



# SPARK

New York Yearly Meeting

*The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

Volume 52, Number 2

15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

March 2022

## Quakers Looking into the Future



### Now and Future of Quakerism: a 2/3rds Perspective

Callie Janoff  
Brooklyn Meeting

In early December of 2021 a group of Friends who self-identified as being in the “second-third” of life (ages 35-59ish) gathered in person at Powell House for a retreat. In addition to getting to know each other, resting, socializing (and some of us attending the NYYM Fall Sessions by Zoom) we spent time together considering our relationship to Quakerism and our Quaker communities. We remembered how we have been shaped, and what we have inherited from Friends who came before us. We considered where we find ourselves now, and how we see our roles. And we also dreamed about the Quakerism and Quaker communities we wish for.

What follows are lightly edited notes taken from our sessions that

*continued on page 5*

### A Message from the New Children, Youth, and Young Adult Community Director

Daniela Salazar  
Monárrez  
Flushing Meeting

Dear Friends,

There's a very good book series called the *Graceling Realm* by Kristin Cashore. It's a high medieval-like fantasy adventure story, where the main magical premise is that some people are born with a Grace. A Grace is a skill, often very specific and unique (fearlessness & precise risk analysis; olfactory sense to know and cook the exact food someone needs; crafting dreams for others; speed reading & perfect recall; an instinct for survival; etc.). These people are called Gracelings and have different coloured eyes. It was this magical premise that came to mind when I was first beginning to understand the concepts of ministry, vocation, and spiritual gifts.

In an early Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series, Marissa Badgley described a spiritual gift as linked with “the idea that each individual person has unique strengths and gifts with which they can make a positive contribution to the good of the Earth community.” She herself spoke about how hard it was to live

*continued on page 4*

## Being Changed Living Faithfully

### SUMMER SESSIONS JULY 24-30, 2022

Dear Friends,

Being changed, Living faithfully; our theme for Summer Sessions urges us into openness, exploration, reflection, inviting us to meet one another in love and anticipation and with curiosity about how we each will be called to change, to live faithfully.

Right now, planning for Summer Sessions continues with great optimism that we can be in-person on the Silver Bay campus and also integrate Friends attending remotely. We expect to hold blended meetings for worship and for business, grounded and uplifted by one another, remote and right at hand.

Sessions Committee is still working out what we can offer and in what format so you may want to follow the Friday email notices and check the Summer Sessions information on the website for updates and details. Or check in with the Sessions Committee directly with ideas and to volunteer; email Clerk Dawn Pozzi at [quakerdawn@gmail.com](mailto:quakerdawn@gmail.com).

Junior Yearly Meeting will resume in person and if you want to work on this, please send an email to [JYM-coordinators@nyym.org](mailto:JYM-coordinators@nyym.org).

It will be wonderful to be together with those who can come in person after we have had to be apart for so long. And we have committed to becoming proficient with the technology that will assure inclusion of Friends who can't be

*continued on page 6*

Spring and  
Summer Sessions  
Information  
Inside!

### SPRING SESSIONS APRIL 1-3, 2022

Hello Friends,

Please come to Spring Sessions.

We will be fully remote, with meetings for worship and for business, and social meals to get to visit. We will have a Friday evening program to celebrate being together and a Saturday morning **meeting for worship for peace in Ukraine**. There will be a few items for action, if the body is so moved, reports that will help us prepare for our Summer Sessions, and updates from committees to let us know about the work being done on our behalf by many Friends.

Spring Sessions is a time we can check in about how we are doing with the practical matters we hope to address this year and to connect with one another and share how our spiritual journeys prosper.

I hope you will come and spend some time with Friends.

—Elaine Learnard, NYYM Clerk

**Quakerism: The  
Road Ahead**  
pp. 4-5

**Spring Sessions** p. 6  
**Summer Sessions**  
pp. 6-8

## Notices

### Deaths

**Walter Altenburg**, member of Brooklyn, on January 18, 2022.

**Alice Houghtaling**, member of Schenectady, on January 27, 2022.

**Richard Perera**, member of Purchase, on December 3, 2021.

## NEWS

### Differently Abled Friends and Allies

According to the CDC 1 in 4 adults in the US are differently abled. So, if you are not differently abled, chances are you know someone who is. Yet, 67% of adults in a Scope Research study said that they were uncomfortable talking to someone who is differently abled, and 85% of differently abled adults reported that they are lonely. It does not have to be this way. The Differently Abled Friends and Allies (DAFA) would like to start having a regular weekly Zoom meeting to create a safe and supportive space for people to share and learn from each other's experiences, to grow in community, and to spread awareness. If you would like to know more, please email your name and contact information to nicholenettleton@gmail.com with DAFA as the subject line, and Nichole Nettleton will get back to you with more details.

### NYYM Anti-Racism Statement

A draft NYYM Statement on **Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community**, written by a multi-racial and multi-generational task group, was presented at Summer Sessions 2021 for Friends' reflection and the initiation of an extended period of discernment. Over the coming year, you and your meeting are invited to focus on how you can truly become an anti-racist faith community, and discern what that will mean for you and your meeting. The task group is sharing queries and resources that you may find helpful. You can find these resources at [nyym.org/anti-racism-statement](http://nyym.org/anti-racism-statement), or by requesting a copy from the office at 212-673-5750.

Over the next few months NYYM will arrange some anti-racism workshops especially for our yearly meeting. Please let the planning

## Around Our Yearly Meeting

team know of your interest in attending one of these trainings by filling out the **Antiracism Training Expression of Interest** form, linked to here: [nyym.org/anti-racism-statement](http://nyym.org/anti-racism-statement).

### Do You Receive the Weekly NYYM Email Update?

Each Friday an email newsletter from NYYM is sent out to over 1600 people. Past editions are available at [nyym.org/weekly-updates](http://nyym.org/weekly-updates). To subscribe, email your name and email address to [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org). If you think you're on the list but haven't received any emails, please check your spam folder.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring Sessions

April 1-3, 2022. See page 6.

### Summer Sessions

July 24-30, 2022. See page 6-8.

### Powell House Workshops



Powell House is the retreat and conference center for NYYM. Visit [poho.org](http://poho.org) to see the full list of upcoming events and to register.

### Second Thirds: Connections for Friends Ages 35-59ish

*a partnership between Powell House and NYYM's ARCH program*

This season of Second Thirds will combine social opportunities with content specifically designed for those of us in the second third of our lifetimes. Register once and attend as many (or as few) parts of the series as work for you. Most events will take place online but the series includes a culminating in-person gathering at Powell House, May 20-22. [www.powellhouse.org/secondthirds-spring-2022](http://www.powellhouse.org/secondthirds-spring-2022)

### The 2022 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

*"...and follow me."* The 2022 FGC Gathering will be held in-person at Radford University from July 3-9, 2022. Visit [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)

### Quaker Institute for the Future's 2022 Summer Research Seminar

The Quaker Institute for the Future's 2022 Summer Research Seminar will take place by Zoom from August 8-12. QIF Summer Research Seminars create a venue for spirit-led research using Quaker

methods of discernment and reflection. Research presentations include time for questions, clarification, and discussion, framed by times of collaborative discernment conducted as "Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Research." Time is also reserved for theme-based discussions, worship sharing, artistic and other creative sharing, and informal interactions among participants. More information about summer research seminars is available at [quakerinstitute.org](http://quakerinstitute.org), including videos of past presentations. There is no registration fee though participants are encouraged to make a donation to QIF that is within their means.

QIF is offering \$300 stipends to applicants aged 18 to 35 years old to make a presentation on research that resonates with the QIF mission of advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice, and ecological integrity through Spirit-led participatory research and discernment. The SRS organizing committee will hold one or more orientation sessions for stipend recipients and will be generally available to help stipend holders to prepare for the SRS. For further details and to register for the SRS or apply for a stipend contact Gray Cox at [gray@coa.edu](mailto:gray@coa.edu) or 207-460-1163.

## FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

### Powell House Youth Conference: OUTER SPACE, INNER SPACE for 4th-5th Grade

April 22-April 24, 2022

The night sky is like a beautiful work of art with the moon and stars projecting light from a deep, dark canvas. You are like a work of art, too! Creative and joyful light shines through the mysterious depth you hold within you. At this conference, we will explore our inner light and notice how we are like the wondrous world around us. Expect games and laughter at this interesting and exciting conference. Register by clicking on the conference name at [poho.org](http://poho.org) or call 518-794-8811.

### Albany Friends Young Peacemakers Week

Albany Friends Meeting is again planning to have our annual Young Peacemakers Week, from August 22-26, 2022, at the AFM Meeting-

house. We welcome children in grades 2-8, from 1:30-5:30, followed by a simple meal shared with our families. Our daily activities will reflect our witness to the Quaker Peace Testimony, i.e., a commitment

*continued on next page*

# FRIENDS

## Always Welcome



Guestrooms & meals      Longterm residency



215 E. 15th Street, New York, NY  
[www.penington.org](http://www.penington.org)

SPARK (ISSN 00240591)

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

New York Yearly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends  
15 Rutherford Place  
New York, NY 10003  
212-673-5750  
[info@nyym.org](mailto:info@nyym.org)  
[www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org)

Editor: Sarah Way  
[communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org)  
Editorial Board:

NYYM Communications Committee

*Spark* deadlines are the first week 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**

15 Rutherford Place  
New York, NY 10003

*NYYM Staff*

Chad Gilmartin: [web@nyym.org](mailto:web@nyym.org)  
Callie Janoff: [arch@nyym.org](mailto:arch@nyym.org)  
Steve Mohlke: [gensec@nyym.org](mailto:gensec@nyym.org)  
Daniela Salazar Monárrez:  
[salazar@nyym.org](mailto:salazar@nyym.org)  
Walter Naegle: [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org)  
Helen Garay Toppins:  
[office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org)  
Sarah Way:  
[communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org)



to nonviolence and reconciliation in all spheres of life. The theme will be addressed in typical camp activities such as arts and crafts, music, drama, non-competitive games, and nature-centered projects. There is no specific charge; instead we ask that people contribute whatever they feel is fair. We are looking for volunteers and paid staff, and welcome any applicants! For more information please contact Anita Stanley at 518-441-7722 or [meridiancomm@earthlink.net](mailto:meridiancomm@earthlink.net).


## ONLINE WORSHIP

Many of the local meetings in New York Yearly Meeting are holding online or hybrid online-and-in-person meetings for worship every week. Visit [nyym.org/online-worship-opportunities](http://nyym.org/online-worship-opportunities) for the most up-to-date information.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Powell House seeks Bookkeeper

More details at [www.powellhouse.org/seeking-bookkeeper](http://www.powellhouse.org/seeking-bookkeeper). Send your letter of inquiry and resume to [regina@powellhouse.org](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org) or call 518-794-8811

**Many Quaker organizations have multiple job openings.** Visit these websites for current listings: [www.afsc.org/job-center](http://www.afsc.org/job-center) [pendlehill.org/explore/employment](http://pendlehill.org/explore/employment) [www.fcni.org/about/work-fcni](http://www.fcni.org/about/work-fcni) 

## A Meeting's Anti-Racism Journey

Kathy Czekaj  
Manasquan Meeting

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe..." Psalm 139: 13-16

What color "me" did you see in the womb? We were all wonderfully and marvelously made, no matter what the color of our skin or of our ethnic origin. If only we could all see each other through the eyes of our loving God, how beautiful all of creation would be!

Led by the clerk of our Ministry and Counsel committee, members

and attendees of the Manasquan, NJ, meeting have been faithfully participating in racial awareness activities since July of 2020. Our initial "toe in the water," as they say, was attendance at "Waking Up to Racial Awareness" gatherings that were well received by the meeting. Sessions were held weekly via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Since then, we have also attended seminars by the "One Spirit" organization and Quaker sponsored programs of the American Friends Service Committee.

At one point, our facilitator began to solicit volunteers from among our group to author content for subsequent gatherings. Forums focused on racism in many areas of life—racism in organized sports; policing and race; segregation in religious institutions; the issue of reparations; ethnic prejudices; and governmental (systemic or institutional) racism. We studied the life and works of James Baldwin and learned the concept of "good trouble" from Congressional Representative John Lewis. We looked at the insidious injustices perpetrated against Native Americans and considered the concept of intersectionality. One week, we listened to selections of "Music of the Movement" and considered how self-care can help us work for racial justice. In late 2021 into 2022, we continued to meet on a monthly basis to share experiences and insights, holding impromptu discussions in friendship, love, and support of one another.

It has been a sometimes joyous and fulfilling, and at times arduous, journey as we faced inner demons of oblivious complicity in the inherent advantages of White privilege, unconscious biases and outright prejudicial attitudes. A thorough reflection on factors guiding one's thoughts, beliefs, and actions (or inactions) can prove to be a demanding and challenging task. While attempting to cultivate racial solidarity, we demonstrated compassion and supported each other in sitting with the discomfort, confusion and numbness that often accompanies White racial awakening. The group developed a high degree of intimacy as we struggled with these deep feelings. Together, we leaned on each other for encouragement and care. An image appears of us all huddling




Lisa Edstrom from Hudson Friends Meeting speaks at the "It Begins With Me" interfaith rally for voting rights in Hudson, NY, on January 17, 2022. Rev. Kim Singletary, who organized the event, is standing to the left. Photo by Lance Wheeler, [www.columbiapaper.com](http://www.columbiapaper.com).

together as we make our way through a dense fog, crossing over a narrow bridge without guardrails. We link arms lest we fall into a river of paralysis shutting us down due to weakness or guilt or panic instilled by the societal distractions prevalent all around us.

We are now again attending weekly sessions based on the 2019 bestseller, *How to Be an Antiracist*, by historian Professor Ibram X. Kendi. (Insight on the content of the book may be viewed at: [youtu.be/\\_OXMGa0Fwsk](https://youtu.be/_OXMGa0Fwsk)) His premise is an attempt for people to change from a stance of "not a racist" to act as an "antiracist" in life. Professor Kendi, expressing an understanding of human nature, says that these labels are inherently impermanent, sort of like removable and reusable stickers as opposed to a more permanent tattoo.

In the human psyche, transformation is a lifelong passage through time. You can never change the world without first changing yourself for, after all, that is the only change you ultimately control. African scholar Dr. Molefi Kete Asante wisely counsels, "While we recognize the individuality of the responsibility, we know that it cannot be carried out without others. We can reach our own transcendence, but never without the help of others..." I am no longer myself; I am a transpersonal being at this moment... It is joy ineffable, because I am in tune with the feelings of others."

Our attempts, and those of other Quaker meetings, to educate, inform and enlighten ourselves, each other, and those we touch in our daily lives—to be part of a true communion which is constantly open to encounter, dialogue, attentive listening and mutual assistance—will, it is hoped, bear much fruit. 

## Editor's Note

**As we go to press missiles are falling on the people of Ukraine.** As Quakers we pray for peace. The NYYM Weekly Update email includes international worship opportunities, relief efforts for refugees, and our communications with Ukrainian Quakers. Read them at [nyym.org/weekly-updates](http://nyym.org/weekly-updates). Click on "NYYM Friends Respond to Invasion of Ukraine" to read the messages of support that NYYM sent to Friends in Russia and Ukraine.

This issue of *Spark* features articles on the future of Quakerism and the people who hope to create it. It also includes a section on Summer Sessions 2022, which we plan to hold in person for the first time since 2019. I hope we get to return to Silver Bay and I hope to see you there too.

### Upcoming Spark themes:

**May: Open Issue.** There's a lot going on in the world. The conflict in Ukraine may spread. Warnings about climate change are growing more dire. Progress in police, immigration, and prison reform is slow. Yet we are moving toward meeting together in person again. There is struggle and there is hope. What are you thinking about? What would you like to share?

*Spark* accepts article submissions of 400-600 words, shorter news items and announcements, and photographs and artwork. Please share your thoughts and talents with the rest of NYYM! Deadline for the May issue is April 1. Email submissions to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org).

Please send in your meeting's news so it can be shared in the next NYYM weekly email update or in *Spark*. If you'd like to join NYYM's weekly email list, email [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org).

NYYM is on **Facebook** (NewYorkYearlyMeeting), **Twitter** (NYYMtweets), and **Insta** (newyorkyearlymeeting). —Sarah Way, NYYM

Communications Director  
[communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org)

**[NYYM.org/donate](http://NYYM.org/donate)**



# Quakers Looking into the Future

## Four Steps to Achieving a Whole Earth Economy

Excerpt from *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*

Peter Brown and  
Geoffrey Garver

Study after study has shown that reaching the goal for which we humans have placed our entire planet at risk—economic escalation and personal wealth—does not even make us happy. Above a certain amount needed to maintain a roof over their family and put food on the table each day, human beings in every country surveyed are not made happier by more material goods, even in significant amounts. What does make us happy are the ideals promoted by almost every ethical tradition known: belonging to a community; enjoying good health; sharing; loving and being loved; having access to nature; making a meaningful contribution. When we envision the true limitations, responsibilities, and mystery of living on the earth, we will begin to experience far more fulfilling lives than the excessive acquisition of material possessions can ever provide.

What can be done, then, to start building a whole earth economy in right relationship with life's commonwealth? The first step on this new path is grounding and clarification. Right relationship is based on feeling a sense of awe for the cosmos and embracing an ethic of humankind's appropriate place in, and relationship to, the cosmos and the earth. Grounding and clarification begin with the recognition that it makes much more sense to be inspired to live within the ecological limits of the earth than to ignore the ecological consequences of relentless economic growth. People everywhere need to envision having fulfilling lives, and then start living them by walking more lightly on the earth. Plenty of books, Internet resources, and community-based organizations provide creative ways to do this. With first grounding and then clarification, a whole earth economy can start to take hold.

Second, building a whole earth economy will require development of models, pilot programs, and techniques based on right relationship, informed by history but tailored as best they can be to the future. The global institutions envisioned in this book require further discussion and development; perhaps other approaches will better provide the governance functions urgently needed at the global level. Whatever institutions emerge must preserve local decision making, yet ensure respect for new, ecologically based rules that we all must live by to avoid the further unraveling of life's commonwealth and the attendant decline in the human prospect. This is not something that should only be left to "experts." What will daily life be like when a new kind of global governance comes into play? The answer will depend not only on the details of how global governance functions, but also on how it makes sense in the daily lives of people in communities across the globe. The more people who participate in discussing new forms of global governance, the better it will serve people and the entire commonwealth of life fairly and effectively.

The third step is bearing witness to a guidance system built on right relationship. As a better future built on right relationship comes into sharper focus, a mass epiphany is bound to take place. Everyone who wants to preserve the integrity, resilience, and beauty of the commonwealth of life for future generations needs to commit to individual and collective changes that will lead to right relationship. It is impossible to predict how or when this epiphany will take place. But it is possible to hope for it and work for it by bearing active witness to the concept of right relationship and to the urgent need for change.

The last and catalytic step in this vision for building a whole earth economy is the igniting of a social movement of nonviolent action that changes hearts, minds, and policy toward right relationship. Quaker history contains many stirring examples of action leading to the advancement of significant social and economic reform, while the Quaker template for abolishing both the slave trade and slavery itself against powerful, entrenched

interests is the most well known. The Quaker example can serve as an inspiring model for building a whole earth economy in right relationship with life's commonwealth.

A project from Quaker Institute for the Future ([quakerinstitute.org](http://quakerinstitute.org)), *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* is available at [www.bkconnection.com/books/title/right-relationship](http://www.bkconnection.com/books/title/right-relationship)



## A Message from the New Children, Youth, and Young Adult Community Director

Daniela Salazar Monárrez  
Flushing Meeting

*continued from page 1*

in line with that reality, and worried at how the very concept of vocation was out of reach for so many of us. As I dive into the work of homemaking for the young people of this yearly meeting, I again think on the idea of a Grace.

I've been a teacher my whole life. Students of all ages and nationalities take to me because I take them seriously. I respect children, infants and youth and teens and new adults and young adults and *ye olde* adults. Last semester, I taught a freshman writing class and folded within it a course on notoriously dense, post-colonial theory. Even when they dropped my class they still felt their time spent on my class had been worth it, they wrote to me; they had learned a whole lot, they said. My class was a healing space, full of compassion, centered around welcoming students into a world of knowledge armed with the tools to be critical thinkers in the world. It centered the meaningfully honest storytelling of an explicitly anti-oppressive genre, teaching them how to be speakers of Truth on behalf of their people as a way to participate in the world. It helped them to identify their people: some knew instantly, some took all semester to decide. It was intellectually demanding and practically challenging and endlessly forgiving and my students told me that they wouldn't have described it as easy at all; but that it was calming somehow and full of grace.

I am of the belief that we should

look to the youth as a rudder for the direction of their community's actions in the world. I am known for listening to children, then to their parents, and in turn, revealing their parents' love to them by way of observation and explanation. I might explain to parents the things their children are trying to communicate. An itchy sock, complex theology. Truth and clarity exist in exuberant abundance in children who make friends with absolutely anyone. And young adults are steadfast friends who will test and temper your convictions; they hold us all to a higher standard. This role of translator between generations and cultures and languages happens to me with strangers, with students, and with family. I am graced with the spiritual gift of translation.

Emily Provance, in a talk to Quakers in Britain, asked, "What are the implications of rejecting leadership as a spiritual gift?" I had never considered that this question could have a response. She answered that question like this: "Your spiritual gifts aren't for you—they're for the people around you...used in faithful service to a community." In the story of Graceling, all commoners with a Grace are automatically drafted into faithful service to the crown. The darker implications of compulsory service are explored in the story. But the foundational belief is based in truth known from reality that those Graced have both a *need-like* desire and a duty to use their Grace well.

Our 2021 State of Society reports, "One meeting with a strong, multi-generational prison outreach noted that 'young adults observe the sense of community and equality in our interactions and feel in unity with the values we practice.' What are the unheard messages of young adult Friends not associated with monthly meetings?" I have heard these messages, again and again. In graveyards and while swimming and at 3 a.m. and over online voice channels from 12 time zones away; and I know only some of what's been lost and why.

Before I ever connected with the NYYM, I established an online server to discuss Quakerism. I couldn't be the only one who wanted a space to explore Quakerism from and with others. Even





today I'm asked online, mostly and not exclusively by young strangers digging through Quaker-related tags on three-year-old posts, if they can join our religion, despite only having just heard of us, our work, and our reputation. They say they feel somehow strongly *convinced* by Quakers, but have nothing to *do* about it. Others find the link...who knows where. At least once a week a new seeker joins a Quaker server. A number that is fast increasing; baby Quakers are ever-seeking.

In only three years of involvement with NYYM, through worship at Flushing Meeting, participation in Marissa's YAF events, a Meeting for Discernment (the last one held in person), Summer Sessions, and as a paid facilitator for Morning-side Meeting—I have seen so much underutilized potential and so many people who are not truly invited to make their spiritual home with us. Thankfully, I am graced with the spiritual gift of translation and a surplus-funded salary.

As Quakers we believe in something like a Grace, we call it an inner Light. And while it is equally fantastical in premise to some; we know it as real and visceral in our daily lives. We believe in that of god in everyone. We are all equally graced with this Light, every single person. We all have as perfect a place amongst us as any Graceling in their realm. And it is as equally your duty to serve it up to the community, as it is our duty to truly Hold you in the Light as we find you your proper place in our Society of Friends.



**Daniela Salazar  
Monárrez**

**Joy Meikle**  
Wilton Meeting

New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) has hired a new full-time Children, Youth and Young Adult Community Director. Her name is Daniela Salazar Monárrez and she began the job in late January. I had the recent pleasure of interviewing her for a spotlight in **Illuminations**, the NYYM children & families newsletter (subscribe at [mailchi.mp/nyym.org](mailto:mailchi.mp/nyym.org)/subscribe-to-children-and-families-newsletter).

Daniela responds to and thinks about life with the intentionality

and curiosity of someone who cares deeply about the consideration of Truth. As she puts it, her philosophy is to “experience life on purpose.” She strikes me as a passionate thinker, and, according to her, she thinks a lot about how she thinks. “Being autistic is a huge part of my life,” she told me. “For me, it’s been a very practical question, thinking about autism as a neurotype.” She says one practical outcome of her autism is a limited capacity to withstand lies, which is one of the reasons she appreciates children, those great truth-seekers and truth-tellers.

Daniela's first way of getting actively involved with Quaker meeting was to make friends quickly with all of the kids. This natural affinity with young people has guided much of her career; she's worked as an elementary school teacher as well as a college professor. As Children, Youth, and Young Adult Community Director, she wants “young people to be seen as the partners they are in culture-making, because they're so often removed from agency everywhere.” Culture is not static—it shifts, and moves, and changes. What would it look like for children, youth, and young adults in Quaker spaces to be valued as part of this dynamic process? To have their opinions taken seriously? To be included in Meeting for Business?

One of Daniela's poems, titled *this is a poem for those who have asked*, (available at [bit.ly/3tpQvxW](https://bit.ly/3tpQvxW)) is an expansive analysis about the ways in which white supremacy and other systems of oppression are operating in the Society of Friends. On how NYYM can be “more inviting to young people, nonwhite people, and queer people,” Daniela writes, “They keep peeking their heads in to see if you're ready for them yet. They know their place and their power and they will not be preached to first.” Daniela's new role in the yearly meeting will include a facilitation of conversations to connect Friends across lines of difference and spheres of influence. She's excited to meet people in the community and make many new Friends. You can reach her at her NYYM email, [salazar@nyym.org](mailto:salazar@nyym.org).

*This is an excerpt of a longer article—find it at [nyym.org/spark](https://nyym.org/spark) and click on Spark, March 2022.*



## Now and Future of Quakerism: a 2/3rds Perspective

**Callie Janoff**  
Brooklyn Meeting

*continued from page 1*

I've compiled. They are meant to summarize the collective voice of many Friends, and are not offered as an epistle or manifesto.

When we consider “what is our role, what might our role be as a generation, and what may not be my/our role/part,” we recognize that we have a lot of Quaker experience, that we are all “weighty Friends,” and that we are poised to acquire authority in our Quaker communities. Some of the ways that we see our role or our part are:

- Bridge building
- Leveraging networks
- Not waiting to be given permission to do what we see needs to be done, instead to follow our leadings as if we could just do whatever we are called to
- As “the sandwich generation” being able to communicate between generations, bridging by way of tech or other ways
- Getting to know other Friends our age, even if they aren't a part of our local Quaker community
- Being a model for others
- Acting on our want and need to know one another better, not just “what we do for Quakers”
- Communicating what we learn and know back to other Quakers
- Using creative channels to communicate

When we consider what we hope for Quaker communities of the future, in say 20 years, in a “blue sky,” anything-is-possible kind of way, these are some of the things we hope for:

- Diversity in who “we” means
- A focus on our unifying beliefs
- A more fluid organizational structure that is flexible and has the capacity to change
- Availability and acceptance of different ways to worship
- A setting aside of behavioral creeds while retaining our testimonies
- A narrative theology
- Ability to learn how to be Quaker by “doing” Quakerism

- Having normalized the providing of programming and support for Friends at every age and at every stage of life
- Meetings that are more like “storefront churches” with meetings at different times besides Sunday morning
- Pastoral leadership is done by a group, rather than individuals
- Organizational shapes and visions are examined and possibly revised regularly—as frequently as every three years
- More attention is paid to the crossover/connections between worship, business, and activities of a meeting
- Having already done the personal and institutional work of anti-racism and queer inclusion, we can offer eldering as radical hospitality
- A focus on getting to know each other in relational community
- Normalization of small groups for spiritual support, such as faithfulness groups
- Regular meetings for fellowship
- Meaningful involvement in our community that doesn't require being nominated to a committee
- Moving away from geographically organized communities
- Having a healthy relationship with money
- Organizations that are simply organized and transparent
- We trust and invest autonomy in each other, instead of second guessing a group's leading or decision
- Joy and fun are centered
- We are bold in our anti-racism
- Babies and children are included in the meeting for worship and we consider childcare inclusively
- Our witness activities focus on new and different concerns as they arise

Friends who identify as a “Second Third” are invited to join us for our ongoing gatherings offered through Powell House. Visit [www.powellhouse.org/second-thirds](http://www.powellhouse.org/second-thirds). Anyone of any age who shares our dreaming is welcome to contact the Second Thirds organizers Emily Provance ([eprovince@hotmail.com](mailto:eprovince@hotmail.com)), Regina Baird Haag ([regina@powellhouse.org](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org)), and Callie Janoff ([arch@nyym.org](mailto:arch@nyym.org)).





**New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM)** is the organization that gathers together the Quaker congregations in New York State, northern New Jersey, and southwestern Connecticut. The yearly meeting gathers together for business three times a year: for a weekend in spring and in fall and for a week in summer. This annual summer meeting is what gives us the name "yearly meeting". In addition to conducting business, the gathered Friends also worship, share experiences, socialize, and create a sense of community together. Spring Sessions will be online only and Summer Sessions is expected to be "hybrid," both online and in person. The Sessions Committee has given the NYYM 2022 Sessions the theme "**Being Changed, Living Faithfully.**"

## Spring Sessions

**April 1-3, 2022**

### Online via Zoom Videoconference

All Friends are invited to attend Spring Sessions. New York Yearly Meeting will gather online April 1-3 for business and worship.

Spring Sessions is an opportunity to build community and experience Quaker practice in action! For registration and more info, visit [nyym.org/spring-sessions-2022](http://nyym.org/spring-sessions-2022). Updates will be announced to the NYYM email list. If you're not sure you receive emails from NYYM, please send

your name and email address to [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org).

Plans for Spring Sessions include a community-building event on Friday evening that will likely include some music and playfulness, giving us the chance to celebrate that we are together. On Saturday morning there will be a **Meeting for Worship dedicated to Holding the People of Ukraine and Russia in the Light**. Our meetings for business will be preceded by an hour of worship. Please note that there will not be time set aside for committees to meet during the weekend. Yearly meeting committees should schedule a time to meet before their next coordinating committee's meeting. If a committee has business it wants to bring to the yearly meeting as a whole,

it should bring it to their coordinating committee first.

Want to hang out with other Friends? Try a "social meal." These may be focused on a topic of interest—sometimes referred to as a "meal with meaning"—or they may be casual and unprogrammed. There are three mealtimes: Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, and Sunday lunch. If you are interested in hosting one of these meals, please contact Helen Garay Toppins, [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org). Let her know which meal you want to host and if you have a topic or concern to bring.

Registration for Spring Sessions is open NOW. Visit [nyym.org/spring-sessions-2022](http://nyym.org/spring-sessions-2022) for more info and the link to online registration.

## New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions • July 24-30, 2022

**In Person at Silver Bay YMCA, Lake George, NY, and Online via Zoom Videoconference**

(continued from page 1)

physically with us but whose presence by Zoom we cherish. I am eager to see how we do this!

I have been avoiding the word "challenging" but I am pretty sure you know that figuring out how to hold blended meetings on this scale will not be without glitches and goofs and will likely include some frustrating results. But we will manage it—with the guidance of Spirit and the energy of lots of Friends who just keep getting stuff done—we will hold Sessions in a new and more inclusive way, not likely with perfection but surely with joy.

I look forward to seeing you.

—Elaine Learnard, Clerk of NYYM

**You are invited** to attend any or all of Summer Sessions, either in person or online.

The COVID pandemic has taught us to coexist with a constant level of uncertainty about the future. As of *Spark's* printing deadline, the planning team is intending that Summer Sessions will be held both online and in person at Silver Bay. Some events will be held either in person or online; some will be held in person and streamed online; and some events will be hybrid. *In person* means physically located at Silver Bay. *Hybrid* means both in-person and online participants—those attending via Zoom—will be able to interact with the event. This interactivity should include the ability to speak and be heard by all other participants. *Streamed* or *live-streamed* means the in-person event will be viewable online. The text below reflects the intentions of the planning committee at press time. Up to date information will appear at [www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022).

### What is Summer Sessions?

Summer Sessions is a week-long gathering of Friends where we can worship, play, discern, learn, and simply BE with each other. Friends from the New York Yearly Meeting area (NY state, northern NJ, western CT) and beyond get together for a week every year to hold meetings, both business and worship, and to create a temporary Quaker community. This year, Sessions Committee is expecting that some Friends will attend Summer Sessions in person at Silver Bay and others will attend online via Zoom. As many events as possible will be held simultaneously in person and online, with as much interactivity and accessibility as possible.

### What is Silver Bay?

Silver Bay YMCA is a conference and family retreat center on the shores of Lake George within New York State's Adirondack Park. Silver Bay ([silverbay.org](http://silverbay.org)) is a campus of buildings including an inn, cafeteria, auditorium, gym, and other gathering spaces. There are several residential buildings with rooms available at a range of prices. All overnight guests receive a full meal plan at the cafeteria and access to Silver Bay amenities including swimming areas, boat house, craft shop, gymnasium, archery, etc. Day passes and individual meals can be purchased separately if you choose to camp or stay off-campus or to visit just for the day. Please note that Summer Sessions is PAY AS LED.

### What is Pay as Led?

Pay as Led is designed to enable newcomers and Friends of differing financial situations to attend

Sessions together. After registering you will receive a follow-up email or letter with your Pay as Led rate options. The three options are: the standard rate, which covers the cost of room and board; the full rate, which helps others attend; and the minimum rate, which is the lowest suggested amount. The Pay as Led plan relies on generosity from those who can afford to pay more.



### Is there a children's program?

Children and youth at Silver Bay attend a fun, Spirit-led program each morning called Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). Kids are grouped by age and led by Quaker volunteers. JYM gives children the opportunity to experience being in a community with other Quaker kids, living in Quaker values and making lasting friendships. For more, see page 8.

### Daily Schedule

**New Morning Schedule:** For 2022, Sessions Committee has approved shifting the morning schedule. Instead of community worship followed by worship sharing followed by JYM and business meeting, we are experimenting with the following changes: community worship at 8:45 a.m. will be followed by both JYM and business meeting, then worship sharing at 11 a.m. The idea behind this is that there will not have to be a break and a moving around of adults between community worship and the following business meeting. This new arrangement is an experiment that will hopefully allow community worship to set the tone for business meeting, as well as save time.



The new daily schedule for Monday-Friday:

- 7:30-8:30 a.m.: Breakfast
- 8:45-9:15 a.m.: Community Worship
- 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: JYM Programming
- 9:15-10:45 a.m.: Meeting for Business (Tuesday: Discernment)
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Worship Sharing
- 12:00-1:00 p.m.: Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 p.m.: Rest and Relaxation
- 2:15-5:15 p.m.: Committee Meetings, Free Time, Special Events...
- 5:30-6:30 p.m.: Dinner
- 6:45-7:30 p.m.: Bible Study (Mon-Thurs)
- 7:45-10:00 p.m.: Special events: Plenary, Interest Groups, Contra Dance, Café Night...

On Sunday July 24, our arrival day, check-in starts at the Inn at 4:00 p.m. Parents and children also check in with Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) at that time. After dinner, there is opening worship with a roll call and introductions, including JYM groups and leaders, to be held in person and on Zoom.

## Activities and Events

**Summer Sessions Plenary Panel.** *Living faithfully invites us to be changed.*

When our lives are not in unity with “who we say we be,” Spirit asks us to “true” our lives to the Truth by aligning and realigning our lives to Spirit’s openings, following paths of greater integrity, faithfulness and wholeness.

Individually and collectively, our eyes are being opened to the Truth of how in our gatherings and sessions we harm Friends whose identities and experiences are different from the dominant Quaker culture. Our experience at Summer Sessions 2021 led us to explore what other yearly meetings are doing to address the impact of racial and other harms that occur in Quaker gatherings.

The plenary panelists, from Pacific Yearly Meeting, will share their Spirit-led experience of developing and piloting “Stepping Stones to Sacred Space,” a process to address and repair racial harms occurring in their yearly meeting sessions. As they listened, their understanding transitioned from “safe space,” to “brave space,” and ultimately to “sacred space,” a space where acknowledging and repairing racial harm leads to healing, love, and unity. Centering Spirit and Spirit’s agenda over the norms of Quaker culture may transform us and our business practices.

We invite you to join the panelists to see how this process can make our meetings more welcoming environments where we fully embrace the ministry and gifts of Friends with diverse identities and experiences. We might be changed. We might live more faithfully.

The panelists will join us via Zoom. Friends at Silver Bay will have the opportunity to gather in the auditorium and Friends joining online will receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

**Worship Sharing Groups.** Groups will meet either online or in person (not hybrid). At worship sharing, participants are given a query and a chance to explore the query in a sacred, worshipful space with a small group of Friends. Friends attend the same worship group all week.



A meeting for business in the Auditorium.

**Worship at Summer Sessions.** NYYM Summer Sessions provides many opportunities 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, all of which will take place in person at Silver Bay; the planning team intends to livestream or hold these as hybrid events as circumstances allow. Worship sharing groups will meet every morning after business meeting, either in person or over Zoom. In addition, your worship and your discernment are needed at hybrid meetings for worship with a concern for business. Join us!

### Interest Groups and Meals with Meaning.

Interest Groups are a good way to introduce yourself to a topic or to dive deeper, to learn and to share, and can consist of a presentation, slide show, film, discussion group, or other activity. There will be both on-site and online interest groups offered. Meals with Meaning are conversations or presentations on topics of interest to Friends given during a meal, and may only be held in person at Silver Bay.

**Business Meetings.** At business meetings our Quaker practice is put into action. Everyone present is part of the decision-making body and goes through discernment and the finding of the way forward together. Reports on the recent activities of committees and individuals are also heard. Business meeting is a great way to find out how Spirit is moving around the New York Yearly Meeting. Business meetings will be hybrid, both in person and online via Zoom.

**Special Events.** On Wednesday afternoon at Silver Bay, the Junior Yearly Meeting presents the Fun(d) Fair, a fundraising fair that includes games, crafts, and refreshments. At the same time, there is the “Tagless” Tag Sale, at which you can “pay what you wish” for items donated by Friends. Please consider bringing used items in good condition to Silver Bay so they may be sold at the tag sale. On Thursday evening, the senior high group produces Café Night, an all-ages, talent show during which hats are passed to collect donations. Café Night will be

streamed online, and it may be possible to have online performers participate (this couldn’t be confirmed at press time.) Bring your instruments and props and join the fun! All of these events raise money for the NYYM Sharing Fund and Powell House.

## STEPS TO SUMMER SESSIONS (how to register)

- **If you will be attending online**, you can skip these steps and head to [www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022) once registration opens (target date is April 5; an announcement will be sent out via email). You will receive a confirmation email after you register.
- **If you will be attending in person**, start with deciding on your arrival and departure dates. **The full week is July 24-30, 2022.** You can also attend for a half week or single day(s).
- Determine who you will be rooming with, if possible. Please note that children under 18 must room with a parent or in an adjoining room.
- Choose your housing preference using the building and room rate list at [nyym.org/lodging](http://nyym.org/lodging).
- Parents of children ages 5-18: Read the **Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)** section on page 8.
- Parents of children ages 0-4: Read **For children under 5 years old** within the JYM section on page 8.
- Read the **Participant Expectations and Agreements** on the [nyym.org/sessions-committee](http://nyym.org/sessions-committee) page, as registering indicates that you agree to follow them.
- Once registration opens (target date is April 5; announcement will be made by email), register online at [www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022). If you cannot register online, or need assistance, please email [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) and provide your phone number and times that we can call you. If you don’t have email, please call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750.
- You will receive a confirmation email after you’ve registered.
- Within two weeks, once you’ve been assigned to a room, you will receive an email with the Pay As Led rate options and a link to make a payment. If your local meeting, regional meeting, or committee will be financially supporting your attendance, you should request that now, and factor in that amount when determining which rate you will pay.
- Parents will receive a follow-up email that will include any additional forms they may have to fill out for their children. Parents and children will also receive information from their JYM group.



The front porch of the Inn.





## Accommodations On Campus

Accommodations at Silver Bay vary in amenities and location. Some have private bathrooms and some have shared bathrooms. Rates go down for simpler accommodations and for sharing a room. Visit [nyym.org/lodging](http://nyym.org/lodging) to view the different housing options and their Pay As Led rates. Please note that, unfortunately, Hepbron Hall is no longer available.

Most rooms don't have air conditioning. If you require air conditioning, we can work with Silver Bay on your behalf to reserve rooms in the air-conditioned William Boyd Center. Rooms in the Boyd Center are more expensive than other buildings, and Pay as Led minimum rates are not available.

Children ages 0-5 are free, and there are reduced rates for older children.

Rates per person are discounted if more than two people are sharing a room. Half-week and single night stays are pro-rated. If you will be staying with a roommate(s) or in a family group, please make sure you name each other on your registration forms. If you need a roommate, NYYM will make every effort to assign one to you.

Meals are included in your on-campus room fee. Off-campus guests and campers can buy meals separately. You will be asked about your dietary preferences when you register. If you have questions about Silver Bay's food service and accommodation of special diets, ask Martha Gurvich, [margurvl@aol.com](mailto:margurvl@aol.com).

## Staying Off Campus or Camping

Off-campus camping options include Rogers Rock State Park, near Ticonderoga; find it on [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) or call 800-456-2267. The nearby Brookwood RV Resort has tent platforms: [www.brookwoodrvresort.com](http://www.brookwoodrvresort.com). Friends staying off campus must still pay the Silver Bay daily membership fee and register with NYYM. Lean-tos and tent platforms at Silver Bay are no longer available.

## Further In-Person Support

**12-Step Meetings.** 12-Step Meetings will be held every day in person during Summer Sessions. Meetings will be coordinated by John Scardina and Susan Bingham. Are you able and willing to facilitate one or more of the meetings? Please contact John at [johnscardina@hotmail.com](mailto:johnscardina@hotmail.com) or Susan at [smbjoyous@earthlink.net](mailto:smbjoyous@earthlink.net).

**Disability Concerns.** Friends who indicate special needs on their registration form will be contacted by the NYYM office to gather further information. Several mobility-accessible sleeping rooms with bathrooms are reserved in the Inn for those using wheelchairs (and their roommates). Other accessible rooms in the Inn may be reserved by people who need them. Friends who require assistance with personal needs must arrange this assistance on their own, and the person assisting them must stay in the room with them. Please indicate on your registration form if you need help with hearing or movement. Note takers can be provided and accessible locations allocated

for worship sharing and committee meetings.

## How Can I Help?

- **Lead an Interest Group or a Meal with Meaning.** Do you have expertise or knowledge to share with Friends? Volunteers are needed to lead interest groups and "meals with meaning." If you feel led to run an interest group, contact Martha Gurvich ([margurvl@aol.com](mailto:margurvl@aol.com)) or Fred Dettmer ([fdettmer@aol.com](mailto:fdettmer@aol.com)). For meals with meaning, email Martha or Helen Garay Toppins ([office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org)).
- **Work with children. Junior Yearly Meeting will return this summer!** We can't wait to see the children again. As we build our beloved JYM program back, we will need a crew of adults to lead the program. We need art people, games people, experienced old hands and newcomers. What we will have in common is delight in sharing time with children each morning during our time at Silver Bay. If your gifts and inclinations lead you to contribute to the work of the yearly meeting through guiding the children, consider this your opportunity. We will gather for planning ahead of time (at Powell House July 15-16, remote option available). We hope our crew will be a mix of young adults, "Second Thirds," and elders. We expect to share much joy together. Contact Susan Stillman and Ellie Rosenberg at [jym-coordinators@nyym.org](mailto:jym-coordinators@nyym.org)

You can indicate on your registration form if you'd like to help make Summer Sessions possible in one of these ways:

- **Help Friends get their food – or get around campus.** Friends who sign up as **special needs volunteers** can help someone by carrying a tray for them at mealtime, among other ways. And Friends who sign up as **golf cart drivers** get to drive a golf cart all around campus—AND make it possible for people with limited mobility to attend Sessions. If you are at least 21 years old with a valid driver's license, you can drive a golf cart.
- **Staff the Healing Center.** Are you skilled in the healing arts? Friends create and maintain a Healing Center during the week. Modalities offered may include energy work (healing touch, Reiki), massage, craniosacral therapy, and spiritual counseling. The type of services offered depends on the skills of those who volunteer.
- **Carry a microphone.** Friends are needed to serve as a microphone carrier during meetings for worship, including those with a concern for business. Microphones enable Friends who are both in person and online to hear each other.
- **Provide technical help.** Friends experienced with Zoom meetings are needed to provide assistance to Friends who might need it, both at home and on site at Silver Bay.

## REGISTRATION

Registration will open on or around April 5 and will be announced via email. Registration for Summer Sessions is completely online. If you are unable to register online please ask someone you know to assist you, or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750 and provide your name, phone number, and a good time to contact you. We will have volunteers ready, willing, and able to provide online registration assistance.

Updates, reminders, and further information will be emailed to the NYYM list and posted online at [nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022). Not sure if you're on the NYYM email list? Send your name and email address to [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org). The deadline for registrations for those attending in person is **June 1**. If you register after that date, we can't guarantee that there will be a room available for you, and lower Pay as Led rates may not be available. So register as soon as you can! We can't wait to see you.

[www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022](http://www.nyym.org/summer-sessions-2022)

## Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)

**Junior Yearly Meeting** is the program for children ages 5-18 attending Summer Sessions in person. Groups are arranged according to grade, and meet every morning, Mon.-Fri., from the rise of Community Worship to lunchtime at 12:15 p.m. JYM volunteers plan a community-building week of activities for the children, including games, discussions, art projects, and more. JYM is a time for young people to experience a community based on Friends' testimonies and practices. Age-appropriate, experiential Quaker content is part of the program, and groups will spend some time in quiet worship or worship sharing every day.

**For children under 5 years old,** Silver Bay offers childcare through their Silver Camp on Monday through Friday mornings from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Parents do not pay for this; NYYM covers the cost. If you might use Silver Bay's morning childcare, you should complete the NYYM-Silver Bay camp form, which will be emailed to you after you register.

**Can my child go to Silver Bay without me?** Yes! If your child is under 18, they may attend Silver Bay with an adult chaperone. They must room with the chaperone if possible and appropriate; otherwise they should be in adjoining rooms. The chaperone must be designated by the parent/guardian on their registration forms, 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. The parent/guardian must provide a signed note giving the chaperone the authority to care for their child, to be presented at JYM registration.