

December 2018

Greetings from the cozy New York Yearly Meeting office. I hope this email finds you well. Read on to learn what's happening in and around NYYM. News, upcoming workshops, and job listings can all be found below.

The next newsletter from NYYM will be the January issue of *Spark*. The theme is "Lessons from Quaker History," and though the deadline for article submissions has passed, you can still send in news and information about your meeting. Share with your fellow Friends! Please [email news to me](#) by Jan. 1, 2019.

The following issue of *Spark* will be the March issue, on "Resolving Conflict," guest-edited by the Committee on Conflict Transformation. Submissions are due Feb. 6 and should be 400-600 words long.

Have a joyful winter solstice, Christmas, and New Year.

— Sarah Way, Editor

PS — Keep in touch with your yearly meeting through our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

News and Announcements



Pay as Led means REGISTRATION for 2019 Summer Sessions starts SOON!

In 2019, we are making our Summer Sessions more affordable to those who need it. In the past, many have had to stretch mightily in order to be able to attend, and some have stayed away because of the cost. Pay as Led is a daring experiment that counts on many people being led to pay more in order to make our summer gathering accessible to a wider range of

f/Friends.

Due to the complexity involved, we are starting the registration process much earlier this year. All the 2019 Summer Sessions information will be online at nyym.org and in *Spark* starting in January 2019. Look for the details & join us!

***Faith and Practice* Now Available as a Talking Book!**

The Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* announces the release of the 2018 edition of *Faith and Practice* in two new formats through the Talking Books program of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. For participants in the Talking Books program, there is both a downloadable version and a cartridge version that's played on a machine. The Talking Books program is a free service for people with low vision, blindness or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding a book. Certification by a physician, healthcare professional or librarian is required. Applications can be obtained through local libraries or online [here](#).

As for yet another format of *Faith and Practice*: the NYYM website is working on hosting an **audiobook** version soon. Stay tuned!

Farmington-Scipio Friends Supply Aid to Lakota People

As part of raising awareness for their Lakota people food and clothing drive, Donna Beckwith, clerk of Farmington-Scipio Region's Ministry and Counsel, has circulated this information:

- The Lakota have 800% higher rate of diabetes than the rest of us who live in the US. This is partly because they can not grow fresh fruits or vegetables due to uranium pollution.
- The average life span of a Lakota man is 44 years.
- Their infant mortality is 33 times higher than the national average.
- Elderly die each year from hypothermia.
- The population of Wounded Knee is now less than 100 people. In the winter, they all move into one building so they can stay warm. The floors are cold. There are two 2 year old toddlers, a 12 year old girl (size 14-16), and a set of twins, in eighth grade, in addition to adult men and women.

Friends have provided money to buy propane for the aforementioned building for this winter. Friends are also sending blankets, sheets, coats, mittens, gloves, hats, and boots. Friends are also making arrangements to ship bulk supplies of food.

Friends who would like more information should contact [Donna Beckwith](#), clerk, Farmington-Scipio Regional Ministry & Counsel.

Quaker Fund for People Affected by the Camp Fire in Northern California

A message from James D. Anderson, Jr., clerk of Chico Friends Meeting:
Quakers in Chico, California, have set up a fire fund to aid those most affected by the fire and with least access to other means of support and assistance. As the community enters this next stage of recovery, we will focus on housing assistance. We will, in particular, seek ways to assist undocumented and low income people and families rebuilding their lives. We will consult and coordinate with other local groups, research arising needs, and seek to discern best use of fund resources as conditions become clearer. Throughout this process we will rely on the “promptings of love and truth” working in us and through our corporate Quaker practices as we move to action. We are mindful of the trust and responsibility present in the funds we receive from others as we, in Penn’s words, “endeavor to mend” parts of this community in need. We will regularly report on our use of this fund on [our website](#), and revise and focus this statement of intended use as we take up specific programs of assistance. Friends who would like more information can contact the clerk of the meeting directly: [James D. Anderson, Jr.](#)

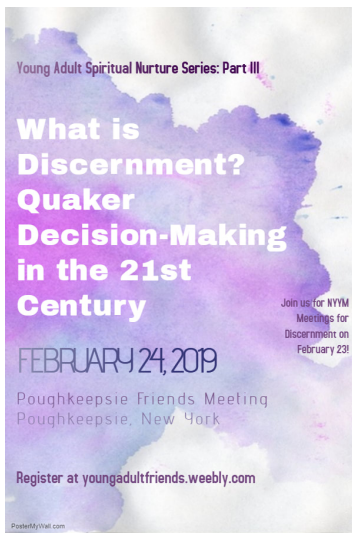
Upcoming Events and Courses

The Next Two Events in the [Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series](#):

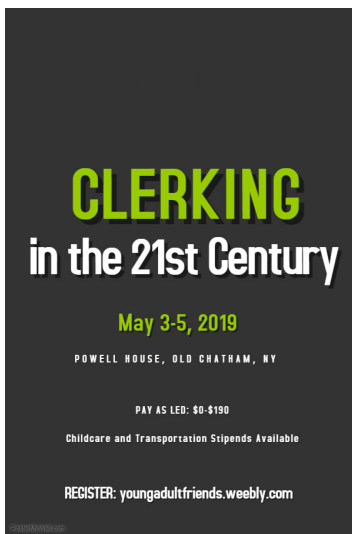
What is Discernment? Quaker Decision-Making in the 21st Century

A [one-day retreat](#) at Poughkeepsie Meeting, NY, on February 24, 2019 (Following Meeting for Discernment on Saturday.)

Meetings for Discernment are an ongoing experiment in extended worship of New York Yearly Meeting—two periods of silent, waiting



worship held twice a year, each lasting more than the usual one hour. This year's winter Meeting for Discernment is February 23. We invite you to join us in extended worship on Saturday and then for a day of reflection and learning about discernment on Sunday. It is not required for you to attend both events. We will explore the history and purpose of discernment and Quaker decision-making, and the ways this history informs and translates into the 21st century.



Clerking in the 21st Century

A [residential weekend retreat](#), Evening May 3 - Lunch May 5, 2019, at Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

This weekend will provide opportunities for young adults at all phases of their Quakerdom to learn about clerking. Come if you know a lot, know a little, know nothing, or perhaps think you know something but aren't sure. We will hear from current and former yearly meeting, monthly meeting, committee, and youth clerks and discuss how traditional clerking translates into the 21st century. At the end of this workshop, participants will know more about clerking and also have built skills to move into clerking roles. Join us to enjoy the beauty of Powell House in the spring, and to build and deepen our skills in and knowledge of an important Quaker practice!

Visit youngadultfriends.weebly.com for more information, registration, and to nominate a young adult Friend to attend!

Building a Nonviolent Direct Action Campaign - an online course

Many Friends are feeling discouraged these days. The US is tear gassing people at the border, and bold climate action is needed more than ever. That's why Friend Eileen Flanagan is offering an online course on Building a

Nonviolent Direct Action Campaign. The next round of classes starts on **JANUARY 7**. [Click here](#).



Online Quaker Courses via the Woodbrooke Center in England

[Woodbrooke Quaker Conference Centre](#) in Birmingham, England, has several available [online courses](#) beginning in **January** and **February**, 2019. Courses are listed below by beginning date.

January 14: [Quakerism in 18th and 19th Century American Literature](#)

January 23: [What To Do About Money](#)

January 28: [A Friendly Introduction to the Quaker Way](#)

January 28: [Being a Quaker Clerk](#)

February 5: [The Roots of the Quaker Way](#)

February 11: [Deepening the Life of the Spirit](#)

Old Chatham Meeting Hosts Screening of Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World

WHAT: FREE preview screening of RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World, an electrifying look at Native American influence in popular music, despite attempts to ban, censor, and erase Indigenous culture. To be followed by a community discussion about the importance of diversity and Native American culture.

WHO: Presenters: Indie Lens Pop-Up, WMHT Public Media, and Old Chatham Quakers Outreach, Peace & Justice committee

WHEN: **Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019**, potluck at 6:00 p.m., film at 7:00 p.m., in the [Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse](#), 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham, NY, across from Pitt Hall Road and Powell House.

For more information, visit [the official film site](#), the [PBS Independent Lens page](#), or the [ITVS \(Independent Television Service\) site](#).

RSVP: To [Bob Elmendorf](#), [518-766-2992](#).



Spring Lobby Weekend 2019 with FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Saturday, March 23 - Tuesday, March 26 in **Washington, DC**

At [Spring Lobby Weekend](#) 2019, hundreds of students, recent grads, Quakers, and young adults will come to Washington, DC to lobby their representatives. [Registration](#) for Spring Lobby Weekend 2019 is now open!

The 2019 Spring Lobby Weekend will focus on immigration. Come lobby for laws that protect the rights and safety of immigrants, migrants, refugees, and their families. This is an especially pivotal time in DC—join us this March and make your voice heard.

Check out our [financial aid page](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more about Spring Lobby Weekend and opportunities for funding!

The Friends United Meeting Trip to Palestine/Israel 2019

The Friends United Meeting trip to Palestine/Israel is an FUM Living Letterstrip, led by Max and Jane Carter, from June 21, 2019 thru July 9, 2019. The application due date is February 15, 2019. It is recommended that you submit your application ASAP.

For questions or more information, email [Jane](#) or [Max](#).

Seeking Applicants for the 2019 Summer Institute at Stony Point Center

Stony Point Center's 10th annual "Farm the Land, Grow the Spirit" Summer Institute will take place from June 17th to August 2nd, 2019. We are now accepting applications!



The Summer Institute is a free annual program that gives Muslim, Christian and Jewish young adults the opportunity to practice living and working together in peace across their religious differences, in what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. described as a "world house." Participants form an intentional learning community and live in a supportive environment with peers from different faiths and with similar interests. Through study, reflection and the common discipline of farming, participants explore what their faith traditions teach about activism, nonviolence, justice, and personal and social transformation. [Click Here for More Information and to Apply.](#)

Participating in God's Power – a New Program at School of the Spirit!



For several years, the [School of the Spirit](#) board has wrestled with our emerging sense of additional call—that God has more work for us. We are now excited to announce *Participating in God's Power*, a one-year program under the leadership of Angi York Crane and Christopher Sammond as its core teaching team.

Participating in God's Power is built around four interconnected themes:

- **Communion:** deepening our experience of the Divine, and staying steady in transformational connection with the Inner Teacher
- **Awareness:** noticing how we separate ourselves from others, from God and from parts of ourselves we don't like or of which we are not yet conscious
- **Responsiveness:** developing the spiritual muscle to instead stay trusting and connected
- **Healing:** letting the power of God's Presence work in us to bring wholeness and integrity

Students and teachers will gather in weekend residencies, alternating between Pennsylvania and New Hampshire locations, over a twelve-month period.

If you are intrigued, please send your contact information to GodPower@schoolofthespirit.org.



Nurturing Faithfulness

a nine-month program in spiritual deepening in community

August 2019 - May 2020

Co-sponsored by Woolman Hill and New England Yearly Meeting, this program involves three residencies at Woolman Hill Retreat Center, monthly webinars (accessed online or by telephone), interviews and Q&A sessions with remarkable Friends, Faithfulness Groups, and more!

An information webinar with core teachers Hilary Burgin and Marcelle Martin is scheduled for **January 22nd, 7:30-8:30 pm.**

Nurturing Faithfulness is a faith and leadership program designed to help Friends meet God more deeply, hone methods of discernment, reach for fuller faithfulness, and ultimately bring these gifts and strengthened abilities home to local meetings and beyond. Program participants will become a community of practice to support each other in providing and receiving spiritual nurture, and to encourage leadings, service and faithful witness.

Watch a [video](#) or visit the [website](#) for more information about the 2019-2020 Nurturing Faithfulness program.

Creating Generous Congregations: a workshop at Powell House

Facilitator: Colin Saxton. Dates: August 16-18 (save the date!)

Does your meeting ever have a hard time with conversations about giving and financial support? An exciting new workshop is coming to Powell House this summer!

As Quakers, we sometimes struggle to have conversations about giving and our use of wealth, especially as it relates to meeting finances. Creating Generous Congregations (CGC) is an interactive and practical workshop focused on inspiring and equipping meetings toward generosity and faithful, financial stewardship. Participants will explore the unique mission/vision of the meeting, current trends in giving, the spirituality of fundraising, and creative ways to invite Friends into a fuller partnership in the shared work and witness of the fellowship.

The CGC workshop has a long history of effectiveness in Mennonite congregations and is now being adapted for Friends, by Friends. Make a note on your calendar, and watch for an invitation coming through the mail to your meeting treasurer soon.

Job Opportunities

Programme Assistant at the Quaker United Nations Office ([QUNO](#))

*Applications for the 2019-20 Programme Assistant Positions will be accepted starting in **December**.*

For Quakers and those in sympathy with Quaker ideals who have recently completed an undergraduate degree, this year-long service involves everything from attending UN meetings to report writing, research, event planning and routine administration in QUNO's offices in Geneva or New York. Learn more about becoming a Programme Assistant [here](#).



FCNL is Looking for a College Graduate Interested in Public Policy

Do you know of a recent college graduate with an interest in US public policy? Tell them about the [Young Fellows program](#) at FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation)! Recent college graduates spend 11 months working with key staff members at FCNL to build expertise in advocacy from a public interest perspective. Applications for the 2019-2020 program beginning in August 2019 are due on **February 18th, 2019**.



Work with Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP)

YSOP has paid positions available in New York City and Washington, DC. For more information on current openings and how to apply to be an intermittent Workcamp Leader, click [here](#).



American Friends Service Committee

American Friends Service Committee is Hiring in New Jersey

AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program in New Jersey is hiring for a number of exciting new initiatives in its Newark and Red Bank offices. We are looking for individuals who believe in justice, who want to be part of a unique and

supportive program where our values of dignity, equality, respect and peace are paramount, and who appreciate working with an extraordinary and collegial team to protect immigrant rights in New Jersey. AFSC's legal staff works in collaboration with our organizing and advocacy staff in support of fair and humane immigration policies.

The positions are **Detention Legal Assistant**, **Detention Attorney**, **Supervising Attorney**, and **Community Justice Attorney**, in Newark; and **Legal Assistant** and **Community Staff Attorney** in Red Bank. For job descriptions for these positions, please [click here](#). You can also contact [Amy Gottlieb](#), Associate Regional Director.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Seeks a Development Director

The Development Director is responsible for identifying, cultivating, soliciting and securing new and ongoing gifts from individuals and foundations in support of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM) ministries and programs. The Development Director builds relationships and affinity for BYM and for the future of the Religious Society of Friends throughout the yearly meeting. Candidates must have a minimum of five years of relevant and successful fundraising experience.

For more details and a complete job description, please visit the [BYM web site](#). To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and list of three references to [Development Director Search](#).

Staff Travel Calendar

January

January 20: *Woodbourne Prison Quaker Worship Group*: Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary)

January 25-27: *Coordinating Committee Weekend, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY*: Callie Janoff (ARCH Director), Steve Mohlke (General Secretary); Helen Garay Toppins; Sarah Way (Communications Director)

February

February 22-23: *Meeting for Discernment, Poughkeepsie, NY*: Steve Mohlke



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