. This will enable your child to participate in PM childcare and other JYM sponsored events.

Can my child go to Silver Bay without me? If your child is under 18, he/she may attend Silver Bay with an adult chaperone. They MUST room with the chaperone if possible and appropriate; otherwise they must be in adjoining rooms. The chaperone should be designated by the parent or legal guardian on the completed medical form, and must be at least 10 years older than the young Friend they are chaperoning. The chaperone and the child should know each other reasonably well. When you register your child to attend Summer Sessions you will need to indicate who their chaperone is and send your child's registration in with that person's. You will need to send a SIGNED, completed medical information form with your child, to be turned in at JYM registration.

NEW REGULATIONS on ROOM ASSIGNMENTS for YOUTH.

As of 2018, Silver Bay now requires that anyone under 18 must be in the same room as a parent or guardian. For large families, two adjoining rooms, ideally with a parent in each room, will suffice.

Resource People and Adult Presences Needed for JYM!

Look online and contact Sylke Jackson or Dawn Pozzi, JYM Coordinators, as soon as possible to offer your time as a resource or presence for our young friends.

PARENT MEETING ON SUNDAY, JULY 22, 8:00 P.M.

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

Please look online at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018 to find out:

- When does JYM meet?
- Where does my child go?
- Morning worship sharing for teens.
- Afternoon and evening childcare.
- How do I know where my child is during the day?
- Which group will my child be assigned to?
- Can the JYM volunteers provide for my child with special needs?
- What do I need to bring? Including a request for snacks....
- About cell phones and electronic devices.
- To whom do I talk if I have any questions?
- Resource people and Adult Presences needed!
- JYM and Silver Bay Camp

Changes to FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for attending Summer Sessions

As in past years, financial assistance is available for the 2018 Summer Sessions via the NYYM Equalization Fund (EQ). For this year, however, we are simplifying the process for requesting assistance by eliminating the requirement for an applicant to first make a request to their monthly meeting. We are doing this to encourage individuals connected to NYYM to attend Summer Sessions. If you are requesting funds we do expect that your registration form will indicate your NYYM connec-

tion (monthly meeting member or attendee, Powell House attendee, etc.)

As in the past, the amount of assistance is limited, and all requests are carefully reviewed. EQ assistance typically provides adults and children with up to \$300. It may, however, provide more, or less, depending on your individual or family needs and the funds available. If you have a physical condition that limits your mobility and your access to the lower-priced housing units, please give us that information on your registration form.

If you need funds beyond what the EQ can provide, you are encouraged to ask your monthly, quarterly

or other regional meetings and/or your NYYM committee since many have funds available for this purpose. If you receive funds from these sources, we ask that you indicate the amounts and sources on your registration form. (Please note: JYM volunteers and others who receive substantial assistance from a committee or another source cannot also ask for Equalization Funds.)



A Request to Assist Those Who Need Assistance!

For those Friends who are not in need of financial assistance we ask that you consider adding or increasing your donation to the EQ fund. We hope that we will receive more requests and will therefore need more funds. You may specify your donation on the registration form and any amount will be recognized as a tax-deductible donation to NYYM.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Staying on Campus

Room Reservations at Silver Bay YMCA: complete information is online. 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 SBY desk before you leave. All rooms are typically rated for double occupancy. 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 6:00 p.m. 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 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 22. Checkout time is 11:00 a.m. daily, with the conference ending on Saturday, July 28. Those not out of their rooms by 11:00 a.m. 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 (double occupancy) and include a 5% gratuity. The half-conference rate is for those attending from Sunday, July 22, to Wednesday, July 25, or Wednesday, July 25, to Saturday, July 28.

NEW REQUIREMENT on ROOM ASSIGNMENTS for YOUTH. As of 2018, Silver Bay requires that anyone under 18 must be in the same room as a parent or guardian. For large families, two adjoining rooms, ideally with a parent in each room, will suffice. Clustering is still available for adult family members, or others who wish to do so. You must request clustering when you register for Summer Sessions at Silver Bay, and please send in the clustering registration forms 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. 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

Are you a camper or camping family? Silver Bay YMCA specifically reserves their lean-tos and tent platforms for NYYM use. Friends experienced in woodland camping may wish to consider the Silver Bay YMCA Adirondack-style lean-tos on Ryan's Ridge. Closer to campus are two raised wooden tent platforms on a knoll behind the gym. Rental for each person is \$28 per night, which includes the daily off-campus day membership and allows campers to use all of the other Silver Bay facilities. Meals must be purchased separately. Off-campus camping options include Rogers Rock State Park, north on Route 9 near Ticonderoga—find it on www.reserveamerica.com or call 800-456-2267 for information and reservations; and Brookwood RV Resort has tent platforms: www.brookwoodrvresort.com/

People staying on campus pay for the use of facilities through their lodging costs; those living off-campus and daily commuters pay for the use of the facilities through a day-use fee, paid when checking in at Silver Bay. This fee allows

use of the facilities, including the swimming areas, gym, art center, and boathouse.

Find the complete Camping and Staying Off Campus information, including costs, online at nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018

TRAVEL

The address for Silver Bay YMCA: **87 Silver Bay Rd. Silver Bay, NY 12874**

Driving times: approximately 90 minutes north of Albany; 4-5 hours north of New York City; 6-7 hours north east of Buffalo. Details on travel alternatives can be found online.

Note: Friends using public transportation who are interested in traveling together should contact Helen Garay Toppins at office@nyym.org.

ON YOUR WAY TO SILVER BAY

An invitation from **Powell House**, NYYM's Conference & Retreat Center: Want to stop on Saturday and take a break on the journey, where you can swim, nap, EAT, rest, hike, and so much more? We've got the place for you!! We'll be ready to serve lunch at 12:30 p.m., so come any time before then. Next, do what you want to relax before an ample supper. After dinner, maybe we'll sing together or have a bonfire in the evening... Breakfast on Sunday will conclude the time at Powell House; launching all off to stop at any number of places for worship and lunch as you head north. Rates: \$200 for families, \$100 for singles/campers/commuters. Visit powell-house.org.

Adirondack Friends Meeting is extending an invitation for Friends to visit meeting for worship on Sunday, July 22—a wonderful way to extend your knowledge of NYYM and add a worshipful break to your journey. Adirondack Friends Meeting is about one hour south of Silver Bay in South Glens Falls. 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 Lucy Price at adirondackfriendsmeeting@aol.com or 518-793-3755.

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

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	\$1,638	\$1,320	\$774	\$912	N/A	\$168
Double	\$972	\$828	1,056	894	624	684	\$366	168
Triple	804	702	852	756	558	612	N/A	168
Quad	714	654	N/A	684	N/A	564	N/A	168
Half-conference Rates (3 Nights)								
Single	N/A	N/A	807	660	387	456	N/A	84
Double	\$486	\$414	519	447	312	342	183	84
Triple	402	351	420	378	279	306	N/A	84
Quad	357	326	N/A	342	N/A	282	N/A	84
Single Day Rates (1 Night)								
Single	N/A	N/A	273	220	129	152	N/A	28
Double	\$162	\$138	176	149	104	114	61	28
Triple	134	117	142	126	93	102	N/A	28
Quad	119	109	N/A	114	N/A	94	N/A	28

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 Summer Sessions 2018

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.

2018 Registration Fees

	EARLY Until June 20	LATE June 20–July 21	AT SESSIONS July 22–28
Adults (36 yrs and above)	\$60	\$90	\$100
Young Adults (18-35 yrs)	\$52	\$82	\$92
JYM Youth (3 yrs to 17 yrs)	\$40	\$55	\$60
Family Group A: 2 adults & all children under 18 in room with parents	\$97	\$127	\$137
Family Group B: 2 adults & all children under 18 in 2 rooms with adult in each room	\$120	\$150	\$160
Per-day fee: applicable only to 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, NY 10003.

NYYM Summer Sessions Registration for **One Adult** Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY July 22–28, 2018

BEFORE July 18 return to: NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York NY 10003

AFTER July 18 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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult Friends (ages 18–35) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults with young children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First time at Summer Sessions | <input type="checkbox"/> Caregivers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JYM Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Transformation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Earthcare <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Aging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not list me as attending | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's <input type="checkbox"/> Racial Healing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's <input type="checkbox"/> 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 7/2/18)

Source of funds: _____ Private \$ _____

Provided by monthly/regional meeting \$ _____

Requested from Equalization Fund \$ _____

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 22–28, 2018

BEFORE July 18 return to: NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York NY 10003

AFTER July 18 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—or choose “high school” to join the high school worship group.)

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 7/2/18)

Source of funds: _____ Private \$ _____

Provided by monthly/regional meeting \$ _____

Requested from Equalization Fund \$ _____

Registration fee enclosed (see fee chart) \$ _____

*Remember to review the Participant Expectations
and NYYM Agreements on page 9 and at nyym.org*