

**April 2017**

Welcome to a redesigned **InfoShare**, the email newsletter from New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Below you will find announcements, news, events, job opportunities, and staff calendars for NYYM. Several events are taking place **this week** – look for the red date in the events below.

You can **announce your meeting's news** and **submit articles to Spark** by emailing me at [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). The next issue of Spark will come out in May. The theme is **Discernment**, in all its Quaker aspects: the process of discernment practiced by a meeting or committee; using a clearness committee to reach discernment; seeking discernment within oneself. Do you have related thoughts, wisdom, or anecdotes? Please write them down and send them in. The deadline for submissions is a firm April 18th. Please share your gifts and those of your meeting.

Keep in touch with your Yearly Meeting through our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#). The Facebook page is our main repository of news and information until the new website comes online. You do NOT need to have an account at any of these services to view this content.

Have a wonderful Spring.

— Sarah Way, Editor

## **Notes and Announcements**

### **Quakers Coordinate for Peoples Climate March**

Many Quakers are planning on attending the **April 29<sup>th</sup>, Peoples Climate March, in Washington DC**. For details visit [www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org).

There are several DC area Quaker sponsored activities that support the march: **Housing for Quakers in the DC area – coordinated by** Quaker Earthcare

Witness. (<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/upcoming>) Carl Benson of Annapolis Friends Meeting is the contact person. He may be reached at [csgabenson@gmail.com](mailto:csgabenson@gmail.com) or [301-922-5973](tel:301-922-5973). Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008; (202) 483-3310; [fmw@quakersdc.org](mailto:fmw@quakersdc.org); [www.quakersdc.org](http://www.quakersdc.org) – will have floor space available, you will need to bring your own sleeping bag and contact them to let them know that you are coming.

**April 28<sup>th</sup> – FCNL Lobbyist Training at Washington Friends Meeting.** For details visit: [www.fcnl.org/updates/quakers-at-the-people-s-climate-march-719](http://www.fcnl.org/updates/quakers-at-the-people-s-climate-march-719)

**April 29<sup>th</sup> – Several sister marches** being planned in our geographic area. These include **Delhi NY; Hackensack NJ; Hudson NY; Ithaca NY; Plattsburg NY; Port Jervis NY; Potsdam NY; Ridgefield CT; Rochester NY; Rome NY; Roselle NJ; Stamford CT; Staten Island NY; Syracuse NY.** For details on these, and other marches that are in formation, visit: <https://peoplesclimate.org>.

Please send me information on any shared transportation to Washington. Please also let me know about any Quaker related Climate March activities. If you would like to be added to my Climate March mailing list and receive future notices, please email me.

—Douglas Way [papadougway@gmail.com](mailto:papadougway@gmail.com)

## **Stevens Fund Applications Open**

The Stevens Fund is money held by NYYM Trustees in order to assist retired or disabled Friends who are in need, often, but not exclusively, pastors and ministers. The next list of distributions will be decided by the Ministry and Pastoral Care committee and take place at Summer Sessions, July 23-29. Those who would like to apply please request an application from David Herendeen, [dherendeen55@yahoo.com](mailto:dherendeen55@yahoo.com), 518-836-7209 or Anita Paul, [anitalouisepaul@gmail.com](mailto:anitalouisepaul@gmail.com), 518-374-2166. Applications are due by July 1. *If you know someone who would benefit from the Stevens Fund, please encourage them to apply.*

## **Volunteers needed for JYM**

As we look ahead to NYYM Summer Sessions at Silver Bay, Sunday, July 22 to Saturday, July 28, 2017, we are looking for volunteers to work with the Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). Friendly adults are sought to work with young Friends from Grades 1-12. Perhaps you, or someone in your meeting, has the gift of working with children or teens and would welcome this opportunity. It is a wonderful way to get to know the Yearly Meeting. We ask that Meetings

consider providing financial assistance to JYM volunteers from their community so that they may serve the Yearly Meeting in this way. Volunteers may also request that part of their Silver Bay costs be covered by JYM. Friends who are not led to give the entire week to JYM may have gifts to share for an hour or so during the week. Please contact Ellie Rosenberg (ellierosenberg7@gmail.com) or Dawn Pozzi (quakerdawn@gmail.com), this year's JYM coordinators.

## Subscribe to the Tote Bag, NYYM's Religious Education and Family Resources newsletter

The Spring issue of the Tote Bag e-newsletter will ***focus on spiritual nurture of teens*** and include resources for

### **The Tote Bag:** NYYM Religious Education and Family Resources



First Day youth programs, events and news for families, youth witness opportunities, and information about summer programs.

To read the Winter issue and to subscribe go to: <https://goo.gl/JicOc6>

## Congratulations to the Alternatives to Violence Project team at FCI Ray Brook!

The Federal Bureau of Prisons recognizes AVP as a Model Program!

Since 2015, Steve Bradley, AVP Outside Coordinator at FCI Ray Brook, Carolyn Polikarpus, Heather Rich, Laurie Scott and Josiah McTier (Inside Facilitator) have worked hard to build an AVP program at the Federal Correctional Institution at Ray Brook, NY.



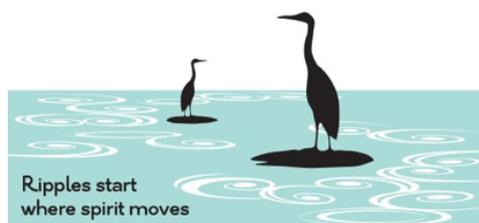
In March, 2016, they graduated 21 apprentice facilitators.

On February 2, 2017, thirteen new apprentice facilitators joined the team (see photo)!

In January, the Federal Bureau of Prisons posted that they have recognized AVP as a Model Program! We are grateful for the work and the recognition your work has brought AVP! We are especially grateful to Chaplain Michael Beck and Lea Brickford, Religious Services Assistant, both at FCI Ray Brook, for their consistent support!

Chaplain Beck offers, "Congratulations on being further recognized as an organization for the quality content and results of all the work you do!"

## Upcoming Events



### 2017 FGC Gathering

A week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages.

July 2 to 8, 2017

Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York



### FGC GATHERING: EARLY REGISTRATION is OPEN

The FGC Gathering is being hosted by NYYM this year in Niagara, NY, **July 2-8**. The 2017 Gathering is filled with rich and exciting opportunities for community, new learning and spiritual growth.

**Early registration runs April 3-16** and is the best time to get the workshop of your choice and to apply for financial aid. Please visit

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

### Justice for All Benefit Concert in Brooklyn

We just wanted to make sure you had information for our upcoming Justice for All concert in Brooklyn at 7pm on **April 8th** (including our [Facebook invite link](#)). We are trying to spread the news and hope that you would be willing to share our invite with others in your community — to help get the word out.

Thank you in advance for all you can do to help us. The concert is a great opportunity for folks to sing together, network & stand in solidarity for social justice. We are so excited to have Lea Gilmore, an incredible blues gospel singer activist, as well as pianist David Keyes and the Brooklyn Women's Chorus joining us.

This event is a benefit for the Brooklyn Defense Committee (BDC) — a community-based group working to address the violence of deportations affecting immigrants & refugees in Brooklyn. Many thanks to Brooklyn Monthly Mtg, Tom Rothschild, Jonathan Fluck & Brooklyn Friends School for helping make this evening possible.

<https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/justice-brooklyn>

— Annie & Peter

**Annie Patterson & Peter Blood**

[www.riseupandsing.org](http://www.riseupandsing.org)

Creators, Rise Up Singing & Rise Again

## **QuED (Quaker Exploration and Discourse)**

### **a free series for young adult Friends**

Each QuED Day runs 9am-4pm and includes breakfast, worship, speakers, lunch, and opportunities for conversations, spiritual direction, games, and more. For additional information, visit the [QuED page](#) on nyym.org or find us (NYYM QuED) on Facebook. Visit [here](#) to view and share the QuED flyer.

#### **Upcoming QuEDs:**

**April 8:** Purchase/Scarsdale, 4455 Purchase St., West Harrison, NY

Speakers: Don Badgley — “Leading in the Light: The Experience of Faith and the Faith of Experience”

Peter Lang — “Teach Only Love: My Journey as a Quaker”

Gabi Savory Bailey — “Holy Surrender”

**May 6:** Mohawk Valley Meeting, 2981 Austin Rd., Clinton, NY

**June 10:** Friends Center for Racial Justice, 227 Willard Way, Ithaca, NY

**July 22:** Adirondack Meeting, 27 Saratoga Ave., South Glens Falls, NY

## **Reception with FCNL (Friends Committee for National Legislation) Executive Secretary, Diane Randall**

An excellent way to find out more about Quaker political action nationally.

**Sat. April 8,** 2017, 2-4pm

The Cornell Club, Cayuga Room

6 E. 44th Street, New York City

The link to RSVP (required): [http://act.fcnl.org/event/capital-campaign-launch-events\\_attend/101/?\\_ga=1.112726980.1192361762.1489880921](http://act.fcnl.org/event/capital-campaign-launch-events_attend/101/?_ga=1.112726980.1192361762.1489880921)

## **Center for the Study of White American Culture: Upcoming Programs**

Please join us at [Decentering Whiteness](#) to explore our visionary model of how Americans can go about replacing the normative white-centered society with an equitable, anti-racist and multicultural center. The workshop will be held Saturday, **April 8**, from 9am to 3:15pm at the Calhoun School in Manhattan. \$95 includes lunch and all materials. Please see [flyer](#) for details and [register here](#).

**Registration is now open** for [What White People Can Do About Racism, Fundamentals 1](#) in Kingston, NY on Saturday, April 29, 9am to 3:30pm. \$95 includes lunch and a free book from our catalog. See [flyer](#) for details and [register here](#). There is limited scholarship aid; please apply to [robin.alpern@gmail.com](mailto:robin.alpern@gmail.com).

We'll offer [Decentering Whiteness](#) again in Stamford, CT on Saturday, May 20, 9am to 3:30pm. \$95 fee includes lunch and all materials. Details are in the [flyer](#) and you can [register here](#).

All of our workshops are appropriate for white people who are learning what to do about racism, and for people of color who support white people in taking action against racism.

There is a \$10 discount per workshop for graduates of any workshop in the series. Student rate is offered at registration. Sliding scale is also available by writing to [robin.alpern@gmail.com](mailto:robin.alpern@gmail.com). Some employers will cover the cost of our workshops; check with Human Resources. Scholarships are available to Quakers by writing to [robin.alpern@gmail.com](mailto:robin.alpern@gmail.com).

For more about the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. (CSWAC) visit [www.euroamerican.org](http://www.euroamerican.org)

## **Obliterated Families: The Shattered Lives of People in the Gaza Strip**

*Photos & Stories*

Presented by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Everyone welcome!

Fri., April 14, 7:00-8:30pm

15 Rutherford Place, NYC, Room 1 (1st room on left upon entry)

An evening of stories and conversation about Gaza with photo journalist Anne Paq, a member of the ActiveStills Photo Collective, and journalist Ala-Qandil, who are touring the U.S. to speak about their project "Obliterated Families".

The Obliterated Families project started in the midst of the Israeli offensive of 2014. Anne and Ala were in Gaza documenting the results of the Israeli bombings—Anne Paq as a photographer and Ala Qandil as a reporter—when they realized that every day entire families were bombed in their homes, or while fleeing, and they could not keep count.

Sponsored by AFSC & members of 15th St MM's Worship Group at the Penington.

For more information: Chris Japely [saintbeuno@earthlink.net](mailto:saintbeuno@earthlink.net)

## Youth Institute 2017: Exploring Faith Together

Hosted by Chris DeRoller,  
Mike Clark and Melinda  
Wenner Bradley

Under the care of the Youth  
Committee of NYYM

**April 21-23, 2017**



REsources and REnewal joins  
with the Youth Institute for a  
weekend jam packed with

useful materials, proven practices, conversations, fun and worship. Especially designed for adults and teens working with children and youth in our Meetings, it is open to everyone interested in exploring our faith together. The time will include plenaries, experiential learning, small group and whole group discussions, all grounded in joyful worship and fellowship together.

Meetings are urged to send a team of Friends, including those serving on First Day, Religious Ed or Ministry and Counsel committees. Together, we will explore: What does it mean to be a Quaker and how do we share this with others? Our intention is that participants will come away from the weekend affirmed and refreshed, ready to move forward whether you're newly stepping into this work or a seasoned practitioner.

**To register, go to:** [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org)

**Flyer:** <http://www.nyyim.org/sites/default/files/YouthInstituteRE+RE2017.pdf>

## Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Spring Gathering May 19-21

At Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY

"Sanctuary Everywhere: Love in Action." Mystics and Activists can come together to co-create the Beloved Community and ensure that All people are safe.

Plenary speaker: Lucy Duncan and associate, AFSC: "Sanctuary Everywhere"

Friday evening workshop: Christopher Sammond, NYYM: "Welcoming the Other in Ourselves, Our Meeting, and the World"

Saturday afternoon workshops: Buffy Curtis and Liseli Haines: "Lessons from Standing Rock"; Angela Hopkins: Interracial Justice Center, Ithaca; Barbara

Spring: ARCH and prisoners  
Registration details to follow. Stay tuned!  
Ginny Riordan, Buffalo Monthly Meeting  
SG Coordinating Committee  
716-435-9744  
[ginny@ginnyandtheangels.com](mailto:ginny@ginnyandtheangels.com)

## **Exploring Membership in the Religious Society of Friends**

A Powell House conference, Saturday, June 17-Sunday, June 18 (Option to stay Friday night available)

The Alternate Membership Pathways Working Group invites you to a weekend of exploration around the concept and process of membership within New York Yearly Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. Together we will learn about the history of membership structures, share our experiences, joys, and concerns therein, and work to envision additional, alternative pathways.

Centered in worship, this weekend will give participants the chance to discern how things are and dream together about where we might want to be. You are welcome no matter the length or depth of your experience, whether you are a young Friend, an older Friend or a person who is still deciding whether you are a Friend at all. Your perspective and stories matter to us and will be used to inform the Working Group's efforts moving forward.

Our Facilitators: Jeffrey Aaron, Marissa Badgley, Jillian Smith, Jennifer H. Swann.

Register online [here](#) or call Powell House at 518-794-8811.

If you have questions, please reach out directly to [nyymaltpathways@gmail.com](mailto:nyymaltpathways@gmail.com). Childcare, scholarships and financial assistance will be available.

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

**A conference at Powell House, May 12-14, 2017**

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

For more information visit <http://powellhouse.org/index.php/80-adult-family-programs/118-love-thy-friend-providing-pastoral-care-in-all-kinds-of-weather>. To

register, visit [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org) or call Powell House at 518-794-8811.

## **TWO Quaker Parent Meetups scheduled for the spring!**

**May 13** in All Friends Region at Chatham-Summit Meeting and **June 3** in New York Quarter (location TBD) We gather for fellowship, worship sharing, and fun. Child care and refreshments provided. Parents of children from infants to teens are welcome—come with or without the kids! Want more info or to tell us you're attending? Email [childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org)



## **FUM Triennial Events**

**Friends United Meeting (FUM) is gathering July 9-12, 2017, in Wichita, Kansas.** More Information here:

[http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking\\_the\\_fire/](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking_the_fire/)

### **Stoking the Fire: FUM's 2017 Program for Spiritual Revival**

Are you spiritually aflame, or a banked coal ready to be stirred into life? Join Friends as we stoke our spiritual fires and stretch ourselves through communal worship, learning, and fellowship. Together we will open ourselves to Christ's presence and power and allow the Spirit to work within us.

Stoking the Fire is FUM's program for spiritual revival among North American Friends. This year's theme is "Claiming Spiritual Power for Transformative Action". The plenary leader will be Jan Wood, of Northwest Yearly Meeting. The dates are July 9–12, 2017, in Wichita, KS (immediately preceding the FUM Triennial).

For more information, and to register, click here:

[http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking\\_the\\_fire/](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking_the_fire/)

### **FUM Mission Speakers**

One of the great joys of gathering with Friends at Triennial is hearing about the amazing work of Quaker missions around the globe. We're connected by email, by social and print media, and by prayer, but there's nothing quite like the experience of hearing about God's work first hand.

Not everyone can travel to Wichita, but no one needs to miss out; our mission speakers can travel to you! This summer, multiple field staff will be traveling in the ministry and raising support among North American Friends through the late spring and summer/ We're excited to announce that Getry Agizah, the Coordinator of Friends Church Peace Team, and Oscar Mmbali, soon to be the

new Pastoral Minister in Belize City, already have their visas and will definitely be here... and we plan on announcing more traveling field staff very soon! Any of them would love to come and share with you about the work that God has placed on their hearts.

If you'd like Getry, Oscar, or one of the other missions speakers to come visit your Meeting or Church, either before or after Triennial, please reach out to Eden Grace at [edeng@fum.org](mailto:edeng@fum.org). FUM will handle all the logistical aspects of their visit, so your offering will go directly toward supporting the work of your visiting field staff member.

## **AVP Summer Camp for Youth Leadership and Personal Development**

A summer day camp "with a difference" for youth entering Grades 6-11. Have fun while building a community of peers and growing and developing as a person. August 7-August 17, 2017 (Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm) at Chatham-Summit Friends Meeting. Using the principles of the Alternatives to Violence Project program, teens will focus on:

- Self-esteem
- Communication
- Nonviolent Relationships
- Conflict Transformation
- Community Building

The goal is to help young people develop into leaders who are caring and skillful communicators in all their relationships.

**To learn more:** [avpnjyouth.weebly.com](http://avpnjyouth.weebly.com)

## **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative Gathering**

**August 18-20, 2017** Join Friends from across the country for the 4th Annual Gathering of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative at Quaker Hill in Richmond, IN.

### **Featuring:**

- Emerging Work in children's and adult religious education
- Workshops & Interest Groups
- Panel Discussion: What is the Role of the Bible in Quaker Religious Education?
- 2 Nights of Music & Singing with Annie Patterson, co-creator of "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again"

Visit [quakers4re.org](http://quakers4re.org) to register, view program details, and find out more about QREC. *The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) is a grassroots*

*network of Friends holding a sense of stewardship for life-long Quaker Faith formation.*

## **Job Openings**

### **Beacon Hill Friends House Seeks an Executive Director**

The Beacon Hill Friends House seeks a visionary, community-oriented, organized person as Executive Director of our Quaker residential community of 21 people. The Executive Director will lead the House as a center for Quaker living, learning and social action. S/he lives in the House and serves as the chief public voice of BHFH, building relationships and partnerships with other organizations in service to the broader community. S/he ensures the effective administration of the House, provides spiritual and practical leadership and supervision of two other staff and 18 residents, raises funds in collaboration with the Development Committee and collaborates regularly with the BHFH Board and Corporation. The ideal candidate has demonstrated the values and skills of servant leadership with a track record of:

- Leadership and supervision of diverse communities/workplaces
- Translating vision into action in a variety of settings
- Capacity and desire to live in and simultaneously lead an intentional community
- Team-building
- Prudent financial management
- Good humor in challenging times

More details at [bhfh.org/about/employment/executive-director-of-bhfh](http://bhfh.org/about/employment/executive-director-of-bhfh). Send letters of interest and resumés to [personnel@bhfh.org](mailto:personnel@bhfh.org) and complete the residency application [here](#). *BHFH is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## **Staff Travel Calendars**

### **Callie Janoff, ARCH Coordinator**

#### **May**

8-9 – ARCH/NYYM strategic planning retreat Poughkeepsie

#### **June**

6-7 – NYYM Staff retreat, location TBD

## **Christopher Sammond, General Secretary**

### **April**

1-2 – Spring Sessions, Locust Valley, NY

23 – Lead retreat for All Friends Regional Meeting: *Keeping Our Hearts Open in Challenging Times*, Location TBD

27-28 – Support NYYM/NEYM Pastors Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

29 – Participate in the Climate March, Washington, DC

### **May**

12-14 – Serve as elder for the Tending the Garden retreat *Love Thy Friend: Providing Pastoral Care in All Kinds of Weather*, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

19-21 – Lead two workshops on *Opening to 'the Other,' In Ourselves, Our Meetings, and the World*, Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting Spring Gathering, Painted Post, NY

### **June**

3 – Attend Sing Sing Worship Group's Quarterly Meeting, Ossining, NY

6-7 – Attend NYYM Staff Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

## **Emily Provance, Interim Young Adult Field Secretary**

### **April**

8 – facilitating workshop at Living Faith Gathering, NEYM

15-16 – visit to Collins

21-23 – Youth Institute

27-30 – Pastors and Elders Gathering

### **May**

6 – QuED Day at Mohawk Valley

7 – worship with Mohawk Valley

19-21 – Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering

### **June**

3 – Quaker Family Meet-up in NYC

5-6 – eFormation Conference for Social Media Ministry

6-7 – staff retreat

10 – QuED Day at Friends Center for Racial Justice, Ithaca

### **July**

2-8 – FGC Gathering

9-16 – FUM Stoking the Fire and Triennial

22 – QuED Day at Adirondack

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

## **April**

1-2 – Spring Sessions, Locust Valley, NY

16 – Woodbourne Prison Worship Group - Easter Celebration

30 – Manhattan Meeting - Worship & Planning for their special event

## **May**

TBA – Worship with Staten Island Meeting

## **Melinda Wenner Bradley, Children and Youth Field Secretary**

### **April**

1-2 – NYYM Spring Sessions, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY

21-23 – Youth Institute at Powell House

### **May**

5-7 – “REnewal and RESources” retreat for Philadelphia YM with Beth Collea (NEYM)

13 – Quaker Family Meetup in All Friends Region at Chatham-Summit Meeting

16-17 – NYYM Staff retreat

19-21 – Spring Gathering in Farmington-Scipio Region

### **June**

3 – Quaker Family Meetup in New York Quarter

9-11 – Junior Yearly Meeting planning at Powell House



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