

# SPARK

## New York Yearly Meeting THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Address Service Requested

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### Invitation to Summer Sessions from Sessions Committee

Dear friends:

2015 an auspicious year for us: It is the 320th anniversary of the creation of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. 2015 is also the 60th anniversary of our becoming a united yearly

meeting, approved at Summer Sessions 1955. And finally, 2015 will be the first calendar year during which we will consider and worship on our shared Leadings and Priorities, approved at our 2014 Summer Sessions. (Find the full text of the Leadings and Priorities online at [nyym.org/?q=PrioritiesWorkingGroup](http://nyym.org/?q=PrioritiesWorkingGroup).)

Given these three historic events, New York Yearly Meeting's Sessions Committee has chosen to work them together into a theme for the 2015 Summer Sessions, being held July 19-25, at Silver Bay Association. The first two envision statements from our Leadings and Priorities state: "We Envision a Yearly Meeting Deeply Grounded in the Practice of Our Faith" and "We Envision a Yearly Meeting Made Up of Strong, Vital Monthly Meetings." While we are all encouraged to consider the six envision statements as one piece, our theme will be:

**320 Years, One Faith.  
60 Years, One Meeting.  
Today, One Vision.**

We hope you will join us in celebrating New York Yearly Meeting, which is, after all, nothing without our faith and our meetings. We are 320 years strong because of you. Thank you.

Sincerely, Sessions Committee

### The Clerk's Invitation

It is a wonderful marvel how a people such as Quakers can place such great emphasis on individual experience, and at the same time hold our collective experience above all earthly forms of governance.

Friends are familiar with individual leadings that often place those Friends who have them in opposition to the greater society at large. We understand that any person can experience God's presence directly. And we know that our individual experience of the Divine carries greater authority than all the laws and governments that might otherwise require our obedience. Our individual relationship with God informs our essential presence in the world.

But our corporate process guides us as well. We seek to understand what God's purpose for us might be, and our collective discernment draws us closer to Truth. When we each are individually led to unite with one another in a shared understanding of God's purpose, we partake in a collective process and expression of community not often experienced in other settings. It seems a miracle, and perhaps it is.

Being a Quaker can be challenging as we seek to live lives filled with God's presence in the midst of a society that places secular and material pursuits above all spiritual concerns. Quakerism is not simply a once-per-week faith. It's a full-time way of being in the world.

There is much work to be done in that world. And we have been busy as a Yearly Meeting doing that work. But we also need time to reflect, and to bathe ourselves in the strengths of our community, our heritage, and our continuing experience of the Divine, both individually and collectively, as we are led. Our theme this year invites us to assemble and enter into that space of reflection and renewal:

*320 Years, One Faith. 60 Years, One Meeting.  
Today, One Vision.*

### Steps to Summer Sessions

If you're a first-timer, find a seasoned Summer Sessions attender as a mentor!

- Read the Summer Sessions pages of this *Spark* issue carefully and be sure to see additional important information on the Yearly Meeting website, [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org).
- Decide your arrival and departure dates.
- Choose your housing preferences, page 8.

- Determine whether you need financial assistance; if so, apply following the steps outlined on [nyym.org](http://nyym.org) or call Helen Garay Toppins in the office at 212-673-5750.
- Register, either online at [nyym.org](http://nyym.org) or using the form included in this *Spark*.
- Send your registration fee to the NYYM office along with your registration form or register and pay at [www.nyym.org/?q=donate](http://www.nyym.org/?q=donate).

**Information for Summer Sessions begins on page six.**

## Around Our Yearly Meeting

### Discussion on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict at Genesee Valley Meeting.

May 31: Deb and Ted First of Fredonia Meeting will facilitate. Program runs from 12:30 to about 2:30 following worship (10-11 am) and Dish-to-pass lunch (11:15 am – 12:15 pm). All welcome for any portion. Location: Growing Places Creative Learning Center, 14 Battle St., Dansville, NY.

### Shrewsbury Meeting celebrates two big anniversaries

This year, the Meeting has been worshipping together for 350 years and in their current meetinghouse for 200 years.

### Flushing Meetinghouse the pick-up site for the Flushing CSA


Flushing CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is a volunteer co-operative group of local Flushing (Queens) residents working with an organic farm and JustFood to bring fresh, locally-grown, organic produce to the Flushing community.

### NYYM Friends speak to NAACP chapter on Quakers and slavery

April 9, May 14, and June 13: At the invitation of the Edison, New Jersey chapter of the NAACP, Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick Meeting) and Jeffrey L. Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield Meeting) have done and will do several presentations on the history of Friends and slavery as part of the chapter's 2015 Juneteenth Celebration, referring to June 19, 1865, the day that the last slaves were informed of their freedom, two and a half years after it happened; this took place in Texas. On April 9, Jeffrey Aaron discussed the history of Friends and the abolition movement and how Quaker values informed Quaker involvement. Jeffrey Hitchcock spoke on May 14 on the current work of Quakers to confront and contend with racism, both within the Society of Friends and in society at large. Both

Friends will appear together on June 13.

### Addressing racism—resources for meetings

We now have on our website ([www.nyym.org/?q=Resources-RacialEquality](http://www.nyym.org/?q=Resources-RacialEquality)) materials developed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for use by meetings that want to consider what they may do to address racism, specifically, and “isms” in general. 

## Notices

### New Members

**Alexander Douglas Smith Brancato** – Jericho

**Andrew Smith Brancato** – Jericho

**William Lyford Brancato** – Jericho

**Rosario DiSalvo** – Poughkeepsie

**Andrea Herrin** – Saratoga

**Jennifer Ilenberg** – Albany

**Craig Kukuk** – Poplar Ridge

**Felicia Raphael** – Catskill

**Tom Ruscitti** – Ithaca

**Paul Stuart** – Saratoga

**Lucy Swift** – Cornwall

### Transfers

**John Lewis**, to Ithaca from Abington Monthly Meeting (Balt YM)

**Annalisa Raymer**, to Ithaca from Abington Monthly Meeting (Balt YM)

### Deaths

**James W. Boice**, member of Bulls Head-Oswego, on April 2, 2015

**John Bunting**, member of Butternuts, on November 10, 2014

**Charles E. Carpenter, Jr.**, member of Poughkeepsie, on April 11, 2015

**Edmund Cranch**, member of Ithaca, on February 4, 2015

**Virginia Klune Light**, member of Ithaca, on November 6, 2014

**Walter Perry**, member of Shrewsbury, on March 19, 2015

**John Siceloff**, member of Morningside, on March 6, 2015

## Albany Meeting Covenant Donation


At a called meeting on October 5, 2014, members and attenders of Albany Friends Meeting took up the request from New York Yearly Meeting to increase our covenant donation by 3.75%. We began our meeting with a period of silence. We then reviewed the history of Albany Meeting's covenant donations since 1997. After discussing the factors that have led the Yearly Meeting to make this request, we turned to questions posed by the clerk: What benefits do we receive from New York Yearly Meeting? What value does the Yearly Meeting hold for us?

In response to these questions, we identified **many benefits** that come to us from NYYM. For ten years we received **financial support** for our summer Peace Week. We also received **financial and organizational help** for our Quaker Quest Project. We received **spiritual support** from NYYM during a time of crisis in our meeting as we moved to recognize lesbian and gay marriage. We have deeply appreciated the **services and assistance** to our meeting from the ARCH program and the related Committee on Aging Concerns. Members and attenders spoke movingly about the **insight, inspiration, and information** they get from reading *Spark*.

We also expressed our deep appreciation for other services that NYYM provides its members. We particularly noted the value of the **outreach activities** of the **Young Adult Field Secretary** and the **support** NYYM provides to the **youth program** at Powell House and Summer Sessions. Many of the young Friends associated with our meeting have benefited from these services over the years.

We support **the work of New York Yearly Meeting committees** that articulate our witness on social justice issues (e.g. European American Quakers Working to End Racism) and Yearly Meeting representation on national committees, such as the National Campaign Against Torture. Above all, we wish to support New York Yearly Meeting as the body that can best provide a **public witness to our collective concerns**.

After this review of benefits, we enthusiastically agreed to recommend to the October business meeting that we increase our covenant donation by the requested amount.

The recommendation was accepted and approved at our October business meeting. We do this even though our current covenant donation is higher than our donation in 2008 and even though we have large capital expenses on the horizon. It is our way of witnessing the importance to us of the continued presence and work of New York Yearly Meeting. We hope that other meetings will share our assessment. 

**Editor's note:** emphasis above was in the original.

### About This Issue

Sessions Committee has moved some content previously found in the May *Spark* to the Yearly Meeting website, [nyym.org](http://nyym.org). This allows us to use less paper and print **in color**. We also are publishing in this issue some articles that seem useful as lead-ins to Summer Sessions. In September, we will print articles on Quakers and Other Faiths that were held over from March.

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# "320 Years, One Faith": What does faith ask of me now?

John Jeremiah Edminster, Fifteenth Street Meeting

Friends sitting near me at Fall Sessions can tell you how I took the news that the next summer's sessions theme began with "320 Years, One Faith." I dropped to my knees and began to weep. The phrase "One Faith" appears only once in the Bible, and there (Ephesians 4:5) it refers to the one faith in the one God revealed in one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I felt as though those words had just been hijacked—without malicious intent, of course; no one would have knowingly parodied scripture. Also I was sure that no one who knew how the phrase "One Faith" might resonate in this Christian Friend's heart—the faith that uniquely erases sin, saves, and sanctifies (Acts 26:18)—would have risked applying it to the broad umbrella of belief-systems and loyalties our yearly meeting embraces today, an umbrella that welcomes Christian Quakerism but also many other varieties of faith.

But however innocent the intent of the theme's framers may have been, their words struck me, all at once, like a blow.

For "320 Years, One Faith" seemed to tacitly exclude "2,000 Years, One Faith." To say the one thing seemed to deny or minimize the other. But Christ, if He is the world's Savior, brooks no minimizing!

I felt Christ minimized, also, by hearing today's faith equated with the Quaker faith of 1695, when William Penn was writing *Primitive Christianity Revived*—as if the differences between then and now wouldn't matter! And "Today, One Vision"? Was a claim being made that I share one vision with the Friends whose words had just so stunned me?

I looked around the meeting room in horror. No one else showed any sign of having reacted as I had. I was all alone. Were these still my people? Might the Lord now instruct me to leave without a word and never come back? (I had to be ready for that!) The Lord had spoken to me in that room so many times! It was He whose urgent gesture, seen in my mind's eye a quarter-century ago, prompted me to give my first vocal ministry. Why was He silent now, when I so needed His guidance?

There seemed nothing to do but turn my pain and confusion over to the elders on the facing bench.

Friends were very comforting to me, both then and over the following month—many of them, I note, non-Christian Friends. Over that month, with their help, certain things became clear to me: I was not to write to the Sessions Committee about their choice of a theme. I was not to resign my membership, stop attending meetings, or indulge anger. I was not to judge the Sessions Committee's discernment; perhaps both they and I could be right in the Holy Spirit's eyes. Eventually I felt clear that I was to deliver one message only, and to only one Friend centrally placed in the yearly meeting structure; and then I was to be at peace with whatever came of it. The Friend carried my concern to Sessions Committee and asked the members to reconsider the theme. Their discernment did not change as a result of reconsideration.

Temptation to cut ties to the yearly meeting rose up again in me during the winter when I learned that the theme would remain the same, but a few conversations helped me discern that I was to stay put. I was too heavily involved in ministries within my monthly and yearly meetings, where works of love that I did were bringing evident light and comfort to others. At the end of a weekend's wrestling I knew: This is where the Lord wants me.

A friend suggested I write about this chain of experiences for *Spark*. I hesitated, but then thought that a candid description of my process (the discernment of a warning message; the delivery of that message with no change in results; and then the discernment that it was right to stay) might be helpful, particularly to other Christ-centered Friends whose ties to their meetings might be strained by uncertainties about where they belong. (To them, all I'd say is, let Christ make your decision for you.) And since my process in no way diminished my love for the Friends whose discernment of the theme had troubled me, the truth of it could do no damage. May it serve only to enrich mutual understanding.

# Ministry Beyond the Meetinghouse Door

Don Badgley, Poughkeepsie Meeting

The silence deepens as the morning sun  
Lights its passing across the ancient boards,  
There placed by men whose walk through life is done,  
So Friends could ever gather facing towards  
The center, where the altar waits unseen,  
Devoid of ornaments designed to lead,  
Or rituals or rules that come between  
The Source Experience and Living Seed.

The meetinghouse is not designed to be  
A sacred site but more a place to wait  
For strength, to live and carry on the task  
Beyond the door, where others long to see  
That inward Light is there for all who ask,  
Revealed as Love, to share and celebrate.

~ Don Badgley

*Proselytize: to try to persuade people  
to join a religion, cause, or group.*

No. Quakers don't do that. Never! Our unspoken testimony is "Never Proselytize!" How strange that mind-set would have seemed to earlier generations of Friends, fairly bursting to share the transformative experience of living in the Light. No indeed; we 21st century "Quakers" would never try to "impose" our beliefs and only rarely do we share our so-called testimonies with non-Friends, lest we be considered proselytizers. We tend to keep our Light well covered except in our witness work. We often fail to even mention the Divine Experience that inspires our witness. We are far more likely to proudly share Quaker history as if that conveys credentials or authority.

It seems to me that if the unprogrammed tradition of the Religious Society of Friends does not return to, and share with the world an active ministry of Experiential Faith it will continue to fade into justified oblivion.

Over the last several years I have been invited to offer ministry from a Quaker's perspective to several other religious congregations. The content has focused on Experiential Faith and the myriad miracles revealed by the Experience of the Divine Presence. Not surprisingly, Unitarian churches are very receptive to Quaker

thought and open to receiving ministry that speaks of The Divine within and among us. However, the ministry I offer challenges closed doctrine and creed and so I was concerned that my presentation to an Episcopal congregation might be received with some discomfort. On the theological surface our differences are significant.

My fears were not realized and the response from the Episcopal congregation, as with the Unitarians, was positive and affirming. One congregant did approach me after worship

expressing his discomfort, not with my ministry but with the recitation of the Nicene Creed immediately following. He said, "it felt forced and inappropriate" in light of what I had just shared. Others approached me and said that the brief period of silence we shared together was powerful and moving. Since that visit their Vicar has added periods of silence to their regular worship program and he and I are continuing our conversation.

It has been my experience that when a ministry or message is delivered with love, in a faith setting or even in a secular setting, it will be received in the spirit intended. These visits with other

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**We Friends should be doing more than we are to share our experiences of the Light and the principals that arise from those experiences.**

## Ministry Beyond the Meetinghouse Door

Don Badgley

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congregations have strengthened my conviction that we Friends can and should be doing more than we are at present to share our experiences of the Light and the principals that arise from those experiences. Such ministry should not be to recruit new Quakers but rather to gently point out a well-lit place of inward Peace; a place of immeasurable Compassion and infinite Love. No other goal is necessary.

The faith and practice of Friends can be as radical, as vital, as exciting, and as relevant as when it was first practiced in the 17th Century. When the power and authority of Experiential Faith is revealed, it is just as potent as it ever was, precisely because it is not dependent on ancient doctrine, dogma, scripture, creed, hierarchy, and fear mongering. Modern Christian support of war and nationalism as well as the psychic violence inherent in threats of damnation each arise from the ocean of darkness. In spite of their countless good works, nationalistic, scripturally literalist and exclusivist religious doctrines enable and even inspire the engines of war. Shall we say so?

Such exclusivist and doctrinal toxins were absolutely not the message of the Jewish wisdom teacher Jesus of Nazareth. His ministry of absolute and all inclusive Love taught exactly the opposite and arose from his Experience of God. He did not impose beliefs but rather demonstrated principals for living. We Friends would do well to share that Truth at every opportunity, not because Jesus said it but only because our Experience arises from the same Source as his. Friends used to be willing to share that profound and radical insight. Indeed, this Truth is the essence and the genius of the Quaker approach to God and there is an enormous and receptive group of seekers waiting discover it, both inside and outside of churches.

What responsibility comes with our conviction? The "Lamp" is already burning on the lamp stand. It always has been. The ministry of Experiential Faith is potent and influen-

## Thoughts about Obtaining a Sense of the Meeting


Jeffrey Aaron, New Brunswick Meeting

*A Friends meeting is intended to be so much more than a loose association of individuals who are simply on a separate and private journey. Rather, we are called to be a faith community with members seeking to know each other 'in that which is eternal' as we journey together. Ideally, we acknowledge that our primary relationship is to God and to that of God in each other. We let go of the idea that we only have a private life, and hold ourselves accountable to the authority of the Spirit and that Life in the meeting. We grow in a sense of responsibility for each other.*

"Spirit-Led Eldering" by Margery Mears Larrabee

What would our meeting do if one of us arose during worship to speak on the "sinfulness" of same gender sexual relations, or the importance of retaining "purity" among the "races," or how much better Quakers are than followers of other religions?

Would we expect someone to arise and refute those concepts as "unQuakerly"? Probably not; that would hardly be an appropriate response according to what we are taught are appropriate messages for meeting for worship. We would probably expect Ministry and Counsel to minister to that individual tenderly at a later time. In practice, is that what we do? Are

tial because it depends entirely on that which is unchangeable, infinite, eternal, and accessible to all who seek it. We are not called to "preach" this Truth as the right religion. We are called to give witness to the Truth we have experienced. The shadows cast by that which obstructs the Light are there to give us perspective. Let us once again have the courage to reveal the Inward Light that nurtures the Divine seed. Let us gently share our experience of The Light with quiet certainty that it will speak to the condition of everyone upon whom it shines. 

our expectations of Ministry and Counsel too high, considering that most M&C members are not professionally trained to deal with difficult Friends and may not have the inclination to do so? Or, on the contrary, are our expectations not high enough? Perhaps if such a message were delivered once and not more than once, the problem could be ignored in favor of peaceful co-existence from then on. After all, do we not seek peaceful co-existence? Or do we seek more than that? Are we able to labor over *any* concern when a Friend's concern is sincere?

I like to think that Friends are idealists in the best sense of the word: that our commitment is to seek the Ideal, to be the best we can possibly be and to work to cultivate the same in others. We believe in trying to communicate on the level of the spark of divinity that we profess that we all share. We do not expect that we will always—or even

often—achieve the grandest levels of our higher selves, but that we will always strive in that direction. The striving is what we hold dear in each other. As seekers, we attempt to be the best we can be, and in that effort we hopefully find worship, and other activities that we share, to be uplifting experiences. If we succeed, the likelihood is that our meeting will thrive and will attract new attenders and lead attenders to consider membership. But is the perpetuation of the meeting a major goal of this practice, or is it simply a side result of our efforts? I suspect most of us would say "the latter," and that, conversely, the lack of such effort will contribute to eventual decline.

Friends sometimes reflect with dismay on the time in our Society's history known as the time of Quaker "quietism," when quiet and peace on the surface seemed to be the major goal, in contrast to earlier and later times when our shared values were lifted up publicly with deep conviction, and we were ready to strive—even struggle fiercely—on behalf of those values in the arena of public policy. Early

Friends were harshly persecuted for refusing "hat honor," for their eccentric language mannerisms and their choice of clothes, for their unwillingness to swear to tell the truth in court because it implied they could otherwise lie, and for many other public positions Friends took. John Woolman was considered a major nuisance for twenty years by many Friends for his positions, such as the inappropriateness of slavery, which position was initially contrary to that of his slaveholding Quaker contemporaries. Can we exhibit the same spirit, or are we too inhibited to speak out when we feel we may not find support initially?

If we have in our midst one whose words or actions seem at odds with ours, we owe that Friend an appropriate and a proactive response. As a body,

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**Our commitment is to seek the Ideal, to be the best we can possibly be and to work to cultivate the same in others.**

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when we address a concern, we must always seek an honest sense of the meeting—not a compromise,

not a consensus, not surface peace through denial of the concern—but an honest sense of the meeting, however limited that sense may initially be. It may mean laboring together faithfully for weeks, months, or even, on occasion, years, until we are able to state our clear sense in so many words. The eventual corporate sense of the meeting may satisfy no one completely, but it will reflect whatever we are all able to say in unity at the time, and it will reflect that we had the will to labor together as lovingly as we could until we could achieve it. Settling for anything less is a betrayal of our ideals that undermines our responsibility to each other and to the meeting.

Honest efforts to achieve a true sense of the meeting demonstrate the openness and trust that enable us to address the concern in the future if perspectives change, as happened in regard to the concerns of John Woolman, and as happened concerning same gender marriage at my meeting, New Brunswick (NJ), over a period of many years. We have clearly experienced such

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# Diluting Quakerism with Unlimited Viewpoints

Tim Connolly, Wilton Meeting

Recently, I was relieved to stumble upon a link in *Spark* to the Swarthmore Lecture delivered by Ben Pink Dandelion at Bath, England on August 3, 2014 at the yearly gathering of British Friends. He articulated my spiritual agita and thereby provided some relief. All that follows is lifted from Pink Dandelion. Maybe it will relieve others. We are not alone.

British Friends, he says, have become a bit fuzzy on what it means to be a Quaker. Over the past 150 years, the British Quaker landscape has been recast in fresh and modern ways. In some of those ways, “. . . Quakers have misled themselves by trying to incorporate all points of view, including ideas which conflict with the basic tenets of the Quaker faith experience. We have become collectively confused about the heart of our Quaker way, unable to articulate it clearly to newcomers, and unable to know what is and what is not a part of it.”

Before identifying difficulties, let's focus on the positive—four key insights identified by Dandelion around which most Liberal Friends unite and that underpin what it means to be a Quaker.

## The four core insights

1. *The Divine is encountered directly.* Intermediaries (ministers, texts, outward forms) need not apply.
2. *There are systems of discernment to interpret that encounter.* These systems (e.g. meeting for business) act as a check to inform when the encounter is authentic and when it is out of imagination.
3. *There is a form of worship that nurtures the experience of direct encounter.* One example is the silent meeting for worship wherein “absence leads to a sense of presence.”
4. *Quaker testimonies arise out of the direct encounter.* A persistent spiritual imperative to lead a particular way of life arises out of this encounter with the Divine, and it manifests as testimonies.

Other key points of positive unity among Liberal Friends:

- *Quakers focus on process, not detailed theology.*
- *The four insights are inherently collective.* They cannot be experienced or lived alone.
- *Quaker encounters with the Divine are transformative.* We are called to lead our lives in a particular way.

## Chipping away at the core and the consequences for belonging and belief

As the 20th century world recast itself in a more *individualistic and secular light*, liberal Quakers recast themselves in a far more permissive light. As a result, “We have in places lost the heart of our faith, and have diluted basic and central Quaker understandings within a desire to appease all of the varieties of doctrinal slants we now encompass.

. . . A refusal to prescribe doctrine has accommodated an increasing individualism and a move away from

yearly meeting-wide agreement on belief.” And the consequences have been significant on Quaker feelings of belonging and belief.

## Belonging and optionality

No longer the one true church, but one within many, Quakers no longer feel they have a monopoly on the Divine. This theological evolution has contributed to the possibility of the private life where the individual can decide what is and is not Quaker. Even liberal Quakerism has become an option within the option of faith. With the elimination of sin and salvation, the option to lead the individual and secular life has become even more attractive and viable.

Optionality in other areas of the Society has become quite popular as well. Visits from elders, weekly attendance at meeting, service on committees, the (blurred) boundaries between member and attender, financial giving, alignment with *Faith and Practice*—all have become more optional within the Society than ever before.

As liberal Friends pioneered the notion that spiritual experience is primary, Quakers have become a more diffuse community. And the Quaker sense of belonging has become more diffuse as a consequence.

## Belief and the absolute certainty of perhaps

The pioneers of liberal Quakerism have advanced the idea that belief can be privatized and individualized. Further, none of us, they say, will ever get at the whole truth of anything. All of our interpretations and beliefs will be a “towards” or a “perhaps” kind of activity and they know this (ironically) with certainty. “One of our great strengths and key insights is that doctrine is not definitional.”

“We have been willing authors of this diversity and these developments. . . . We have felt liberated by fresh expressions of the spiritual life. . . . We may have

changed theological positions over time. . . . However, some of the views being expressed undercut our

core insights. . . . Such shifts symbolize individualism within the Society and . . . the secularization of some of our understandings. We lose our sense of community and we lose our sense of religious community. This less positive aspect of our current condition plays out in a number of ways.”

## More consequences

Here are some of the ways that the less positive aspects mentioned above play out:

**Worship.** Are all Quakers doing the same thing in meeting for worship? Is it even worship anymore?

Do we worship the silence, rather than in silence, as the personal and collective cost of our diversity? By rejecting Quaker traditions, have we ended up with a Quakerism almost devoid of religious content offering little more than an accepting space for solitary spiritual searchings? To get along do we go along with the silence to avoid friction?

**Spirit-given gifts & nominations.** What is ministry? Where is it coming from? To whom is it directed?

**Business method.** In business meeting, what happens if there are a multiplicity of theologies and the goal is to discern the will of God? Further, if Quakers don't have a God or a God with a will, how can they discern God's will? If not guided by any sense of the Divine, do participants unpick one of the core insights of Quakerism?

**Testimony.** As liberal Quaker theology has become more diffuse, have Quakers become a bit fuzzy on the testimonies? Can a Quaker divorce her testimonies from her spiritual roots? Are liberal Quakers fabricating artificial testimonies that are simply values, codes, or aspirations divorced from spiritual roots? Not every expression of spirituality and not every preference expressed in meeting for worship is Quaker.

## The meaning of membership and the teaching ministry.

If confused on their testimonies, then what does this do to Quaker outreach? To encourage others to join, do Quakers say: “We love you—what would you like us to be for you?” Or do Quakers say: “We love you and this is who we are. You're welcome to join if this works for you.” How does the form of Quaker outreach selected reflect on teaching ministry and vice versa?

## The book of discipline.

“When our faith becomes optional, so does our practice, and vice versa. The book of discipline provides clarity about where we are as a faith community and we need to unite with its contents. That should be the beginning and end of the corporate ‘line in the sand’ discussion, with the line shifting when we next discern a new book . . . what is also clear is how little we appear to use the book with enquirers and with applicants for membership and how little authority we give it. The book is now, for some, part of the opt-in, opt-out Quakerism.” Were the Elders of Balby advocating an opt-in, opt-out kind of faith in 1656 when they lifted passages

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“We have become collectively confused about the heart of our Quaker way.”

# Summer Sessions

July 19–25, 2015 • Silver Bay, New York

*320 Years, One Faith. 60 Years, One Meeting. Today, One Vision.*

## SESSIONS & PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Bible Study: Mary Kay Glazer


#### *Conflict, Shadow, and Unity*



The Bible is filled with stories of conflict, stories of struggle, resistance, and opposition. In those stories, we find the consistent, persistent, ubiquitous presence of our Divine Creator, calling us into union with our Creator and with each other. In this Bible study, we will explore some of the stories and see what they say about conflict and unity in the Spirit. We will also reflect on the shadow parts of the stories. What do these stories tell us about conflict, shadow, and unity in our own community today?

We will read the stories together, so please


bring your Bible with you.

Mary Kay Glazer has been a Quaker since 1989. She has been active with Middlebury Meeting, VT, since moving to Ticonderoga, NY nearly 12 years ago. She is a spiritual director, retreat leader, and writer who takes great joy in sharing with others opportunities in which they can know God's sacred invitation, new life, and the joy of relationship. You can learn more at [www.mkglazer.com](http://www.mkglazer.com). 

### Participant Expectations & NYYM Agreements

Our gathering at New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions is an opportunity to live the experiment of creating the blessed community. Like any community, we have agreements that guide our behavior toward each other and towards the whole body, ensuring safety and comfort for all of us. By registering for Summer Sessions, Friends endorse these 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 adults are asked to take the agreements seriously.

Given these agreements and Silver Bay's rules, Friends must smoke only in those areas designated by Silver Bay (smoking is not allowed in guest rooms), and must refrain from using alcohol and illegal substances. If you engage in these activities, you (and possibly your family or guardian) may be asked to leave Summer Sessions. So let's be conscious of behavior that promotes community, and conduct ourselves as responsible guests of Silver Bay.

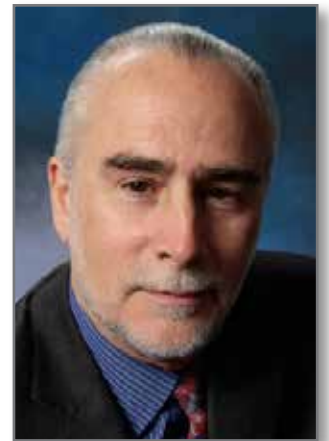
1. All attenders are expected to observe safety precautions, such as maintaining contact between children and parents, guardians, or sponsors at regular intervals.
2. Attenders under 18 years old are expected to:
  - register with Junior Yearly Meeting in the company of their parent, legal guardian, or sponsor;
  - cluster with (sleep in a room near to) their parent(s), guardian, or sponsor;
  - have a valid medical consent form signed by a parent or guardian (medical forms will be mailed to JYM registrants);
  - attend the activities of the JYM group to which they have been assigned.
3. Parent(s), guardians, or sponsors for children under 18 years old assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of that person.
4. If responsible for a child or to an adult, agree and commit to a specific bedtime and check in at least twice a day.
5. If 18 years or older, register yourself and dependents with New York Yearly Meeting. 

### Plenary Message: Don Badgley

#### *Publishing the Truth about Experiential Faith*

Don Badgley will address the body about Publishing the Truth about Experiential Faith on Tuesday evening beginning at 7:15 pm.

Don Badgley is a member of Poughkeepsie Meeting and serves the Yearly Meeting on the Advancement Committee. He was born to Quaker parents and has been attending Sessions at Silver Bay since 1950. After a period in his 20s during which he dropped away from Friends, he returned in the early 1980s and became a member of Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting, now as a convinced Friend. Some years later Don transferred his membership to New Paltz Meeting and then later to Poughkeepsie Meeting, the meeting he had been born into. He has served both as clerk and as recording clerk at Poughkeepsie Meeting.



Over the last ten years Don has offered ministry to monthly meetings and also to other faith communities with a message concerning the peace testimony, experiential faith, and the miracles that bless humanity.

In the world Don is a Life, Disability and Long Term Care Insurance Specialist with the Northwestern Mutual and also leads teaching seminars around the country for Northwestern regional offices, for the Home Office in Milwaukee, and for other financial services companies.

His message to the Yearly Meeting (Tuesday, July 20, 2015) will reflect upon this year's theme: *320 Years, One Faith. 60 Years, One Meeting. Today, One Vision.* from the perspectives of:


1. Experiential Worship – As the primary Source of Truth
2. Friends as Publishers of Truth – An active ministry in and to the world.
3. Unity within our Diversity – A Yearly Meeting gathered by the experience of Divine Love.

Don is married to Tracy Lehrer Badgley and they will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this October. His daughters Marissa, 27 and Alanna, 24 have also been attending Yearly Meeting Sessions nearly every year since they were born.

### Interest Group Proposals

**Deadline** for submitting proposals to coordinating clerks: **June 24.**


**Deadline** for entering proposals in the online form: **June 28.**

See the Week at a Glance in this issue for interest group times on Wednesday and Thursday. And visit [nnyym.org/?q=Summer-Sessions2015-Information](http://nnyym.org/?q=Summer-Sessions2015-Information) for more information and details about submitting proposals. 

### Meetings for Discernment

The Meetings for Discernment will be held over two days at Summer Sessions this year. The first session is scheduled for Monday morning, July 20th. The second session is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, July 22nd.


Meetings for Discernment are times of extended worship focused around queries. Friends are asked to wait to be recognized by the clerk before speaking so that we may hear each message clearly.

All are welcome. Please join us for what is likely to be an amazing experience of worship. 

**Summer Session 2015 • Week at a Glance • July 19–25, 2015**  
**320 Years, One Faith • 60 Years, One Meeting • Today, One Vision**

TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6:00am	<b>SAFE TRAVELS TO NYYM SUMMER SESSIONS!</b>	6:00-7:30am - Coffee and Communion					
6:30		6:30am - Early Swim					
7:00		7:00am - Community Worship at the Boathouse / Hymn singing at Hughes Chapel / JYM Volunteers Meet					
7:30		BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30am	BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30am	BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30am	BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30am	BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30am	BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30am
8:30		8:30 a.m., Parents / JYM participants / JYM volunteers meet on the Cafeteria Lawn					
		8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., <b>Junior Yearly Meeting</b> meets in various locations					
8:45		Travel Time					
9:45		Travel Time					
10:00		8:45-9:45am Worship Sharing	8:45-9:45am Worship Sharing	8:45-9:45am Worship Sharing	8:45-9:45am Worship Sharing	8:45-9:45am Worship Sharing	8:45-9:45am Worship Sharing
10:15		Travel Time					
10:30	10:00-12:15 Meeting for Discernment	10:00-10:45am Bible Study	10:00-10:45am Bible Study	10:00-10:45am Bible Study	10:00-10:45am Bible Study	10:00-10:45am Bible Study	
10:45	Travel Time						
11:00	12:00, JYM Joins M4D	11:00-12:15 Committee Meetings	11:00-12:15 Committee Meetings	11:00-12:15 Committee Meetings	11:00-12:15 Committee Meetings	11:00-12:15 Coordinating Committees	
11:15	Travel Time						
11:30	Travel Time • JYM will be on the Cafeteria Lawn — Pick up little ones there!						
12:00pm	LUNCH 12:30-1:30pm						
12:15	LUNCH 12:30-1:30pm						
12:30	LUNCH 12:30-1:30pm						
1:30	LUNCH 12:30-1:30pm						
1:45	Travel Time						
2:00	2:00-3:45pm Sessions Committee	1:30-3:15 Rest & Renewal Worship & Worship Sharing	1:30-3:15 Rest & Renewal Worship & Worship Sharing	1:45-3:45 Meeting for Discernment / Interest Groups	1:45-3:15 Worship Rest & Renewal <b>Fun(d) Fair</b>	1:30-3:15 Rest & Renewal Worship & Worship Sharing	
2:15	Travel Time						
2:30	Travel Time						
2:45	Travel Time						
3:00	Travel Time						
3:15	Travel Time						
3:30	Travel Time						
3:45	Travel Time						
4:00	<b>NYYM Registration</b> Starts at 4:00 p.m. on Inn Porch Clerk's Welcome Table, Inn Porch JYM Registration, Gullen Lounge	3:30-5:15 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	3:30-5:15 Coordinating Committee Meetings	4:00-5:15 Worship for Racial Healing Rest & Renewal	3:30-5:15 Interest Groups	3:30-5:15 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	
4:15	Travel Time						
4:45	Travel Time						
5:00	Travel Time						
5:15	Travel Time						
5:30	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm	
6:30	Open Time - Settle In, Registration at Front Desk	Community Worship in the Auditorium, 6:40 - 7:10					
7:00	Travel Time						
7:15	<b>Opening Session</b>	Travel Time					
7:30	Worship, Welcome, Roll Call, JYM	7:15-9:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	7:15-9:15 Don Badgley, Plenary Speaker <i>320 Years, One Faith. 60 Years, One Meeting. Today, One Vision.</i> * 9:15 - 10:00 Speaker Reception, Gullen Lounge	7:15-9:15 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	7:15-9:00 Café Night	7:15-9:00 JYM Celebration Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	
7:45	Travel Time						
8:00	Travel Time						
8:15	Travel Time						
8:30	Travel Time						
8:45	Travel Time						
9:00	Travel Time						
9:15	Travel Time						
9:30	Travel Time						
9:45	Travel Time						
10:00	Travel Time						
11:00pm	11:00pm = Quiet Time • 11:00pm = Quiet Time • 11:00pm = Quiet Time						
***Please see the NYYM Program and the daily Minute for times and locations of many other activities not listed on this chart.***							

**More Summer Sessions Material at [nnyym.org](http://nnyym.org)**

In order to leave room for the articles in this issue, we have moved some of the Summer Sessions information onto the Yearly Meeting website. Look for the  icon in the title; these sections also say "See [nnyym.org](http://nnyym.org) for more details" at the end. Three sections previously found in the May issue of *Spark* have been moved to the website or to the *Program* altogether. These include:


- Helpful People at Silver Bay
- Driving Directions
- Public Transportation

To see it all, visit [nnyym.org/?q=SummerSessions2015](http://nnyym.org/?q=SummerSessions2015)

 **Worship Sharing at Summer Sessions**


Kate Lawson & Claire Simon, Worship Sharing coordinators

Worship sharing provides an opportunity to worship together and create the community that supports us, and it sets the tone for the rest of Summer Sessions. Sharing insights, experiences, and prayer together refreshes the spirit. Worship Sharing is held every morning from 8:45–9:45 a.m. and Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Each group has at least one facilitator.


Worship Sharing facilitators offer an invaluable contribution—helping participants to be a channel for the Holy Spirit. For this reason, please consider facilitating a worship-sharing group this summer! See [nnyym.org](http://nnyym.org) for additional information on becoming a worship sharing facilitator. 

 **Financial Assistance Available**

**Deadline for application: June 28.**

Friends requesting assistance should first ask their monthly meeting, quarterly, and regional meetings for support. No request for funds will be processed or disbursed without this communication from their meeting. Friends will be asked to send confirmation from their meeting about the amount asked for and granted—even if this is zero. This process can be a simple email or note from their meeting's clerk or a more formal letter. See [nnyym.org](http://nnyym.org) for more information on financial assistance and our Equalization Fund. You may also contact Helen Garay Toppins at the office, 212-673-5750, or [office@nnyym.org](mailto:office@nnyym.org). 

**Agenda Items**

If you have items for the business agenda, please contact the appropriate coordinating committee clerk: John Cooley, General Services; Irma Guthrie, Ministry; Deborah Wood, Nurture; Mary Eagleson, Witness; or Jeffrey Hitchcock, clerk of NYYM, [clerk@nnyym.org](mailto:clerk@nnyym.org); or the NYYM office, [office@nnyym.org](mailto:office@nnyym.org). Contact information for the coordinating committee clerks is in the *Yearbook*, which should be available at your meeting. 



Summer Sessions 2014

# ACCOMMODATIONS

## Adult Room Rates

Full Conference Rates (6 Nights)									
	Inn Private Bath	Inn Shared Bath	Trinity	Bayview	Hepbron/ Locust	Hemlock	Overlook	Paine/ Hilltop	Platform/ Lean-to
<b>Single</b>	N/A	N/A	1542	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	156
<b>Double</b>	918	780	990	846	582	642	342	690	156
<b>Triple</b>	756	660	804	708	528	576	N/A	612	156
<b>Quad</b>	672	612	N/A	642	N/A	534	N/A	552	156
Half-conference Rates (3 Nights)									
<b>Single</b>	N/A	N/A	771	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	78
<b>Double</b>	459	390	495	423	291	321	171	345	78
<b>Triple</b>	378	330	402	354	264	288	N/A	306	78
<b>Quad</b>	336	306	N/A	321	N/A	267	N/A	276	78
Extra Day Rates (1 Night)									
<b>Single</b>	N/A	N/A	257	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26
<b>Double</b>	153	130	165	141	97	107	57	115	26
<b>Triple</b>	126	110	134	118	88	96	N/A	102	26
<b>Quad</b>	112	102	N/A	107	N/A	89	N/A	92	26

## Youth Room Rates

For youth ages 12–17, deduct \$30 per person per night.  
For children 6–11, deduct \$40 per person per night.

Children 0–5 are complimentary.

These discounts do not apply to the Platform/Lean-to rates.

## Staying on Campus

### Room Reservations

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 Silver Bay desk before you leave. Silver Bay cannot guarantee housing or food for those who do not preregister.

Preference for rooms is given to those who stay for the entire week. Rooms are assigned in the order in which requests are received. We advise that you register early. All rooms are for double occupancy. Beds for children may be added to some of the larger rooms. If you require a single room, you may want to consider off-campus accommodations.

If no rooms are available at your price, you may be assigned to a room at a higher price. You will receive prior notice if this is necessary. A few double beds are available in the Inn, Bayview, and Trinity. If you would like one, please indicate that on your registration form. Room reservations will not be held after 6:00 pm 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 pm on Sunday, July 19. Checkout time is 11:00 am daily. Luggage can be left in designated areas after checking out. Those not out of their rooms by 11:00 am will be charged for an extra day. No refunds are issued for early departures, unless arrangements are made prior to check-in.

All rates are per person and include a five percent gratuity.

Suites in Bayview and the Inn have a surcharge of \$25 per day, in addition to all other charges, if occupied by fewer than three persons. The half-conference rates are for those attending from Sunday, July 19, to Wednesday, July 22, or Wednesday, July 22, to Saturday, July 25. The extra day rates are for those who wish to arrive on Saturday, July 18. Silver Bay does not guarantee that you will be assigned to the same room on the extra day.

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

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

## Off-Campus and Day Registrants

Friends camping, commuting, or taking rooms off-campus are asked to give their addresses for the week on the registration form. Otherwise, please supply this information when registering at Silver Bay. Badges are required for all attenders. Replacement charge for lost badges is \$2.

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 YMCA. This fee allows use of the facilities, including the swimming areas, gym, art center, and boathouse.

**Day-use fees** for use of facilities for off-campus and day guests are as follows:

Per Day: \$24 per adult	Per Week: \$140 per adult
\$17 per youth 6–17	\$98 per youth 6–17
\$40 per family	\$240 per family

Family is defined as members who share a household and live together as a family unit. Children five and under pay no day-use fee when accompanied by a paying adult guest. Meal tickets for the Silver Bay dining room can be purchased at the Inn front desk in advance of desired meals.

**Meals.** The cost per meal is:

Lunch \$13 ea.	Dinner \$18
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Youth ages 6–17 are half the adult rate. Children five and under eat for no charge when accompanied by a paying adult. If you intend to buy meal tickets when you arrive at Silver Bay, please indicate this on your registration form. A name badge must be worn and a meal ticket purchased by anyone staying off-campus who wants to eat in the dining room.

**Note: if you are only coming one day for a meeting or event . . .** Silver Bay has established a special day-use fee of \$5 per person (plus any meal purchased) for **persons presenting or attending a meeting on just that day and not staying overnight.** A list of these participants must be provided to Silver Bay at least one week prior to the conference week, and the attender must also register at the front desk upon arrival. Silver Bay YMCA needs to know who is on campus. Contact Helen Garay Toppins, office@nyym.org or 212-673-5750 by July 8 if you are on a committee that plans a one-day meeting during Summer Sessions, and/or know of someone on your committee who might be planning a one-day visit.



## ACCOMMODATIONS


### Lean-to and Tent Camping

Campers attending Summer Sessions have three options:

- Adirondack-style lean-tos on Ryan's Ridge, a 15-minute hike up Woodside Trail on the west side of Rt 9.
- Raised wooden platforms 20'x20' on a knoll behind the gym.
- Rogers Rock State Park near Ticonderoga.

See [nysym.org](http://nysym.org) for details.

### Alert to Guests Needing a Roommate

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

## AT SILVER BAY

### Special Needs at Silver Bay

Martha Gurvich, Special Needs Coordinator


Friends who indicate special needs on their registration will receive a form from the NYYM office requesting specific information about their needs. This information is shared only with Silver Bay as needed to find appropriate accommodation.

There will also be opportunities for Friends to be special-needs volunteers. A check box for volunteers is on the registration form.

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


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

Friends who are unable to transfer themselves to and from a wheelchair/bed, etc., and 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. The caregiver must be in attendance for the length of the stay of the person they are helping. Silver Bay will offer a special reduced rate for the person assisting.

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

### 12-Step Meetings

12-Step Meetings will be held at 6:30–7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 10:00–11:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

Nurture Coordinating Committee has oversight of these meetings, but needs to hear from people who would be willing to take responsibility for one or more of these meetings. To volunteer, please contact Deb Wood through the Yearly Meeting office, [office@nysym.org](mailto:office@nysym.org) or 212-673-5750. See [nysym.org](http://nysym.org) for more details. 

*this AT SILVER BAY section continues on page 10*


## Thoughts about Sense of the Meeting

Jeffrey Aaron

(continued from page 4)

difficult processes in the past and we succeeded, to our everlasting credit. At other times, we have failed. Failures need not be permanent if we have the will to persist; successes are successes, and are worthy of celebration.

What striving for an honest sense of the meeting does, which may be most critical to our corporate welfare, is to keep our relationships honest and open. Not addressing matters is denial and is toxic, even if denial appears to enable a semblance of peace. Truce is not peace by any means, as any student of history knows, and compromise or “consensus” is not what Quakers seek to achieve among ourselves.

Historically, Quakers have often been considered trouble-makers. Perhaps we should wear that designation as a badge of honor—especially among ourselves. It may serve to keep our meetings vital and help to avoid loss of attenders and members or reduced participation, such as we and many other meetings have too often experienced. 

### Share Your News in InfoShare

Published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

### NYYM Social Media

Visit our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for more timely news.

[@NewYorkYearlyMeeting](https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting)  
[@NYYMTweets](https://twitter.com/NYYMTweets)

[nysym.org](http://nysym.org)

Our website has lots of new and valuable information for you and your meeting:

**Videos**  
**Resources for Meetings**  
**Resources on Quaker Topics**

## Diluting Quakerism

Tim Connolly

(continued from page 5)


from 2 Corinthians advocating flexibility along the lines of “the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life”?

Do your positions on the foregoing undermine what Quakers are about?

### What’s to be done?

Dandelion says:

- *Resist the secular.* Reclaim the spiritual. Quakers are a Religious Society, not a Society. If the spiritual basis of the Society is lost, Quakers will simply become another secular activist pressure group or a book study/lecture club that serves pleasing refreshments. Such a Quakerism would have no distinctive identity or reason to exist.
- Quakers need to *be clear with each other in love.* If Quakers are unsure of who they are internally, how can they ever expect to attract those who are external?
- Quakers have to *find a single voice.* They suffer because they lack it. They have become prey to their enthusiasm for uncertainty. If they are uncertain about everything they will unpick their Society and this has consequences.
- *Avoid head exercises.* Focus on the Divine together, not alone. Use Quaker language unapologetically. Reassert Quaker processes and understandings of what it means to be a Quaker. Reset Quaker structures when pragmatic to do so. Lay down ones that don’t work or are unnecessary.

Should we go back in time, restoring only traditions of previous centuries? Of course not. Quite simply, there are more coherent ways to inhabit (not inherit) the Quaker tradition today. 



The Inn at Silver Bay

**Food Service at Silver Bay**

Martha Gurvich, Food Service Coordinator

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. Lunch will be available for purchase on Saturday; it is not part of this year's conference package. If you plan to arrive at Silver Bay early enough to have lunch on Sunday, you must purchase a meal ticket at the Silver Bay desk in advance to buy this meal; it is not part of the conference package. If you are a vegetarian, please indicate this on your registration form. Please see [nym.org](http://nym.org) for additional information regarding special diets, special food storage, and dining hall hours of operation.

Scanned by Melanie-Claire Mallison



Art by NYYM youth

**Healing Work at Summer Sessions**

Contact person, Buffy Curtis and Healing Center Support Committee

This year at Summer Sessions, Sproul Pavilion will once again have regularly scheduled hours for healing work. The Healing Center is under the care of the Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions. Hours of operation will be posted.

We are calling for Friends who work in the healing arts or who are interested in helping with healing work. Please see [nym.org](http://nym.org) for more information on how you can help with this important work.

**About Fundraising During Summer Sessions**

Contact person, Roseann Press

As in past years, we will have a Fun(d) Fair, a Tagless Tag Sale, and a Cafe Night (all on Thursday) to raise funds for Powell House and the Sharing Fund. Please see the Week at a Glance for times, and [nym.org](http://nym.org) for more information about these events and about raising money for any other Quaker-related causes or groups.

**Golf Cart Drivers Needed**

Coordinator, Angel Ramos

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 [nym.org](http://nym.org) for more information and how to volunteer.

**Dawn Pozzi & Rebecca Wolf, Coordinators**

Welcome young Friends and parents/guardians to Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM).

Here are some basic things for everyone to remember:

**Check in.** When you arrive at Silver Bay YMCA, you must check in with Silver Bay and get your room assignments, and then proceed to the JYM registration area in Gullen Lounge in the Inn. JYM registration will be open on Sunday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, and again from 8:30 to 9:30 PM. Monday morning JYM registration will be in Gullen Lounge from 8:15 to 9:00. Anyone arriving and registering after Monday at 9:00 should go to the JYM office in See Memorial. Please bring your child's medical forms, parental consent forms, and a record of any allergies. No child will be allowed to join the JYM group until these forms have been submitted. Your juice and snack donation will be taken at registration as well.

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

For children from infancy through those entering Kindergarten on Monday through Friday mornings, Silver Bay offers childcare at the Children's Pavilion, which is supplemented by a JYM volunteer. The fee to Silver Bay for this service is covered by the Yearly Meeting. Donations to offset this cost are appreciated from any Friend, parent or otherwise, who wishes to contribute.

**When does JYM meet?** All JYM participants except Senior High will gather in their age groups on the lawn in front of the Inn at 8:30 a.m. every day, and then go as groups to their home bases. Please make sure that your child gets enough rest every night to be able to participate effectively in his/her JYM group each morning. If your child will not be attending group on a given day, please notify the group leaders or the JYM Coordinators. Unless you are notified differently, JYM groups will end at 12:15. Those in grades 5 and up will be dismissed from their groups. Children in the 1st and 2nd and 3rd and 4th grade groups will not be dismissed until the designated adult picks them up on the lawn in front of the Inn. Parents and guardians are asked to inform the group leaders in advance if you want them to release your child to someone other than yourself.

**Morning worship sharing for Senior High.** Young Friends entering 10th to 12th grade are invited to attend adult worship sharing groups from 9 to 10 a.m., and should indicate that choice on their registration forms. They are expected to join their JYM group right after worship sharing.

**Afternoon and evening childcare.** JYM provides cooperative childcare for children up through the age of 10, with JYM volunteers and JYM parents, every day during meeting for business, Meeting for Discernment, committee meetings, and evening session times. These times will be posted at JYM Registration and in the weekly *Program*. There is no childcare during Fun(d) Fair or Café Night. Evening childcare ends 15 minutes after the end of committee or plenary meeting time. All the PM childcare sessions rely on volunteer help and all parents who bring children to PM childcare are expected to give an hour to the program. There must be two adults with the children at all times and a child:adult ratio of no more than 4:1. Two volunteers from JYM will supervise each session. Any adult can sign up to help with the JYM PM childcare either with the PM childcare volunteers or during JYM registration. We thank you in advance for helping to provide care for all of the children in our community.



Photo by Carol Mallison

**Invitation to be a JYM Volunteer or Resource Person**

Do you or someone in your meeting have the gift of working with children or teens (grades 1–12)? This is a wonderful way to get to know the Yearly Meeting and help raise the next generation of Quakers! JYM Volunteers meet with their group every morning at Summer Sessions and for other JYM activities throughout the week. They also attend a planning weekend June 12–14, 2015.

To provide our youth with a deeper Quaker experience, we also recruit resource people to share their Friendly skills for just a few minutes or an entire morning. What are your gifts?

We ask that meetings consider offering financial assistance to their JYM volunteers. Volunteers may also ask JYM to cover part of their costs at Summer Sessions. If you would like to be a volunteer or resource person, please contact Dawn Pozzi or Rebecca Wolf, JYM Coordinators 2015.

*continued on next page*

**How do I know where my child is during the day?** During JYM sessions they should be with their JYM groups. If your child's group will leave their home base on a given day for a special event, you will be informed, and/or a notice will be posted on the door of the regular meeting place. Any child not attending an age-appropriate JYM group must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or parentally designated adult companion during JYM session times. If a child is absent from group without parental notification, efforts will be made to locate the parents and let them know.

Parents/guardians/sponsors are responsible for JYMers whenever they are not with their JYM group or JYM childcare. Please discuss and endorse the behavior guidelines with your child at the time you register and again before you come to Silver Bay. It is a parental responsibility to set out clear expectations for behavior and curfew. We strongly suggest that you agree on a regular check-in time and location where the young Friend(s) and the parent/guardian/sponsor meet each day.

**Which group will my child be assigned to?** The JYM groups are organized by standard public school grades in an effort to build on the strengths and needs of our children. Experience has shown us that placing children in groups with too wide an age range does not work well for community building. Although it is tempting to ask that siblings who are assigned to different groups be placed together, we have found that this is usually a hindrance to both the children and the JYM group. Children will be placed in a group based on the grades they will enter in September 2015. The groups are Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, Grades 7-9 (Junior High) and Grades 10-12 (Senior High). These two older groups are a change from recent years when there were two grades to a group.

**Can the JYM volunteers provide for my child with special needs?** If your child wishes to attend JYM and needs a very high level of individual attention because of physical or developmental needs, please plan to participate with her or him in the program. The JYM program does not have volunteers with training to provide for all special-need situations. Please contact the JYM Coordinators if you have questions about your child's participation.

**Can my child go to Silver Bay without me?** If your child is under 18, she/he may attend Summer Sessions with an adult sponsor. Sponsors should be designated by the parent or legal guardian and must be at least 10 years older than the young Friends they are sponsoring. The sponsor and the child should know each other reasonably well. When you register your child to attend Summer

Sessions, you will need to indicate who the sponsor is, send your child's registration in with that person's, include necessary medical and permission forms, and indicate that they will be clustering (rooming near each other) or sharing a room. It is also important that you facilitate communication

between your child and the sponsor before Summer Sessions so that they get to know each other's expectations and needs and so that they can have clear agreements about behavior and communication at Silver Bay. You will need to send a completed medical information form with your child, to be turned in at JYM registration. Without that medical form, your child will not be allowed to attend group.

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

**What should a JYMer bring?** If you register with enough lead time, JYM volunteers working with your group will send a letter explaining plans for the group and listing certain things to bring. We suggest that everybody bring along a beach towel, bathing suit, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. The weather at Silver Bay is unpredictable and can be quite cool. Be prepared for this by packing some warmer clothing (for example, long pants, sweatshirts, and windbreaker).

Photo by Carol Mallison



## TRAVEL TO SILVER BAY


### Share a Ride to Silver Bay!

Visit our **Rideshare website** to offer rides to other Friends or to find a ride to Silver Bay. The url is:

[www.groupcarpool.com/t/2dqc6b](http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/2dqc6b).

### On Your Way to Silver Bay

**Adirondack Meeting**, about an hour from Silver Bay, extends an invitation to Friends to visit meeting for worship on Sunday, July 19—a wonderful way to extend your knowledge of NYYM Friends and add a worshipful break to your journey. Worship, at 10:30 am, is programmed; refreshments and sharing follow. The meeting is at 27 Saratoga Ave., South Glens Falls NY 12803. For info, call Regina Haag, 518-793-3755.

**Powell House** is offering an On the Way to Silver Bay conference July 17-19: "Whether you are on your way to New York Yearly Meeting's annual sessions held at Silver Bay or just want a low-key weekend filled with visiting, playing ultimate Frisbee, blowing bubbles, singing, playing board games, quilting, swimming, and even doing work projects." Please register at [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org). 

### Driving Directions & Public Transportation

See [nny.org](http://nny.org) for these details.

All families are asked to bring a can of juice and healthy non-sugary cracker snacks for our JYM groups to share during daily snack time. These contributions can be brought to the JYM registration area or JYM office in See Memorial. It is important that the JYM Coordinators know of any food allergies or intolerance so that the snacks given to your child's group are appropriate.




JYM hike to Jabes Pond

**Who do I talk to if I have any questions?** The JYM Coordinators, Rebecca Wolf and Dawn Pozzi, are available to answer questions about JYM during our week at Silver Bay. One of the Coordinators will be available Monday through Friday, from 8:45 to 12:00 noon, in the JYM office in See Memorial. You can also go to one of the co-clerks of the JYM Committee, Miriam McGiver or Susan Stillman, or the NYYM conference office in the Inn. If you cannot find us and want to leave a note, there is a message board in the Inn for that purpose.

### Volunteering with Junior Yearly Meeting

JYM volunteers give their time to the Yearly Meeting at Summer Sessions at Silver Bay working with the youth in grades K-12. Volunteer group leaders plan and carry out a program, prepared at the June JYM Planning Weekend at Powell House (June 12-14). JYM group leaders also provide afternoon and evening childcare (referred to as "PM Childcare") for children through age 10, and during committee and session times Monday-Friday. Financial assistance is made available to JYM volunteers.

Silver Bay's morning childcare program is always happy to have a Friendly adult presence, as is the PM Childcare program offered by Junior Yearly Meeting. Parents who bring their children to PM Childcare are expected to volunteer at least one hour during the week, and all Summer Sessions adult participants are encouraged to volunteer for PM Childcare and give parents a break. Responsible teens are also welcome to help out with PM Childcare. You can sign up to help during JYM registration or at any time with the JYM PM childcare volunteers. We thank you in advance for helping to provide care for all of the children in our community.

If you are interested in serving the Yearly Meeting as a JYM volunteer in future years, please speak with Dawn Pozzi or Rebecca Wolf, Coordinators of JYM 2015. 

## 2015 NYYM REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES

**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.**

**Registration Fee Chart**

	Until July 13	July 14–19	After July 19
Adults	\$40	\$70	\$80
Young Adults (18-35 yrs)	\$32	\$62	\$72
JYM Youth (3 yrs to 17 yrs)	\$20	\$35	\$40
Family Group—2 adults & all children under 18 in <b>room with parents</b>	\$77	\$107	\$117
Family Cluster—2 adults & all children under 18 in 2 rooms with adult in each room	\$100	\$130	\$140
Per-day fee—applicable only to all those attending less than half session	\$19	\$24	\$30

**NYYM Summer Sessions Registration for **One Adult****  
Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY July 19–25, 2015

*BEFORE July 15 return to: NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York NY 10003*  
*AFTER July 15 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"/> Circle of Young 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 7/1/15)**

Source of funds: Private \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Provided by monthly/regional meeting \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested from Equalization Fund\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* notification from monthly meeting clerk required*

**Registration fee enclosed** (see fee chart above) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Donation to Equalization Fund** (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Donation to support AM Childcare** (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY July 19–25, 2015

*BEFORE July 15 return to: NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York NY 10003*  
*AFTER July 15 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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that apply:**

- Female  Male  Vegetarian  First time at YM/JYM  
**Special needs:**  hearing  seeing  walking  other: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor at YM if other than parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grades 10, 11, & 12 Worship Group choice** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Silver Bay YMCA Housing:**

**Arrival day & date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure day & date** \_\_\_\_\_  
 I prefer the same room assignment as last year  
First choice \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Second choice \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 If neither is available, **location** is more important  
 If neither is available, **price** is more important  
Name of parent/sponsor/other roommate \_\_\_\_\_  
I will cluster with \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 7/1/15)**

Source of funds: Private \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Provided by monthly/regional meeting \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested from Equalization Fund\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* notification from monthly meeting clerk required*

**Registration fee enclosed** (see fee chart) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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